

MARY QUEEN OF PEACE PRIMARY SCHOOL

NEWSLETTER JANUARY 2017



DATES TO REMEMBER JANUARY 2017	
Monday 9 January	Open Morning @ 11 a.m. in Cargan School Y6 Swimming Choir Club Resumes
Tuesday 10 January	Cross-Country Club Resumes
Wednesday 11 January	Closing Date for Y1 Applications (2017-18) @ noon Cross-Country Club ECO Club Begins
Thursday 12 January	Cross-Community Twinning Programme Begins for Y6: Indoor Hurling 5 a-side @ Antrim Forum Cross-Community: Girls' Soccer Club (Y6-7) Begins
Friday 13 January	Cross-Country Club
Monday 16 January	Y7 Trip to Mid & East Antrim Council @ The Braid
Wednesday 18 January	Cross-Country Race III @ Roe Valley LC, Limavady
Thursday 19 January	Y6 Cross-Community Twinning Programme Indoor Camogie 5 a-side @ Antrim Forum Girls' Soccer Club
Tuesday 24 January	Multi-Sports Club (Y4-5)
Wednesday 25 January	Book Fair Zumba Club (Y5-6) Knitting & Sewing Club (Y4-5) PTA Meeting @ 7 p.m.
Thursday 26 January	Y6 Cross-Community Twinning Programme Pupil of the Month Assembly Girls' Soccer Club
Friday 27 January	Credit Union Quiz

P1 ADMISSIONS 2017-18 & OPEN MORNING

Application forms for admission to Primary 1 in September 2017 are available from the school secretary. Forms, with an accompanying birth certificate, should be returned to the secretary by **Wednesday 11 January 2017 @ noon**.

An Open Morning for parents will be held in Cargan school on **Monday 9 January @ 11 a.m.** This is a great chance to see the Primary 1 & 2 classrooms, meet the staff and see all the great work that is going on in our Foundation Stage.

AFTER SCHOOL CLUBS

Our school choir had their first public performance at the parish Advent service and they were brilliant! Congratulations boys and girls. New members are very welcome to join and we are now working on a new programme aimed at the Ballymena festival and preparation for Confirmation. Mrs McNeill and Miss Rodgers will make you feel very welcome.

Other after school clubs starting this term include:

Cross-Country Club Y6-7	(Mr Conlon)
ECO Club Y4-7	(Mrs McConway)
Girls' Soccer Club Y6-7	(Ms Ceara McCullough, PSNI)
Camogie & Hurling Club Y7	(Mr McKenna)
Multi-Sports Club Y4-5	(Ally McLroy, Council)
Zumba Club Y5-6	(Lesley McLaughlin, Council)
Knitting & Sewing Club Y4-5	(Mrs McKeown)

PTA

Thank-you to our hard working PTA who did so much to make our first Christmas at MQP special. We had individually printed Christmas cards and a wonderful Christmas bingo. Our parents also donated so many gifts, and we really appreciate your generosity as well as the support. Money raised by the PTA will be used, this year, to purchase play equipment for Y1-2 and iPads for classes which do not have inter-activ whiteboards. Our next event will be a table quiz in the club on **Saturday 4 February**.



SCHOOL AIMS

Mary Queen of Peace PS has key aims which help guide our work with the children. These aims shape the curricular and extra-curriculum programme in our school as well as the pastoral care of the children. At the beginning of our new school the staff worked together, at all levels, to set out our core values and the type of school we wish to create. These aims are on display in every one of our classrooms, in our staffrooms, offices and public areas. They are also included in all of our school policies and displayed on our school website. I will use the Newsletter over the coming months to share with you the school's aims and what they mean for all of us in practice.

Our first aim is:

To enrich the Catholic lives of each pupil by offering a religious programme which will support their parents in handing on our faith.

It is fitting that our first aim is guided by our faith and it, in turn, influences all of the other school aims. Our wish is to support you, as parents, with passing on the gift of faith. This partnership with parents is very obvious in the preparation for the sacraments which plays such an important part in the life of the school, the parish and your own family. We receive wonderful support from the parish and from Fr Lyons with this work. Our faith is alive in daily prayer in each classroom, when the children will be given the opportunity to share with the rest of the class who they are praying for; our faith is incorporated into our religious programme, entitled Grow in Love, a spiritual programme employed within schools across Ireland. Currently it is used with Y1-4 and will progress into the rest of the classes in the coming years. Our faith centred curriculum encompasses more than the content of our religious textbooks. It guides the work of the pupils and staff everyday in the classroom and in the playground.



CROSS-COMMUNITY WORK

Mary Queen of Peace PS is building links with schools from other faiths and traditions, a vital target for our new school. This term we are initiating two such projects:

Y6 will be twinned with Camphill PS, Ballymena in a project organised by the Peace Players. The children from both schools will work together, using basketball, to explore the themes of healthy eating, diversity, prejudice, stereotypes and peer influence.

The PSNI will also be working with our girls in an after school club to train for a soccer competition involving fellow rural schools – Kells & Connor PS and Moorfields PS.

SCHOOL DEVELOPMENT PLAN – LITERACY

Our literacy priority for the school year is Accelerated Reader (AR). This programme targets pupils in Y5-7 by: encouraging children to read more independently (fiction & non-fiction); increase their reading fluency and understanding; as well as improving their attitudes towards

reading, including enjoying reading and reading resilience (finishing the book). Mrs McKeown (Literacy Co-ordinator) has added 86 new titles over the holidays.

HEALTHY EATING SURVEY

Thank-you for the response to the Healthy Eating survey. A copy of the findings has been included with the month's newsletter and is also available on the school's website.

PE DAYS

Please find below the PE days for each of the classes. It is important that children have their PE kit on the correct days. PE is just as important as any other part of the curriculum and last term we had too many children missing their lessons because they didn't come to school prepared.

CLASS	DAYS
Y1	Monday, Thursday
Y2 Mrs McAllister	Monday, Thursday
Y2 Mrs McKeown	Monday, Thursday
Y3	Wednesday, Thursday
Y4	Wednesday, Thursday
Y5 Mr McKenna	Wednesday, Thursday
Y5 Mrs Sharkey	Wednesday, Thursday
Y6	Monday (swimming), Thursday
Y7	Wednesday, Thursday

SCHOOL BUILDING

The school requested an update from CCMS regarding the new school build and has received the following reply from Eve Bremner Director of Planning & Development, Council for Catholic Maintained Schools.

COMMUNICATIONS STATEMENT, 23.12.16

You will be aware that work to advance the design of a new primary school site in Glenravel was at an advanced stage. As part of this work a site had been identified adjacent to the parish church. However we can confirm that this site was not considered feasible because planning conditions require the provision of footpaths linking the proposed site to both Martinstown and Cargan and the resources required to meet these costs are not presently available.

In order that the project is not delayed any further, the Department of Education is therefore exploring a number of alternative sites in the local area to determine their suitability and consultants have been engaged to progress this work promptly.

Please be assured that the delivery of our new primary school remains a priority for all concerned and we will continue to engage with the Department, the Mid & East Antrim Council and the Council for Catholic Maintained Schools to secure an alternative site and re-engage the design process as soon as possible.

Further updates will be provided following the outcomes of this work.