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Description automatically generated**St. Peter’s Primary School**

**Newsletter February 2023**

Hello Parents /Carers

Welcome to our February Newsletter. As you can see we have been a busy bunch at St Peter’s, Children have had lots of super experiences and there are more dates for your diary.

**During Catholic Schools Week**

The theme for Catholic Schools Week this year is: **Walking Together in Faith and Love**

Every Catholic school seeks to help students along their journey, nurturing their gifts and talents. Each student is a reflection of God with the potential to make society a kinder and more just place for all. The Church is currently in the process of synodality, which literally means ‘journeying together’. This means that Catholics are called to come together and discern what the Holy Spirit is calling the Church to do and to be. This Catholic Schools Week, we celebrate the unique contribution our schools make to the lives of our pupils, community and Church. As we journey together, may we always be inspired by the Holy Spirit to be all that God made us to be. During this week the children will take part in various class activities and a school assembly on this theme.

**St Brigid’s Day**

All classes continued the tradition of making St Brigid Crosses. The children got to practise their skills and share their knowledge of making St Brigid Crosses. Thank you to everyone who brought in rushes.



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**Post Primary Portal**

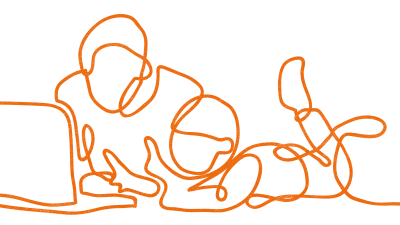
The Portal has now opened for Post Primary admissions. Information is posted on the website with a link to a video to help with this process. There is also an EA phone number if any parent needs support.

**Post Primary Transition Programme**



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The children in Yr. 7 are invited a 4 week programme which will help the children in their preparation of transferring to Post Primary School. The programme covers Our Health, Communication, Risk Taking Behaviours and Our Mindset.

[](https://saferinternet.org.uk/blog/help-someone-else-has-posted-a-photo-of-my-child-on-social-media)

**Safer Internet Day**

Safer Internet Day will take place on 7th February with the theme ‘Want to talk about it? Making space for conversations about life online’.

### ****Practical tips for starting a conversation about life online****

The internet plays a significant role in the lives of children and young people; becoming integral to their social development as they get older. Talking to young people about their life online and encouraging them to share their experiences with you, is a key part of helping to safeguard your family.

Whatever your level of knowledge or confidence, these five tips will help you start, manage and maintain an open dialogue with your children about life online, and help you support them to use technology safely and positively.

For more information follow the link:

<https://saferinternet.org.uk/safer-internet-day/safer-internet-day-2023/parents-and-carers/practical-tips-for-starting-a-conversation-about-life-online>

Practical tips for starting a conversation about life online - UK Safer Internet Centre

With the ever changing landscape of the online world it can be hard for parents and carers to keep up! The internet offers us boundless opportunities and a way to stay connected in a socially distant world, but can also present a minefield of risks and challenges. That is why this year we are providing an online Workshop (at a School cost) to Parents. Parents from St Patrick’s, Gortin and Our Lady of Lourdes, Greencastle are also invited to this Zoom Workshop.

Throughout this interactive workshop, participants will increase their awareness of what is happening online, consider which boundaries would be helpful in their homes, and breathe a sigh of relief that they are not alone in sometimes feeling overwhelmed! Please ask the facilitator any questions that you have as there is time built into the programme for questions.

Content will include cyberbullying, social media, live streaming, mental health issues, and ideas for further support.

**The Face to Facebook parents' workshop ..via zoom .. 6.30 - 7.30pm on Safer Internet Day will be on 7th February at 6.30pm to 7.30pm. The link to the workshop will be sent out via Seesaw closer to the time.**

**N.I Water**

On Monday 27th February the children will take part in an Educational Workshop delivered by N.I. Water. The workshop will cover saving water. At the end of the talk we would hope that all children with parent support will take the pledge to say no to single use plastic water bottles and encourage refilling from the tap. Together we can reduce our carbon footprint.

