

MARY QUEEN OF PEACE PRIMARY SCHOOL

NEWSLETTER

October 2017



DATES TO REMEMBER		OCTOBER 2017
Thursday 28 September	Whole School Assembly in the Parish Hall Y1 and Y2 pupils go directly to the Parish Hall for 9 a.m.	
Friday 29 September	Cross-Country Club Y7 Internet Safety Drama Workshop	
Monday 2 October	Staff Training Day School Closed	
Tuesday 3 October	School Photographer - Cargan	
Wednesday 4 October	School Photographer - Martinstown	
Monday 9 October	Golf Club [Y4 & 5] Mindfulness Club [Y6]	
Tuesday 10 October	Cross-Community Twinning Programme [Y6]	
Wednesday 11 October	Cross-Country Race I in Ballymoney Girls' Soccer Club [Y5 & 6] Gaelic Football Trials	
Thursday 12 October	PTA AGM @ 7 p.m. in Martinstown	
Friday 13 October	School Council Elections	
Monday 16 October	Maths Week Foundation Stage Maths – Parents' Information Evening	
Friday 20 October	Flu Immunisation	
Monday 23 October – Friday 27 October (inclusive)	School Closed @ 2 p.m. each day for Parent / Teacher Meetings	
Thursday 26 October	Whole School Assembly in the Parish Hall	
Friday 27 October	Hallowe'en Fancy Dress 	
Saturday 28 October	PTA Fundraiser for Parish Hall Roof: Coffee Afternoon from 1 – 3 p.m. in the Parish Hall	
Monday 30 October – Friday 3 November	Hallowe'en Mid-Term School Closed 	
Monday 6 November	School Re-Opens Final Swim for Y5 Class	

PTA

The PTA have helped contribute towards the cost of buying playground equipment on both school sites. The children really love their new lunchtime activities, which are many and varied (American footballs to a giant draughts board). Lunchtime is an important time for the children and we want this time to be active and happy. Photographs of lunchtime games can be found on: www.mqpglenravel.com

This half-term the PTA are focusing their work on environmental improvements in Martinstown; a Christmas Card Fundraiser (details are enclosed with this month's newsletter); and a Coffee Afternoon to raise funds for the Parish Hall roof on **Saturday 28 October 1- 3 p.m. in the Parish Hall.**

The PTA AGM will be held on **Thursday 12 October @ 7 p.m. in Martinstown.** We value your support to the school and welcome new members.

PARENTS' MEETINGS

Parent/Teacher meetings for Y2-7 classes will commence: **Week beginning Monday 23 October @ 2 p.m.** each day.

School will close at 2 p.m. every day for all classes. Your child's teacher will inform you of the date and time of your appointment.

If you have more than one child at the school every effort will be made to arrange appointments on the same day.

PUPIL of the MONTH

Mrs McKeown's Y3 Class will present our first assembly of the new school year on **Thursday 28 September @ 9 a.m.**, followed by Pupil of the Month presentations.

Y1 and Y2 children should go directly to the Parish Hall and they will then be transported by an EA bus back to Cargan, after assembly. We welcome all of our Y1 pupils to the school and to our first school assembly.

SCHOOL UNIFORM

School uniform can be ordered on-line, directly from the supplier during the school year:

1. Log on to www.schooltrends.co.uk
 2. Find our school (BT43 6QH)
 3. Choose items for ordering
 4. Deliver to school or home address.
- Please label school uniform with your child's name.



CURRICULUM

Mary Queen of Peace PS has a 3-year School Development Plan (SDP) to manage its curricular, pastoral care, finance and accommodation priorities. This month we look at our curriculum priorities for 2017-18, starting with **LITERACY**. Our reading standards are high in Mary Queen of Peace PS.

	Standardised Score ≤ 85	Standardised Score ≥ 100	Standardised Score ≥ 115
MQP PS 	6%	68%	24%
Nationally	16%	50%	16%

- Nationally 50% of the children have reading scores ≥ 100 (a score of ≥ 100 means a pupil is average or better). In our school, **68%** of the children have a reading score which is average or better. This is 18% above the national level.
- A score of ≤ 85 means a pupil may be experiencing difficulties with their reading. Nationally, 16 % of the population are in this category. In our school it is **6%**.
- A reading score of ≥ 115 indicates that a child is reading at a very high level of ability. Nationally it is 16%. In our school the figure is **24%**.

