



PARENT NEWSLETTER

December 2014



Primary 1 Intake – September 2015

Forms are now available from the office to enrol children for next year's Primary One classes.

The closing date is 12:00 pm
Wednesday 14th January.

Important Dates

Prize-Giving – Tuesday 2nd December
at 1:30.

Confirmation – Thursday 5th March at
11:00 am in Holy Trinity Church

First Penance Enrolment Service -
Thursday 12th March at 10.45am in
Holy Trinity Church.

Communion – Saturday 16th May at
11:00 am in Holy Trinity Church

P1-5 Concert Week - Tuesday 9th
December to Friday 12th December.

P6/7 Carol Service in Holy Trinity
Church – Friday 19th December at
1:30.

Issues Which May Arise

If a parent has an issue they wish to
raise they can talk to Mrs Boyd or Mr
White rather than use 'social media'.

Employment in Holy Trinity

Over a period of time job opportunities
for cleaning and dinner duties arise
within the school. If you are interested
please give your name to our secretary.

School Times

Parents are reminded of the following
times:

Primary 1-3 classes begin at 9:00 and
finish at 2:00.

Primary 4-7 classes start at 9:15 and
finish at 2:45.

Collecting P4-7 Children

Children in Primary 4 and above finish
at 2:45 pm. This fulfils the legal
weekly requirement. Parents should
not collect pupils in these classes at
2:00. If, in an exceptional situation, a
parent needs to take a child at 2:00,
they must first see Mrs Boyd or Mr
White. A parent/guardian should not
go directly to the class.

Enrolment Service for Communion

The First Communion Enrolment Mass
took place on Tuesday 18th November
in Holy Trinity Church. There was a
great turn out of parents and thanks
also to Mrs Collins and Mr Mc
Cluskey who took part in the service.

Power Down Day

During the first week of November our
school participated in World Days of
Action. We thought carefully about our
energy use and made a special effort to
reduce our usage and become more
efficient on 6th November; Power
Down Day. The Eco Council visited
different classes to provide ideas about
how to be more energy efficient and all
classes made a great effort to
remember to turn off lights, computers
and projectors when they were not in
use.



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Key Stage Two Assembly

Miss Mc Kernan's class led the Key Stage Two Assembly, which this month was on the theme the 'Rights Respecting School'. Holy Trinity is working towards achieving UNICEF's 'Rights Respecting School Award'. UNICEF is the world's leading organisation working for children and their rights. The RRSA will help our pupils to grow into confident, caring and responsible young citizens, both in school and within our communities. By learning about rights our pupils will also learn about the importance of respecting the rights of others. Currently all classes are working on their class charters. Each charter will contain a selection of rights from the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child. Each class will explore their chosen rights and agree upon rights respecting behaviour.

After the assembly Mrs Boyd presented the Key Stage Two awards for Star of the Month. The award winners were: Aaron Mc Corry; Brian McDonagh; Katie Sloan; Jack McNally; Jessica Mc Grattan; Aoife McCann; Lee Mc Parland; Breanna Mc Laughlin; Mark Mc Kee; Meadoc Rooney; Niamh Bellew; Michael McNally; Rachel Kerr and Katie Skelly.

Right of the Month

Article 28: The right to an education.

We can respect each other's right to an education by working hard and behaving in a way that does not stop anyone else from achieving their potential.

LSC1 Trip

On Monday 24th November our LSC1 had a fabulous day at the Donkey Sanctuary Assisted Therapy Centre in Templepatrick. The riding coaches prepared a programme of work for our children on our target of recognising the colours and verbal communication. The children had great fun riding the donkeys and putting the hoops into the correct coloured boxes! The children enjoyed the whole sensory experience of being with the donkeys and talking to them, giving the donkeys verbal commands to stop and go. The children also enjoyed playing in the sensory room and play park. The children were very tired after our visit and most of them were asleep on the bus on the way back to school!

Sunshine Class

A representative from the Whiterock Children's Centre visited the Sunshine room on Thursday 6th November to make pizza with both parents and pupils. Everyone had a great time and the pizzas tasted delicious too!

Anti-Bullying Week

Last week was designated as 'Anti-Bullying Week'. The Northern Ireland Anti-Bullying Forum defines bullying as **the repeated use of power by one or more persons intentionally to harm, hurt or adversely affect the rights and needs of another or others**. In Holy Trinity we have a zero tolerance to bullying. This year we have had two assemblies dedicated to the theme of bullying and we have rewritten our 'Blast Off to Bullies' lessons and worksheets. A particular concern for us and all schools at



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present is that of 'Cyber Bullying'. Cyber bullying is bullying that takes place through electronic technologies, such as:

- Mobile or smart phones – eg. calls, texts, BBM, etc.
- Smart phone apps – eg. Kik Messenger, Snapchat, WhatsApp, etc.
- Social network websites – eg. Facebook, Twitter, askFM, Instagram, etc.
- Gaming consoles – eg. Xbox Live, Playstation, etc.