**RSE Parent Talk**

Thank you to everyone who availed the RSE talk last week and from feedback Parents found it a useful workshop. It is important to have these conversations about puberty with your child at the appropriate time (usually P.7). Yr 7 Parents, if you wish your child to participate in the programme, please return the permission slip.



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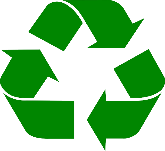
**Cross Country Running**

On the 10th February Yr. 4 – 7 class will participate in St Mary’s Primary School Strabane annual Cross-Country Event at **Holy Cross College, Strabane.**

The event is for boys and girls, with a race for each year group from P4 to P7.

The children can come to school dressed in their running gear (with the school uniform on top). The children will need to bring their uniform and a change of footwear to change back into as the weather could be inclement.

Children should also bring a snack and a bottle of water. The children will hopefully be back at dinner time.

**Eco Schools Update**

The Eco Council have been working hard in preparation for renewing The Green Flag application later this year. We have been lucky to have had a visit from Yvonne Lecky from Derry and Strabane District council. Yvonne gave a presentation on how we should use our bins effectively. Each class now has 3 bins: black bin, recycling bin and a food waste bin. We have been able to purchase a composter thanks to the Pollinator Grant we have received. We will use this to compost our food waste throughout the school.

We are taking part in the ‘Big Wheelie Challenge’ and have weighted the waste around the school. It is our aim to promote recycling and correct use of the bins. We plan to reduce the amount of the school waste that will end up in land fill.

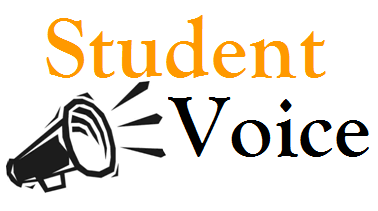
KS2 also had a visit from Gareth Lamrock from Eco Schools and they completed a workshop called ‘Fast Fashion’. The children learned how to turn an old t-shirt into a bag. They will be able to reuse the bag and have a better understanding of why it is important not to throw everything in the black bin. We need to spend some time thinking about how we can reuse items instead.

We also took part in the RSPB Big Bird Watch to count how many birds are in the area and checked which species were most popular. We will share this data with RSPB to be included in their research. P1 and P2 made bird feeders to encourage birds around the school grounds.

Eco Warriors have been busy at the After-School’s Club, and we have lots of exciting plans for over the next few weeks.

Old batteries and used stamps can be sent into school for recycling. Please ensure that stamps have a cm or more of the envelope left around the rectangle, this is needed in order to recycle!

**Student Council**



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Our Student Council will distribute a ‘Fireside Quiz’ this month to each family. Quizzes are £1 per entry therefore please support the council in their efforts by spreading the word to family and friends. Each quiz sheet can be purchased from the school office (between 9 -12noon) or the local shops. Monies collected will go towards the upkeep of outdoor play equipment.

**Teachers Strike Action**

On February 21st February Teachers are on strike to 12noon so children will be off school.

If children intend to come to school at noon they need to complete the form at the end of this newsletter if they wish to take dinner.

**Thank you**

Cash for clobber raised the welcome total of £183. Thank you to Friends of St Peter’s who organised the collections and to everyone who donated. All money made is very welcome and allows the school to attend events e.g. – Cross Country Event.



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**Congratulations**



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Well done to the children who took part in Ballinscreen Credit Union Competition. All the children enjoyed the event and worked very well in their teams. Grainne, Roíse, Cahir and Cleiona were the winners in the under 11 group and received lovely plaques. Well done to everyone.

**Holidays**

The school will close for Mid - term –13th February to 17th February.

Memo 21st Feb - industrial action to 12 noon.

**Memo World Book Day is on the 2nd March. The children if they wish can dress up as a character from a book. We encourage you to think of home - grown ideas for costumes.**

**Thought for the Month**

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My child \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ will attend school on the 21st February in the afternoon and I wish to book a school dinner.