This year there will be a particular focus on the children comprehending and appreciating what they are reading. There is a gap between what the child can read aloud and what they understand. We want to close that gap by involving the children in activities which will improve their understanding and appreciation of their reading books. This will involve group discussions (including an initiative called Reciprocal Reading), practical activities, written activities coming from their reading, drama, art and ICT work. Parents can also help by ensuring that, as well as listening to their child read, they also make sure that there is time to talk about the book (the characters, setting, plot, the theme of the book, the language used). We will also continue with our second year of Accelerated Reader, with Mr Magee's Y5 class joining the programme for the first time. Last year we were able to raise the children's reading level attainment by, on average, **5 standardised points**. Well done everyone! Finally, we will arrange a reading workshop for the parents of children in P1 to give you an insight into how we teach reading in Mary Queen of Peace Primary School. Our literacy programme is led by our co-ordinator, Mrs McKeown, who will use the newsletter and website to keep you informed of developments in this curricular area.

CROSS-COMMUNITY TWINNING PROGRAMME

Y6 begin their cross-community Twinning Programme with Harryville PS. Through team games, with a focus on basketball, the pupils will explore mutual understanding.

AFTER SCHOOL CLUBS

After-school activities are an important part of the life of the school. Our initial programme for the year is:



Activity	Year	Coach/ Teacher	Month
Choir	Y4-7	Mrs O'Mullan / Naoimh Rodgers	All Year
Cross -Country	Y6-7	Mr Conlon	Sep - Jan
Golf	Y4-5	Council	Oct - Nov
Girls' Soccer	Y5-6	Council	Oct-Nov
Gaelic	Y6-7	Mr McKenna	Oct-Nov Mar-Apr
Mindfulness	Y6	Mrs McConway	Oct - Dec
Camogie	Y6-7	Mrs McAlister	Jan-Feb Apr-May
Hurling	Y6-7	Mr McKenna	Jan-Feb Apr-May
Quiz	Y6-7	Mr Magee	Jan-Feb
Zumba	Y6-7	Council	Jan-Feb
Multi-Skills	Y4-5	Council	Jan-Feb
Needlecraft	Y4-5	Mrs McKeown	Mar-Apr
Netball	Y6-7	Mrs Gormley	Feb-Mar
Feis Craft	Y4-5	Mrs Hynds	May-Jun
Craft	Y4-5	Mrs Sharkey	May-Jun

Where clubs are oversubscribed then names will be drawn from a hat. Children who do not get their initial choice of club will be prioritised for the next club on the timetable.

SCHOOL COUNCIL ELECTIONS

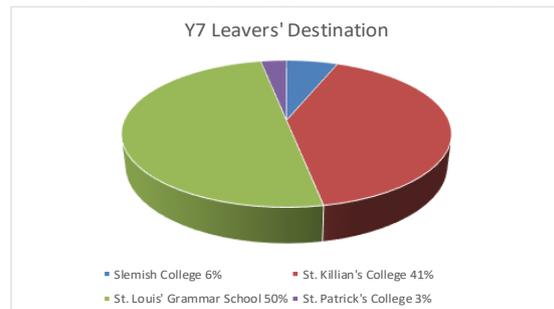
The pupils' voice is very important in Mary Queen of Peace PS. Last year the Council made significant contributions to school life. You will see practical examples of their work during this school year e.g. they selected the new titles for the Accelerated Reader programme, as well as the new games and activities at lunchtime. Our School Council also met the Children's Commissioner.

It is now time to go back to the polls for a new election. So it's time to come up with election slogans, manifestos and some serious campaigning!

LEAVERS

We hope our Y7 leavers from 2016-17 have settled well into their new schools.

Thank-you for everything you did for the first year of MQP.



DON'T FORGET

PE DAYS
PE days for all classes are **Mondays and Thursdays.**