Some examples of cyber bullying include:

- Posting hurtful, embarrassing or threatening material (eg. posts, photos, video) on social network websites
- Sending nasty messages by text or through an app
- Excluding someone from an online game

Here are some tips about how to deal with cyber bullying:

- Don't respond;
- Don't retaliate;
- Save the evidence;
- Talk to a trusted adult;
- Block the bully;
- Don't be a bully;
- Be a friend, not a bystander

More information can be found on:
www.safekids.com
www.nspcc.org.uk

Mrs Boyd and Mrs Rooney are CEOP ambassadors and are always available to discuss any concerns with parents.

Recycling Bus

This month a Belfast City Council Education Vehicle visited our Primary

Three to Seven pupils to help us learn more about recycling. Each class spent time on the bus learning about how to properly dispose of waste and participated in different activities.

All pupils found the sessions interesting and enjoyable and hopefully we are now in a better position to meet our recycling targets as we aim to achieve Green Flag status with Eco Schools.

Parents' News

Parents' Room

Our coffee mornings for parents continue every Friday morning from 9:15 to 10:45. These mornings are organised by Mrs Steele and Mr White. Thanks very much to Mrs Mc Cool for her help and expertise with the jewellery making. There were some lovely pieces produced. We have two other events before Christmas:

Friday 5th December: Make Up

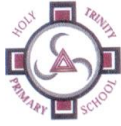
Friday 19th December: Flower arranging.

If there are any of the organised events that interest you please come along. We are organising some enjoyable physical activities for January, with the emphasis on enjoyment. We will let you know more about that in our next newsletter.

Information and Advice Event

A major Information and Advice Event will take place on Wednesday 3rd December from 1:30 to 6:00 at the Whiterock Community Centre. At this you will be able to find out information about:

- Energy saving tips and advice;



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- Information on employment and training programmes;
- Keeping your home warm during Winter;
- Developing a business idea;
- Benefit advice (Tax/pension credit)
- Services available from local housing providers.

Job Assist

Job Assist, at the Top of the Rock Centre on the Springfield Road, offers a range of opportunities and programmes for people of 16 years and up. There are mentoring and motivational programmes, help for interviews, help with Maths, English and IT, accredited training and skills courses, family support and advice. Job Assist can be contacted on 02890322003.

Sliabh Dubh Princess's Mural

Black Mountain Shared Spaces Project and Sliabh Dubh Residents' Association invite you to come along to BMSSP Mural Launch on Saturday 6th December at 1.00.

Children are welcome to come along as Fancy Dress Princess from FROZEN, Beauty & the Beast, BRAVE etc or as their favourite super hero.

Outdoor Learning

Over the last number of years Holy Trinity has been developing our capacity for outdoor learning. We have our Sensory Garden and recently we installed three new beds for plants and vegetables near the top yard.

Our Primary 6 pupils have planted 400 bulbs to grow flowering plants which

hopefully will bloom in time to make bouquets of flowers for Mothers' Day. Our Primary 3 pupils have planted 50 daffodils bulbs in preparation for their Science and Nature project later in the year.

Parents of ASD /Autistic Children

Parents/Guardians of young people with autism may find the book 'Aldo goes to Primary School' of interest.

This book was written as a result of research carried out by McNally Morris Architects and Keith McAllister of QUB.

The information came from parents of young children with ASD who are aware of the issues that affect their children. The stories given are used to illustrate the world of a child with ASD.

The authors hope that the book will raise awareness of some of the issues affecting primary school children with ASD and that it will help teachers, health professionals, architects, parents, carers, school boards, government bodies etc. to provide an appropriate learning environment for all children.

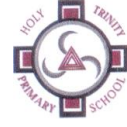
A free PDF copy of *Aldo goes to Primary School* can be downloaded from the below link.

<http://www.mcnallymorris.com/aldo/>



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Tag Rugby Blitz

Two of the P6 classes took part in a 5 week programme of Tag rugby organised and run by Ulster Rugby. The children learned skills in catching, passing and evading tackles over the 5 weeks. The classes then provided 9 players who took part in a mini blitz with several schools from all over Belfast, which took place at the home ground of Belfast Harlequins. This was a great opportunity for the pupils to showcase the skills they had learnt over the previous weeks. The players involved were Emma Reynolds, Kieran Mulvenna, Stephen Bradley, Aimee Kelly, Christopher Kenneway, James Neill, Amy Morgan, Shea O'Hara and Ellie Burns.