

# MARY QUEEN OF PEACE PRIMARY SCHOOL

## NEWSLETTER FEBRUARY 2017



DATES TO REMEMBER FEBRUARY 2017	
Thursday 26 January	Principal / Y7 Parent Interviews Begin
Friday 27 January	Credit Union Quiz @ 7p.m. in Ballymena North
Sunday 29 January	Catholic Schools' Week Begins
Wednesday 1 February	Catholic Schools' Week: Grandparents' Day
Thursday 2 February	Service of Light @ 7 p.m. in the Church
Saturday 4 February	PTA: Table Quiz @ 8.30 p.m. in the Club
Wednesday 8 February	Milk Money Due (£7 until Easter or £15 until end of school year)
Thursday 9 February	Retirement Assembly for Mrs Josie Kelly
Monday 13 – Friday 17 February (inclusive)	Mid-Term Break School Closed
Tuesday 21 February	First Confession Parents' Meeting @ 7 p.m. in the School
Wednesday 22 February	Cross-Country National Finals in Mallusk
Thursday 23 February	Pupil of the Month Assembly Ballymena Festival Begins [23.02.17 – 03.03.17] Netball Club Begins

### CATHOLIC SCHOOLS' WEEK

The theme for this year's Catholic Schools' Week is: Learning with Pope Francis to Care for Our Common Home. Pope Francis has asked 'every person living on this planet' to make the necessary changes to their lives to protect our planet. We will celebrate mass together on St. Brigid's Day (Naomh Bríd) as well as Grandparents' Day on Wednesday 1 February @ 9 a.m. in the Church.

Grandparents play such an important part in the lives of the children and as part of Catholic Schools' Week we will celebrate and thank our grandparents for everything they do for us.

The children will write to their grandparents inviting them to attend mass. After mass the children would like their grandparents to take them back to school and come inside and see their classroom. Grandparents and parents are then invited to the Parish Centre for tea and a treat!



### PTA

Our next event will be a table quiz in the club on **Saturday 4 February @ 8.30 p.m.**

The quiz night is for parents and their friends.

A family event is planned for later this term to mark World Maths Day.



SATURDAY 4<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY

GLENRAVEL SPORTS & COMMUNITY COMPLEX



EVERYONE WELCOME

PROCEEDS TO MARY QUEEN OF PEACE P.T.A

### SCHOOL DEVELOPMENT PLAN – ICT

We want our primary curriculum to be active and modern. Mrs Gormley is our Information Communication Technology (ICT) Co-ordinator and this year she will be leading the school in developing this important curricular area through:

- The purchase of ICT equipment to be used in class.
  - The development of the Interactive Design component of the ICT primary curriculum. The children will use programming and coding to give commands and solve problems. This will take place in all classes Y1 to Y7. It is an exciting part of the curriculum and develops both ICT skills and thinking & problem solving skills. Your child can also use it from home by logging on to: [www.scratch.mit.edu](http://www.scratch.mit.edu) and practise what they have been learning in school. Get ready to hear a lot about the Scratch program! We will use the website to keep you up to date.
- Laura Gormley (ICT Co-ordinator)



### HEALTHY EATING POLICY

You will find our Health Eating Policy enclosed with this month's newsletter. Thank-you for your support with healthy eating in Mary Queen of Peace.

### SCHOOL COUNCIL

The School Council met at the beginning of the term to discuss healthy eating, playground improvements, the Christmas celebrations, after school clubs and school teams. They have also chosen and placed an order for two new school kits (home and away). They know how to get work done!

## SCHOOL SPORT

**GAA:** Congratulations to the boys on winning Cumann na mBunscol's Boys' Indoor Hurling competition and to the girls as well, who won the Girls' Indoor Camogie title. The boys and girls will now move on to the All-County Finals.



**Cross-Country:** Congratulations to our girls' cross-country team who won the regional heat (based on three rounds of races) to qualify as Causeway Coast Champions. They will represent the district at Athletics NI's National Championship in Mallusk on Wednesday 22 February. They will be joined by Cormac (Y7) who has qualified from the boys' heats in the individual races.



**Girls' Soccer:** The girls are busy, at the moment, preparing for their upcoming soccer tournament (early March).

**Netball:** With the assistance of the National Lottery, we have purchased netball equipment for Mrs Gormley's Netball Club. The club begins this month and we hope the girls enjoy a new sport for our school.

## SCHOOL AIMS

We began this year by looking at our school aims which help guide our work with the children. These aims shape the curricular and extra-curricular programme in our school as well as the pastoral care of the children.

Our second school aim is:

*To create the opportunity for each child to reach their full potential: spiritually, academically, socially, emotionally and physically in a safe and caring environment.*

We aim to 'develop the whole child'. This means that we want to ensure that the children are developing across all areas of their academic and personal development:

### Spiritually



Whole school assembly.



Y7 prepare for Confirmation.

### Socially



Working together on partner portraits.

### Emotionally



Anti-Bullying Week Class Pledge in Y4.

### Academically



Y5 working on Scratch in ICT.



Literacy in the Foundation Stage.



Working together to help others with our Christmas charity.

### Physically



KS1 PE Lesson

All aspects of the curriculum are important and by ensuring that we focus on spiritual, academic, social, emotional and physical development we are helping each and every child strive to reach their full potential and prepare them better for the world.

## PLAYGROUP

Pre-school applications forms for Glenravel Community Playgroup are available (from the playgroup) from Monday 30 January for intake in September 2017.