

MARY QUEEN OF PEACE PRIMARY SCHOOL

NEWSLETTER MARCH 2018

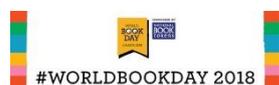


www.mqpglenravel.com

DATES TO REMEMBER		MARCH 2018
Thursday 1 March	Pupil of the Month Assembly (Y1)	
Friday 2 March	World Book Day Credit Union Chapter Finals in Ballymena @ 9.30 a.m.	
Monday 5 March	Staff Training Day School Closed	
Tuesday 6 March	First Confessions @ 7 p.m. Final Zumba Club	
Wednesday 7 March	Cumann na mBunscol Quiz in St. Brigid's PS, Ballymena a.m. Final Multi-Sports Club	
Saturday 10 March	PTA World Maths Day Family Quiz in Parish Hall 2 -4 p.m.	
Monday 12 March	World Maths Day in MQP Sentinus K'Nex Challenge in Coleraine	
Friday 16 March	Pupil of the Month Assembly (Y2) St. Patrick's Day Celebrations & Green Day (£1 Trócaire)	
Monday 19 March	Final Swim Y6 (Mrs Sharkey)	
Friday 30 March – Friday 6 April (inclusive)	Easter Holidays	
Monday 9 April	School Re-opens Y7 Swimming begins	

WORLD BOOK DAY 2018

World Book Day is on



Friday 2 March in MQP. Throughout the day the children will be involved in a variety of reading activities- outdoor hunt for characters from favourite books, storytelling, designing bookmarks/posters, painting favourite characters, silent reading periods, writing book blurbs/reviews and discussing favourite stories. To enter the spirit of the day the children may dress up as a character from one of their favourite books. You may even see something quite unexpected! Thank you to everyone who supported our recent Book Fair. The money raised will be spent on books for our class libraries, guided reading and AR.

BALLYMENA FESTIVAL

The road to Ballymena has been very busy! The journeys have been well worthwhile because MQP has, once again, achieved outstanding successes at the Festival. Well done to everyone at home and in school who helped prepare the children. Success is great but the real achievement is building children's confidence and self-esteem. We are proud of each and everyone of our pupils.

WEE BRÓNAGH'S RUN/WALK/CYCLE

The school will make a donation to the Meningitis Research Foundation in memory of Brónagh Kinney; a Y4 pupil at

Glenann PS, Cushendall. Staff will take part in the run/walk/cycle between Ballycastle and Cushendall on **Sunday 4 March**.

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. If you prefer to order from the school secretary for the upcoming Sacraments please send your order (including correct size and money) to the office in an envelope before **Friday 2 March**.
School Jumpers - £10.00 Polo Shirts - £7.00
We have been attending the Ballymena Festival and we look really well in our uniform. The black shoes help us to look smart and the school values your support with continuing to ensure that the children wear their shoes and not trainers.

FIRST CONFESSIONS

Our best wishes and prayers to the Y3 pupils who will make their First Confessions on **Tuesday 6 March @ 7 p.m.** in the Church.

SCHOOL DEVELOPMENT PLAN (SDP)

Mathematics

Our main maths focus for 2017/2018 centres on Mental Maths. The ability to calculate mentally underpins all number work and is an essential life skill.

"The mental approach should be a child's first resort when a calculation is needed".

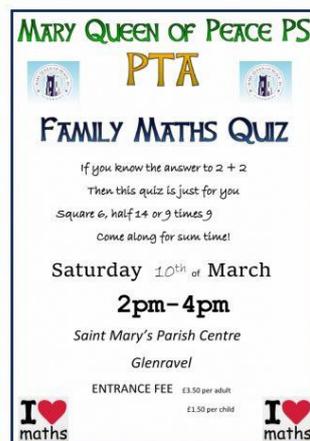
Mental Maths is more than quick recall of number facts. It involves understanding our number system; approximating and estimating; and using different strategies to carry out investigations. In Mary Queen of Peace our teachers are encouraging thinking skills, discussion and explanation in order to foster in pupils a willingness to implement various strategies, reflect on improvement and share with peers strategies to achieve a calculation. This is a very powerful way of learning. Teachers have been reflecting on their classroom practice in order to ensure that learning experiences are positive and motivating, building upon pupils' knowledge and their individual planning. Both teachers and learning assistants have had the opportunity to avail of training in The Northern Ireland Strategy for Numeracy, a very effective teaching and learning tool.

A Numeracy workshop was organised for parents of children in Ys 1/2 to support the teaching of Mental Maths strategies. The workshop was both practical and fun, generating really useful discussion around maths in the Foundation Stage. Parental feedback was both positive and complimentary. All pupils will have the opportunity to develop their mental maths during Maths Week and as World Maths Day approaches on the **March 12**, all classes will enhance and consolidate the strategies through games and activities. As numeracy co-ordinator I would encourage the whole school community to get involved. A family Maths Quiz will be held in the Parish Hall on **Saturday 10 March from 2- 4 pm**. Questions will challenge our children and incorporate all areas of maths, including problem solving and the lives' of famous mathematicians. Fun and healthy competition are both guaranteed.

All money raised will be used to purchase mental maths resources.

I am privileged to be leading a core subject and I feel proud as I watch our children's love for maths flourish in a maths enriched environment.

Mrs McConway
Maths Co-ordinator



ICT

The children have been working hard at their Film & Animation tasks this term. They have also been collaborating with other schools on-line. Y7 have been e-mailing the Y7 class in St. Brigid's PS, Ballymoney, while Y4 have been blogging on the C2K News Desk with their partners.

Outstanding modern teaching and learning.

<https://newsdesk.c2kschools.net/c/newsdesk/news/7319>

Thank-you to Mrs Black for her support with teaching the children about Chinese culture.



PUPIL SURVEY REPORT

Our pupils were consulted during the preparation of the school's Positive Behaviour and Anti-Bullying policies. All of the children in Y4-7 completed a survey (135 pupils) to establish their views on school life (their views on the school and themselves, behaviour and bullying).

The School Council was involved in selecting the questions and how each question was worded.

We have analysed the data and discussed the findings with the children (by year group and gender). This month we will look at the children's views on the school and themselves.

Statement About School	% Strongly Agree/Agree	% Don't Know
I like coming to school everyday.	81	8
I get on well with teachers and other adults in the school.	90	10
I feel happy at school.	88	4
I feel safe in the classroom.	95	4
Children are friendly in this school.	89	7
I take part in / I plan to take part in after school clubs and teams	90	8
School work is interesting. There are lots of things I enjoy doing.	90	4

Our pupils enjoy coming to school. They feel safe and happy; and they enjoy their work in school.

Statement About Myself	% Strongly Agree/Agree	% Don't Know
I have confidence in myself.	81	7
I think I am good at my school work.	84	8
It is easy to make friends.	70	9

Some of our children told us that they find it hard to make and maintain friendships; and this is true of children generally. Our staff want to help support the children with their relationships with others. We have invested in equipment to promote team games at lunchtime and we also have 18 after school clubs to encourage our children to play together in a structured setting. In Term 3 we will also introduce buddy benches and friendship stops into the playgrounds on both school sites.