

HOLY TRINITY PRIMARY SCHOOL

PARENTS NEWSLETTER

OCTOBER 2021

DATES TO REMEMBER

The Holiday list for 2021-2022 is on the school website

October- Mid Term Break

Mon 25th - Fri 29th October

Mon 22nd Nov proposed date for Parent Interviews. All pupils will be off school.

11th March- Confirmation.

11th June- First Communion

Coronavirus

I would like to take this opportunity to thank parents and pupils for continuing to follow the school guidelines and procedures around Covid and helping to maintain the safety of the whole school community. A special thank you to parents for keeping their child at home when there is a positive case of covid within the household.

This is a very worrying time for everyone and I would like to reassure you that the safety of all of the children in Holy Trinity remains our main priority.

Can I ask you to continue to send a message to the class teacher via Seesaw or email Mrs Boyd on fionaboyd66@hotmail.com,

1. If your child or any members of your household have symptoms of Covid 19,
2. If your child or anyone in the household is waiting to be tested for Covid 19
3. If your child has been in contact with someone who has tested positive.
4. If your child has been told to self isolate by the PHA

Can I then ask you to please let us know the results of the tests when you receive them. We would ask you to do this before your child returns to school.

If you require any advice or guidance with regard to whether your child should attend school, please do not hesitate to contact Mrs Boyd.

Can I emphasise the importance of ensuring that you have signed up to Seesaw and Microsoft Teams. Seesaw will be the main platform for providing you with information and it will also be the main means for you to keep in touch with the class teacher. If you have a difficulty accessing technology or devices, please contact Mrs Boyd on fionaboyd66@hotmail.com or by telephoning the school.



NAACE Award

Congratulations to the children, parents, staff and Governors of Holy Trinity. We are delighted to be awarded the Naace Mark for the 4th time! The NAACE award is in recognition of the fabulous work which takes place in Holy Trinity. Congratulations to Mrs Rooney and Miss Mc Laughlin, who work tirelessly leading ICT within the school. We are absolutely delighted to have been awarded a Level 1 in this prestigious award, which is the highest level a school can receive. Back in June we had a comprehensive assessment from Mr Andy Murden from the Naace Board of Management. He spoke with our children, staff, parents and Governors to find out about how the school harnesses the effective use of technology. Mrs Rooney, ably assisted by Miss Mc Laughlin, completed a very detailed and comprehensive Self Review, producing the evidence to demonstrate how ICT is incorporated into every aspect of our school. Holy Trinity Primary School has a well-established relationship

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with Naace and has been a member for nearly a decade. Over this period, the Self-Review Framework has become embedded in the school's ICT practice as it strives for continuous improvement through positive use of education technologies. The Self-Review Framework supports schools in three key areas; understanding where they are in their technology strategy, planning the next stages and recording their progress.

Access to and effective use of education technologies, along with innovative teaching, plays a huge part in driving high standards that allow pupils to reach and exceed their potential.

Laurence Boulter, Chair of Naace, commented: "The Naace Self-Review Framework is all about school improvement and effective use of education technologies. It helps schools pinpoint where they are in the edtech strategy and identify next steps, all while recording their progress. Holy Trinity Primary School is an excellent example of using the framework to elevate the use of technology in their school, improving both teaching and learning. Being awarded the Naace Mark is testament to the continuous improvement the school has demonstrated – we look forward to continuing to support them."

We are delighted to add this award to the school's other ICT Awards

- Third Millennium Award
- Digital School of Distinction

- 360 Degree Safe Internet Safety Award
- Cyber Resilience and Internet Safety Award

ICT and developing the children's ICT skills is always a priority in Holy Trinity. ICT is the main vehicle through which teaching and learning takes place. We are committed to ensuring that when children leave Holy Trinity they are independent and competent users of technology and have the skills to succeed in a 21st Century digital world. Through our unique and comprehensive Esafety programme and monthly codes, we also teach the children how to stay safe and protect themselves online.

Our September eSafety Code was 'Protect your password and your Personal Information'.
Our October eSafety Code is 'Beware what you share'.

