Logo

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

**Newsletter**

**October 2023**

A month completed and everyone has settled back into routine again. The P.1’s have settled in very well and are now staying to 2 pm so there will be a lot of tired children and yawns this week at 2pm!

**School communication**

Text messages and the school website are our primary means of communicating. Please ensure that you have the app for the school website downloaded to your mobile phone as we are aiming to reduce the amount of paperwork used. If you change your contact details or phone number throughout the year, please inform the school office. Hopefully everyone has managed to connect to Seesaw and Mathseeds if you need support, please contact the school.

**Free school meals/uniform**

Please have a look at the EA website <https://www.eani.org.uk/financial-help/free-school-meals-uniform-grants> to register your child for free school meals and uniform grant. **If you are eligible for free meals and do not wish to avail of them, please register as the numbers of children eligible helps to raise our school budget.** There is still time to apply. In a time when costs are rising, there is extra strain on the budget.

**Attendance**

It is important that children attend school regularly. This ensures progression and success in learning as well as building and maintaining strong friendships with peers. Parents must complete the online absence form which can be found on the school website – (Parents – Absence) or send a note in with their child when they return to school.. If absence falls below 90% or a pattern of absence emerges, the school will contact parents to find a way to improve attendance. The Educational Welfare Officer will also be involved. If your child is absent from school, please contact the school that morning and provide a reason for absence. At present the Covid isolation period is three days for children.

**Parent – Teacher Meetings**

Parent Teacher Meetings will take place on Monday 23rd October. Each appointment is for **10 mins** and staff will need to stay within this guidance so that all appointments are on time. Times will be sent home today in your child’s bag. Please do try to accommodate time given as it is difficult to switch times. To accommodate the meeting we ask that children are collected at 12.30pm. There will be an early dinner that day. If any parent finds it very difficult to collect their child the Classroom Assistants will supervise to 3pm, however we ask that this is kept to a minimum.

**Maths Week**

Maths Week will be celebrated from 16th to 20th October. During this week the children will participating in many activities, school trails and problem solving activities. There is a Parent Zone area to view if you wish, you will find this at [www.mathsweek.ie](http://www.mathsweek.ie) At the end of this newsletter find attached some top tips for parents.



**Mini Professors**



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On Thursday 12th November the P.1 children will visit the Plum Hall in the morning to take part ina science programme designed specifically for young children.  Mini Professors classes provide a warm and welcoming environment in which young children can explore and marvel at science.  
Each Mini Professors class provides a warm and welcoming environment in which children can not only explore and marvel at science but also engage in many life skills, such as asking and answering questions, turn taking, sharing and socialising. Our Mini Professors get to wear their own mini lab coats and learn about the basic principles of scientific experimentation whilst having lots of fun. The P.2/3 children will attend the workshop on 13th November.

This sounds really exciting and thank you to Bronagh who secured funding from the Council to facilitate the programme.



**Teacher/Pupil Challenge**

This is a fun event when the pupils and teachers challenge each other in fun events. On Wednesday 11th October the Teachers’ are looking forward to another win this year!



**Football Blitz**

The Yr. 7 pupils will attend a Football Blitz in Strabane on Monday 16th October. Two staff members will transport the majority of the children however we need 2 parents to offer to transport their children to the match. Please let Mr Rouse know via Seesaw a.s.a.p. who is available to transport their child.

**Halloween**

The children can dress up for Halloween on Friday 27th October. There will be fun activities in each room and a Halloween Parade.

**Eco Council /Student Council**

Congratulations to all the boys and girls who took part in the Student/Eco Council Elections. Everyone performed so well and came up with great ideas and it is a great occasion for the ‘pupil voice’ to be represented so well.

Evan, Casi, Blathnaid, Michaela, Grace, Alice and Charlie will continue to build upon and maintain our Green Flag status in the Eco Council. It is fantastic to see apples growing on the trees, sweet peas, broad beans, onions and potatoes all growing too.

The Student Council for 2023-24 will be represented by Amelia, Annie, Grainne, Róise, James, Aoíbhín, Catlin, Logan, Erin, Sarah.

All the children who represented the school and read their manifestoes were magnificent and they should be so proud of themselves – I know the staff in the school thought they were ‘Awesome’.

**Butterlope Farm**

The P.5 – 7 children will visit the farm on November 16th taking part in the The ‘Revealing Rural

Heritage’ project.

The class visit to the farm will cover the following topics:

History of Farming and country life

Landscape Heritage including biodiversity of upland habitats and links to climate change

Heritage of Wool processing

Heritage Gardening

All children will wear their school uniform with waterproof boots and a coat and need to bring a snack,

lunch and a drink. They will leave school at 9.30am and return at 2pm.



**E.P’S**

Any child who is on the Special Needs Register will receive their Educational Plan on Tuesday 2nd October. Please check school bags and return signed copy to class teacher.

