

MARY QUEEN OF PEACE PRIMARY SCHOOL

NEWSLETTER FEBRUARY 2018



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| DATES TO REMEMBER | | FEBRUARY 2018 |
|--|--|---------------|
| Wednesday 31 January | Service of Light @ 7 p.m. in the Church | |
| Thursday 1 February | Grandparents' Day: 9 a.m. Mass; Refreshments & Exhibition of Grandparents' Photos in the Parish Centre No Morning Club | |
| Friday 2 February | Art Project: Mrs Sharkey's Y6 Class | |
| Tuesday 6 February | Safer Internet Day | |
| Thursday 8 February | Y7 Confirmation Retreat | |
| Monday 12 – Friday 16 February (inclusive) | Mid-Term Break School Closed | |
| Tuesday 20 February | All-County Indoor Hurling Final (Antrim Forum) @ 12.30 p.m. | |
| Wednesday 21 February | Cross-Country National Finals in Mallusk | |
| Thursday 22 February | PLEASE NOTE: No Pupil of the Month Assembly Ballymena Festival Begins – Good Luck! | |
| Monday 26 February | Ballymena Festival: Choir @ 10.45 a.m. | |
| Tuesday 27 February | First Confession Parents' Meeting @ 7 p.m. in the School | |
| Thursday 1 March | Pupil of the Month Assembly World Book Day | |

CATHOLIC SCHOOLS' WEEK

The theme this year is:

Called to be a Family of Families

and will run from:

28 January – 4 February 2018.



We will celebrate Grandparents' Day in MQP on **Thursday 1 February**. Following 9 a.m. mass our grandparents, family and friends are invited back to the Parish Hall for refreshments and a chance to view the children's giant collages of their grandparents' photographs.

It is well worth a look!

We would very much appreciate help from parents on the day with the catering (setting up the hall, serving tea). Please let the secretary/Mrs McConway know if you are available to assist.

Glenravel's Older & Wiser group will also have an exhibition of their art and craft work on display in the hall. Later in the year we have exciting plans to further develop work between the children in the school and grandparents/older members of our parish. This will include an after-school iPad course (Mrs McConway, Mrs Gormley, PTA) and an after-school Craft Club (Mrs Hynds), where the children will work with senior members of the community in sewing a quilt for display at Feis na nGleann (Glens' Feis).

WEBSITE

32159 visits to the school website since its launch in September 2016 www.mqpglenravel.com

SURVEY

Please find enclosed, with this month's newsletter, a report from the survey of parents' views which was carried out in November 2017. We thank you for taking the time to share your opinions



with us and we will use this information to continually improve Mary Queen of Peace PS. It is very clear that you whole-heartily support the work of the school and its staff.

Feedback to the children on the findings from the Pupil Survey is underway at present. We are very much committed to listening to our pupils in order to help improve their experience of school. The responses from the pupils' survey will be shared with you in newsletters during this school year.

BALLYMENA FESTIVAL

January was a busy month preparing the children for the Ballymena Festival in the Speech, Drama & Music.

Mrs McKeown and Mrs McAleenan have been helping the children get ready for the competition. Thank-you to Mrs McAleenan for returning to the school to help prepare the pupils. Our school choir will also be competing at the festival, following on from their debut last year. We wish the choir and Mrs O'Mullan & Miss Rodgers well for their Junior Choir Competition on:

Monday 26 February @ 10.45 a.m.



SUMMER FAIR

The PTA Summer Fair will take place on **Saturday 2 June 2018**. If you could assist with organising an event/stall/an activity, we would be very pleased to hear from you. Some of the suggestions to date include: a tombola, face-painting, candy floss stall and an obstacle course.



SCHOOL DEVELOPMENT PLAN (SDP)

Foundation Stage

We are building on our previous year's work by continuing to develop and improve our existing provision for play and good practice in the children's play.

"Young children learn best when learning is interactive, practical and enjoyable for both children and teachers."

With this in mind, our children have been given opportunities to experience much of their learning through well-planned and challenging play. We also use the children's self-initiated play to help them to understand and learn about themselves and their surroundings.



Our focus this year is to ensure good practice and progression in the Foundation Stage. Teachers and classroom assistants have worked together planning weekly play sessions. We are planning for learning that is interesting, varied and which shows progression. Each week we try to incorporate one Outdoor Play session into our curriculum (weather permitting) where the children get opportunities to word build; use the number wall; write; build with a variety of materials; sing/dance on our stage; and develop their role play based around our garden shed /house /shop /den etc...

A Mental Maths evening was also held in Cargan on 16 October 2017 explaining to parents how they can support their child at home with some simple games. It was a hands on evening where lots of ideas were shared, both by teachers and parents. The feedback was very positive and parents felt the workshop was very worthwhile.

I have also been fortunate as Foundation Stage Co-ordinator to attend a course on how to help further develop play in the early years. Cluster groups have been set up with other schools to share ideas and good practice. This I feel is very exciting and something I'm looking

forward to.
Mrs S Hynds
Foundation Stage
Co-ordinator



JANUARY in PICTURES



Camogie



Hurling: SW Antrim Indoor Hurling Champions



Credit Union Team
1st, 2nd & 3rd Place!



January Pupil of the Month



Y6 Cross-Community Programme with Harryville PS



Cross-Country: 2nd, 3rd in Individual Races



Cross-Country: Causeway Coast Girls' Champions

