

MARY QUEEN OF PEACE PRIMARY SCHOOL

NEWSLETTER JANUARY 2018



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DATES TO REMEMBER		JANUARY 2018
Tuesday 9 January	Hurling Club Y6 Cross-Community Twinning Programme	
Wednesday 10 January	Application forms for P1 Admission in September 2018 returned to the school by noon	
Thursday 11 January	Cumann na mBunscol Indoor Hurling @ Antrim Forum	
Friday 12 January	Cross-Country Club Resumes	
Monday 15 January	Final Swim Mr McKenna Y6 Camogie Club	
Thursday 18 January	Cumann na mBunscol Indoor Camogie @ Antrim Forum PTA Meeting @ 6.45 p.m. in Cargan	
Monday 22 January	Y6 Mrs Sharkey Swim Zumba Club (Y6-7)	
Wednesday 24 January	Cross-Country Race III @ Roe Valley LC, Limavady Multi Sports Club (Y4-5) Book Fair	
Thursday 25 January	Pupil of the Month Assembly	
Friday 26 January	Principal / Y7 Parent Interviews Begin Credit Union Quiz	
Sunday 28 January	Catholic Schools' Week: Called to be a Family of Families	
Wednesday 31 January	Service of Light @ 7 p.m. in the Church	
Thursday 1 February	Grandparents' Day: 9 a.m. Mass, Art Exhibition in Parish Centre	

CATHOLIC SCHOOLS' WEEK

The theme this year is:



Called to be a Family of Families

and will run from:

28 January – 4 February 2018.

The daily themes are:

Catholic Schools:
Called to be a Family of Families

Monday	Our Family at Home
Tuesday	Our School Family
Wednesday	Grandparents: A Special Part of Our Family
Thursday	Our Parish Family
Friday	Our World Family

We will celebrate the special relationship the children have with their grandparents on **Thursday 1 February**, which will be Grandparents' Day in MQP as well as St. Brigid's Day. This year we will produce a collage of images of grandparents to decorate the walls of the Parish Hall.

With this month's newsletter we have included an envelope in which we would ask you to put in photos of grandparents, which we will copy and return to you. The envelope will be issued to the eldest child in each family.

Later in the month the children will give their grandparents an invitation to mass and to the Parish Hall. The children should go directly to the church for 9 a.m. mass and we would appreciate assistance with transporting children back to school. Grandparents, families and friends are then invited to the Parish Hall for tea and an opportunity to view the children's work. Please note that the children will go to school and not to the Parish Hall.

P1 ADMISSIONS 2018-19

Application forms for admission to Primary 1 in September 2018 are available in the school. Forms, with an accompanying birth certificate, should be returned to the secretary by:

noon on Wednesday 10 January 2018.



PTA

Our first PTA meeting of 2018 will be on **Thursday 18 January @ 6.45 p.m. in Cargan**. The two main items on the agenda will be planning for the Summer Fair and preparations for Grandparents' Day.

We are also delighted to announce that the PTA has secured a £3,000 grant to purchase iPads. The PTA plan to use the equipment to provide an introductory course in the use of iPads for the local community and then donate the iPads to the school.

The PTA provide valuable assistance to the school and we would encourage parents to join the association. You will be made feel very welcome.



AFTER SCHOOL CLUBS / SCHOOL TEAMS

It's a new year and time to get fit! We have a number of after school clubs starting this month:

Hurling (Mr McKenna)

Camogie (Mrs McAlister)

Zumba Y6/7 (Council)

Cross-Country (Mr Conlon)

Multi-Skills Y4/5 (Council)

Choir (Miss Rodgers/Mrs O'Mullan)

Good luck to our school teams this month in their SW Antrim Cumann na mBunscol Indoor Camogie & Hurling competitions and Athletics NI's Cross-Country Race III. Our hurling, camogie and girls' cross-country teams are defending their titles.

The local heat of the Credit Union Quiz will take place on Friday 26 January. Details to follow.



SURVEY

Thank-you for your responses to the Parent Survey which was issued before Christmas. At the same time, we also surveyed the pupils and members of staff. The survey responses were overwhelmingly positive and we thank-you for your support for Mary Queen of Peace PS. Later this term we will issue a summary report and how we then plan to develop two very important pastoral policies in the school: Positive Behaviour and Anti-Bullying. We will also review the findings from the Pupil Survey with the School Council and classes.

SCHOOL DEVELOPMENT PLAN (SDP)

Information Communication Technology (ICT)

This term our focus in ICT will be on Film & Animation as well as staying safe on-line.

Film & Animation is an important part of the ICT curriculum



and the children will be working on making their own short films and animations this term. In the course of this work the pupils will learn to take photographs with the iPad; use an animation app (e.g. iMovie, Microsoft Movie Maker, Minecraft Stop Motion); add sound/music/voiceovers; use a story board to plan images to make a film/animation; sequences images to create a story; add titles/transitions/effects; select shot sizes (close up, mid shot, long shot); edit work; export work and exhibit their films.

This is a very exciting and modern part of the curriculum. We are in the initial stages of introducing Film & Animation into the ICT curriculum and it will take time to develop the children's knowledge, skills and experience in this area. The children will love this work and we look forward to exhibiting their films and animations on the website. The additional iPads donated by the PTA will greatly assist us with this work. We will also focus this term on safeguarding while the children are on-line. The children will have received tablets, phones and computers for Christmas and we want our pupils to be aware of the importance of staying safe on-line.

Mrs L Gormley (ICT Co-ordinator)



READING

This year we have been focusing on Accelerated Reader (AR) as well as helping the children to develop a better understanding and appreciation of the books they are reading.

Key Stage 2 (Y5-7) pupils participate in the AR initiative. Last term the Y5-7 children read **1,350 books** and a total of **9,843,348 words**. After they have read a book the pupils take an on-line quiz to check their understanding of what they have just read (to pass the test you must get at least 85% of the questions correct). In Term 1 the children passed **94%** of the 1350 tests they took. Well done everyone!

In all of the classes there has been a focus on helping the children to better understand and appreciate what they are reading. There can be a gap between what a child can read aloud and their comprehension of the text. We want to close this gap by creating activities which help the children develop a better understanding and appreciation of what they are reading. We do this in Shared Reading (big books in the early years, class novels in the upper school) and in Guided Reading (reading groups). As well as reading with the children, the teachers have created lessons to improve the pupils' understanding of their texts. This involves talking and listening activities, written work and links to other curricular areas e.g. art, drama, ICT. Examples of written activities include comparing characters from different books (similarities/differences), writing an alternative ending to a book or research on non-fiction books. Talking & listening activities include hot-seating where one child takes on the role of a character in the book and the other children in the group ask the character questions; or freeze-frame where you stop/freeze at a point in the story and ask a child to use their senses to sum up what is happening (e.g. what can they see/hear/smell, what are different characters thinking).



Mrs G McKeown (Literacy Co-ordinator)