

# PARENT NEWSLETTER

## October 2015

# Holy Trinity Primary School

## Marjorie Boxall Quality Mark Award Presentation



Pictured above is Patricia Mc Caugherty (nurture assistant), Brenda Martin (Education Authority), Mary Manning (nurture assistant), Julie Fulton (DENI), Jill Trotter (Education Authority), Kevin Kibble (Nurture Network), Alan Boyd (DENI) Anne Heffernan (nurture teacher), Fiona Boyd (Principal), Jim Clarke (CCMS) and Helen Stollery (Nurture Network)

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### **Marjorie Boxall Quality Mark Award**

On Monday 7th September Holy Trinity Primary School was presented with the prestigious 'Marjorie Boxall Quality Mark Award'. We are only the third school in the North to achieve this award. It is awarded by the 'Nurture Group Network' to schools who can demonstrate, through a rigorous examination of evidence and practice, that nurturing principles are applied, not only in the nurture group class but to the whole school. The nurture group class provides a safe place for pupils with social, emotional or behavioural needs and concentrates on developing skills such as turn-taking, listening, sharing, good manners and managing emotions to ensure they are in a more settled and happier place and better able to cope with the demands of the school day.

In her report the Nurture Group Network's Wendy Roden observed, "The adult support for the children's emotional, social and cognitive development was clear during the visit and through the evidence provided. The overwhelming feeling was of warmth and sensitivity, not only for the children, but the school community including parents, carers and all staff."

The 'Marjorie Boxall Quality Mark Award' was presented by Kevin Kibble (Chief Executive of the Nurture Group Network) and Helen Stollery. Mr Kibble commented on the importance of developing children's social and emotional skills to help them achieve their full potential, both in school and for life ahead.

### **International School Award**

Holy Trinity Primary has been awarded the 'International School Award' in recognition of our work to bring the world into the classroom.

This award is made to schools which demonstrate a commitment to providing our children and community with an international dimension to their education through introducing global themes into the school curriculum so that young people gain the cultural understanding and skills they need to live and work as global citizens. The assessor commented: 'This is an outstanding Impact Evaluation and confirms your commitment to international education as reflected in the high quality of the work you describe. You have met the success criteria for the ISA and it is our pleasure, therefore, to recommend Holy Trinity Primary School for the Accreditation level of the International School Award.' Congratulations to all our pupils and staff on achieving this prestigious award and especially to Mrs Fyfe who co-ordinates this work. The award will be presented at a ceremony in Derry on the 22<sup>nd</sup> October.

### **Ugandan Visitors**

This week Holy Trinity has been proud to host two Ugandan teachers, Ruth and Christine, from our partner school St Andrew's. During their week in school Ruth and Christine visited the classes explaining to the children about life in Uganda and helping them understand more about life there. The pupils responded very well, asking intelligent questions and showing genuine interest in their lives and culture.

The school partnership is now in its sixth year. It has equipped pupils and teachers to have a deeper understanding of another culture and working environment. We value the range of expertise and different perspectives in the partnership and have jointly established ways of planning and managing partnership practices and procedures which reflect the different school contexts. Mrs McKinney and Miss

# PARENT NEWSLETTER

## October 2015

McLaughlin are looking forward to travelling to St. Andrew's in November.

### Registration

#### School Timetable

P1-2	9:00 – 1:45	Monday
	9:00 – 2:00	Tuesday-Friday
P3-7	9:00 – 1:45	Monday
	9:00 – 2:45	Tuesday-Friday

**\* Please note the change to starting and finishing times \***

It is important that your child is present from this time. Children who arrive into school fifteen minutes after the starting time will be marked absent for the entire morning session as the school day is divided into morning and afternoon sessions for registration purposes.

### Parents' Room

Mr White and Mrs Steele will be continuing to organise and run events in our Parents' Room this year. There will be a range of parent courses organised as well as exercise classes and art and craft activities. We will also have a coffee morning each Friday morning. Everyone is very welcome.

### Counselling Service

If your child is lacking in self-confidence, if they have experienced bereavement, family separation, if they have anger management difficulties or have difficulty making friends etc your child may benefit from speaking to the counsellor. If you would like your child to see the school counsellor please contact Mrs Boyd and she will arrange this for you.

### Safety Issues

#### 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.

#### Birthday Cakes

Currently there are a number of pupils with nut, egg and other allergies and therefore birthday cakes should not be brought into school.

#### P3 and P4 Home-Time Arrangements

P3 and P4 pupils line up in the junior yard at home time. Please collect the children from their line as it is very dangerous to ask them to walk by themselves to a car at a time when there is a lot of traffic on the road.

#### Going Home

We would appreciate if parents could talk to their children about walking home safely and not engaging in activities which could endanger themselves or others. We will also be addressing this matter in school.

#### 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.

#### Dropping Off Zone

There are several spaces for cars at the front of the Key Stage 1 yard. These are specifically for dropping off children and moving away. This is not a parking area.

# PARENT NEWSLETTER

## October 2015

### School Dinners

If you think your child may be entitled to school dinners please request a 'School Meals Form' from the office. If you receive 'Family Credit' you will be entitled to free dinners. Only pupils who are entitled are permitted to receive free school meals. Even if your child does not wish to take a school dinner but would be entitled to receive one we would ask you to complete the form and send it to BELB as the number of pupils on Free School Meals affects the school's budget.

Last year pupils were consulted on their food preferences. As a result of this the canteen has drawn up a menu and this has been distributed to the children. Our dinners are excellent and both healthy and nourishing. Dinners cost £2.50 daily.

### Packed Lunches

Your child may choose to bring a packed lunch. In order to ensure a healthy snack **NO** sweets, crisps, chocolates, fizzy drinks or nuts should be put in lunches.

Peanuts are not allowed as we have a number of children with anaphylaxis which could prove fatal if they come in contact with nuts.

### St. Vincent de Paul Services

ST. Vincent de Paul, situated at the Mountain View Centre, Norglen Gardens, offer some services which may be of interest to our parents.

### Breakfast Club

The Breakfast Club runs from 8:00 am to 9:00 am and the staff walk the children to Holy Trinity PS at 8:50.

### Out of School Hours Child Care

This runs from 8:00 am to 5:00 pm for primary school age children. The centre also runs a school collection service.

### Homework Club

The Homework Club runs from 2:45 to 5:00.

For further information regarding the services and prices you can contact Kay Shortt at the centre on 02890601903.

### Girls' Gaelic Football

Gort na Mona are looking for girls in P5, 6 and 7 who wish to play gaelic football to come along to training from 5 – 6 pm each Friday evening, where they will be offered the chance to learn new skills and meet new friends. It is organised by coach Pádraig Mac Cathail and Deirdre Mc Conway.

### Right of the Month

#### Article 40

We have the right to be treated with respect and dignity

#### Rights Respecting Behaviour

We can respect each other's rights by treating others the way that we would like to be treated, by being compassionate and caring towards each other.

### Pizza Express Trip

All four primary three classes have been visiting Pizza Express over four consecutive Thursdays. The children visited Pizza Express on the Lisburn Road and they each got to make their own individual magherita pizza. Their pizzas were cooked and they got to bring them home that afternoon. Back in school, the children were then able to write the instructions for how to make a pizza. They really enjoyed their trip.