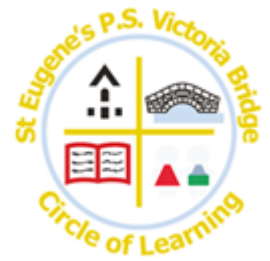


St Eugene's PS, Victoria Bridge

Newsletter

September 2023



I would like to begin by welcoming everyone in our school community to the academic year 2023/2024 at St Eugene's PS. It is great to see so many new families joining our circle of learning. We have an action-packed year ahead, there is so much happening at our wonderful school. Be sure to read all details carefully to stay up to date with all that is going on.

Staffing

Reception	Miss O' Brien/Miss Gormley
P1/2	Miss Gormley & Mrs O' Donnell supported by Mrs McBride
P3/4	Mrs Connolly supported by Mrs Preston
P5/6/7	Mr Donnelly supported by Miss Mullen & Mr McGrady

Homework

Homework has commenced for our P1-P7 children and should be completed on Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays in line with school policy. St Eugene's homework is set to revise concepts taught in school, all children will require some level of adult support with their homework and this year all homework must be signed daily by a grown-up from home. If there are issues/concerns with homework, please contact your child's teacher.

Seesaw

Seesaw is our online learning platform and is a great tool for allowing adults at home to see what is going on in our classrooms. We know that so many of you love it! You can have multiple children on your Seesaw app and switch between them using the top left-hand corner. Seesaw is useful for communicating with your child's teacher, but we ask that only short, non-urgent messages are sent this way. During the working day teachers may not see messages or be able to respond. For more urgent messages please telephone the office after 9.30am and leave your message with Mrs Gallagher to pass on to the class teacher. If calling before 9.30am please leave a recorded message. Please also be mindful of teacher's personal time and understand that messages will not be responded to outside of contracted hours. As always we thank you for your co-operation.

Reminders!!!

School Uniform

We are delighted to see the children looking so smart in their school uniform as the new term begins. Our uniform is an important part of developing our sense of belonging and we hope that our boys and girls wear the uniform with pride. Mondays and Fridays are PE DAYS and children should come to school in PE uniform on these days.

Credit Union

Sion Mills Credit Union will be collecting savings each Tuesday. If you or your child are members, you can send books and savings in on Tuesday mornings. If you would like to become a member, please contact Mrs Gallagher who will arrange to get you an application form.



Telephoning the Office

Please be advised that Mrs Gallagher does not start work until 9.30am, therefore, there is no one available to take calls before this time. Other staff are tied up in morning briefings and other duties. If you are calling before 9.30am a recorded message can be left on the answer phone.

Important Dates

- 6th Sept - Musical Pathways to Learning Commenced.
- 8th Sept — School Swimming Commenced.
- 13th Sept — School Counselling Service Resumed.
- 18th September — Multi Skills After School Club begins
- 18th September — First Reception Cohort start school
- 25th September — Cycle to School Week
- 27th September — Diversity Sports Workshop
- 28th September — Coffee Morning

Advance Notice:

- 27th October: Reporting to Parents Day (school closed to pupils)
- Halloween Holiday: 30th October — 3rd November inclusive.

Some highlights from the first days back at school:

Trip to the Park, KS2 Swimming Lessons, KS1 Musical Pathways, Athletics Winners, FS Outdoor Play.



Multi-Skills Coaching

After School Multi-Skills begins on Monday 18th of September and will run for 10 weeks. P1/2 will be 2.15-3.15 and P3-P7 3.15-4.15. Thank you to everyone who returned permission slips, all places are now allocated.

Extending Sports Provision

In line with our transformation action plan for 23-24 we are aiming to extend our sports provision to offer a wider range of activities. Traditionally GAA is promoted within the school and whilst Fiachra is returning next Monday for KS2, we are looking into other also offering other coaching including soccer, boxing, and cricket. If you or any of our school community have skills or connections in a sporting field and would be interested in getting involved, please do make yourself known to Miss Gormley.

Diversity Olympics Project

Mr Donnelly's Class will be taking part in Diversity Olympics throughout this term, this is a cross-community project with local controlled schools in the area. The children will learn about other cultures and countries through a series of workshops. The children will then come together to represent the different countries in an Olympics style finale with an opening ceremony and games. Parents and the community will be invited to attend and take part. This is such an exciting project which has been organised and funded through Rural Housing and Habinteg Housing 'Housing for All' .

Coffee Morning

We are holding a coffee morning on Thursday 28th of September between 9.00am and 10.30am. All welcome, it will be a lovely social morning and a great chance to grab a cuppa after morning drop off. If any parents can help on the day, Miss Gormley would be delighted to hear from you. All money raised will go towards purchasing new blinds for our classrooms.

Integrated Education Update

Our Case for Change proposal to become an Integrated School has been approved by the EA Planning Committee and is now at the statutory consultation stage. This is an opportunity for the support for the proposal to be made known. I encourage everyone to send your support either via letter to the Area Planning and Policy Team, Department of Education, Rathgael House, Balloo Road, Bangor, BT197PR, or via email to dps@education-ni.gov.uk