Benemerenti Award



Congratulations Mrs Boyd on receiving the Benemerenti Medal Award. At the end of August, we celebrated a very special Mass in Holy Trinity Church. Mrs Boyd, our Principal, received the Benemerenti Medal awarded

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by Pope Francis as a recognition of outstanding service to Catholic Education in the parish, particularly during the pandemic. Mrs Boyd was recognised by the Pope for her exceptional pastoral care of children, parents and staff during this very difficult period. We are so proud of her, this award is only held by sixty people in the world during Pope Francis' reign and we are delighted that Mrs Boyd's work has been recognised. She gives so much of herself to others and is a very special person! The day was made even more special as her Mum, husband Joe and family, Holy Trinity staff and Governors and Father Brendan were all there to celebrate with her.

Congratulations Mrs Boyd!

Free School Meals

Can I urge any parent who still has not applied for free school meals to do so as a matter of urgency. This must be done online via the EA website.

We will no longer be able to provide your child with a dinner unless the school has been notified by the EA. If you have applied for free school meals and have not yet been notified, we would encourage you to telephone the Free Meals section at the EA.

Welcome to Our New P1 Children

We are delighted to see our new P1 children settling in so well to their new classes in Holy Trinity. They have made friends, developed social skills and begun to learn many things in

class. Congratulations to them. P1 classes will begin their full days at school on Monday 27th September.

P1 Photographs

The Andersonstown News will take class photos of the P1 children in the first week of October. We hope you will look out for their photo in the paper.

P1 Autumn Walk

The P1 classes will be going for for an Autumn walk in the school grounds during October. We will examine the different coloured leaves and seeds from the trees. We will look for berries and spider's web.

P5 Park Life Project

P5MML are taking part in the Park Life Project this year in association with Belfast City Council and Ulster Wildlife. Our 1st trip is scheduled for the 20th of October and we hope to look at some tree studies – Finding out about different trees in the area, their history and how old they are as well as making sketches and looking at different leaves.

Antrim Champions

We are very fortunate to have a member of the Antrim All Ireland Intermediate Camogie Champions with us on Friday 8th October. Niamh Donnelly visited Holy Trinity with the Jack McGrath Cup. Pupils in P5-P7 will have an opportunity to get a class photo with the camogie star and P5-P6 pupils will participate in a short Q&A session.

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Safety Issues

Dogs

Dogs are not permitted within the school ground, even if they are on a lead.

Hot Drinks

Parents and pupils are requested not to bring hot drinks into the school yard in the morning or afternoon as there is a risk of injury.

Car Parking

As you are aware there can at times be a build-up of traffic at certain busy times. Over the last few years we have built extra car parking spaces reserved for parents. In the interests of safety to the children and the public parents are asked to use the two parent car parks and not to park on the double yellow lines or block the turning circle. We also ask parents to please have consideration for our neighbours adjoining the school and please refrain from parking in the cul de sac.



New Telephone System

We are delighted that we will be installing a new telephone system throughout the school in November. This will mean that we will only operate one school number- 02890616465.

Counselling

We are once again employing two counsellors to support the pupils this year. Tommy Mc Keever, a Barnardos counsellor, has been working in Holy Trinity for almost 10 years and we call him the “miracle worker” as he

has helped transform the lives of many pupils. We also have Ann Marie Bryson, our Music Therapist from Relate. This is Ann Marie’s fourth year in Holy Trinity and children have benefitted tremendously as a result of working with her. If you feel that your child could benefit from seeing the counsellor, please contact Mrs Boyd.

Swimming

We are delighted that children in P5 and P6 are once again attending swimming lessons in Whiterock Leisure Centre this year. We also have coaches coming into school developing the children’s Fundamental Movement and Tennis skills.

Canteen

Parents have been issued with a menu via Seesaw. Due to Brexit and difficulties obtaining some ingredients there may be occasions when the menu will vary slightly.

Right of the Month for September

We have the right to personal space and privacy.

Article 16

Rights Respecting Behaviour

We can respect each other’s rights by considering other people’s belongings and comfort.

Right of the Month for October

We have the right to protection from violence and neglect.

Article 19

Rights Respecting Behaviour

We can respect each other’s rights by being kind to others, and telling an adult if we believe someone is at risk.

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