**Shoebox appeal**

This year we will continue with the Shoebox appeal. Each year the community of St Peter’s have donated gifts to those in need. Shoeboxes will be distributed to Albania, Bulgaria, Hungary, Romania and Ukraine. As many members of the community get involved in this project please spread the word!

By filling a shoebox with basic items, you can bring joy to those in need this Christmas. This is also a great way of encouraging your child to share with others in need. Leaflets will soon be sent home with your child today. Please do not send boxes into school as we have limited storage – we will let you know when the van will collect the boxes.

**Healthy Eating!!**

In School we have a healthy eating policy which promotes healthy eating in school. Pupils are encouraged to only have milk or water and fruit at break-time and to have healthy lunch boxes. **Memo no food containing nuts.**

Please see attached list for ideas at the end of the newsletter for suggested healthy options.

**School Gates**

Thank you to everyone for not driving into the school yard.

**Friends of St Peter’s**

On Tuesday 2nd October Friends of St Peter’s will meet in the school 2.30pm – 3pm. New members welcome**.**

**Holidays**

The school will close for Halloween Holidays from 30th October – 3rd November. Happy Halloween!



**World Smile Day**

World Smile Day is celebrated Friday 6th October. Celebrate Kindness and the importance of a smile today.

**Thought for the Month**

 ***A good life is when you smile often,***

***dream big, laugh a lot and realise***

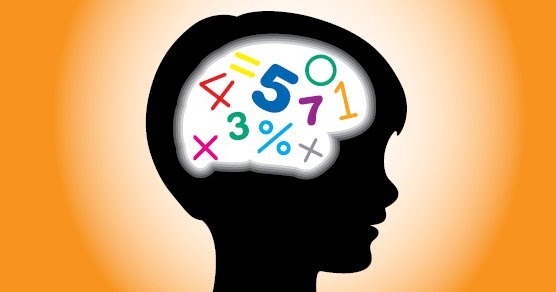
***how blessed you are for what you have!!***

**Healthy Eating Options**

Suggested food and drink options for healthy break/lunch choices

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Apples | Flat bread |
| Oranges |  |
| Pineapple | Pancake |
| Bananas | Pitta pockets |
| Plums | Crackerbread |
| Pears | Salad |
| Watermelon | Peppers |
| Melon | Carrot sticks |
| Strawberries | Cheese |
| Blueberries | Humous |
| Raspberries | Dry cheerios |
| Grapes | Chicken |
| Cucumber | Ham |
| Tomatoes | Turkey |
| Peaches | Tuna |
| Mango | Yoghurt |
| Blackberries | Raisins |
| Cherries | Yoghurt raisins |
| Bread | Water |
| Brown bread | Milk |
| Bread rolls | Water |
| Wraps | Lunchables |
|  | Plain rice cakes |
| Breadsticks | Diluted Juice – sugar free (lunch time only) |

**TOP TIPS FOR PARENTS: From Maths Week Resources**



[This Photo](https://scherlund.blogspot.com/2018/11/how-to-help-students-heal-from-math.html) by Unknown Author is licensed under [CC BY](https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/3.0/)

1. Encourage children to think flexibly about numbers
2. Encourage drawing whenever you can (mathematicians draw sketches all the time!)

3. When you help your children, do not lead them through step by step, as this takes away important learning opportunities for them.

4. Encourage children to work on problems that are challenging for them, so that they can learn from their mistakes

5. Encourage students to make sense of maths at all times (As they work, keep asking does that make sense to you? Why? or Why not? Discourage guessing)

6. Praise children by rewarding **effort** (not by telling them they’re smart)

7. Always have a positive outlook on maths

8. When children answer questions and get them wrong, try and find the logic in their answers

9. Give children maths puzzles

10. Play games! (For young children any board game with dice will help)

**Important Points**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| 3 October Tuesday | Friends of St Peters meeting in the school at 2.30pm – 3pm | New members very welcome.  Friends of St Peter’s Help out at events in the school and organise fundraising. |
| 4 October Wednesday | Return I.E.P’S to Class teacher. |  |
| 6 October Friday | P6/7 First Friday Mass | Raincoat |
| 11 October Wednesday | Teacher Pupil Challenge |  |
| 12 October Thursday | P.1 Mini Professors in Plum Hall | raincoat |
| 16 -20 October Monday- Friday | Maths Week |  |
| 16 October Monday | P.7. Football Blitz 9 a side Strabane | Gum shield, Snack, Lunch.  Raincoats  Uniform to change into back at school if P.E.  2 Staff cars will transport the children.  Need 2 parents to transport their own children. |
| 23 October Monday | Parent Teacher Meeting | Children collected at 12.30pm |
| 27 October Friday | Halloween Fun | Dress up for Halloween. ( we ask that no broomsticks, swords etc are sent in the interest of safety.  Early Dinner |

**October is the Month of the Holy Rosary.**

Please find time to pray the rosary as a family.