

ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST P.S.

PORTADOWN

GOVERNORS' REPORT 2010 - 2011

Dear Parents,

I am pleased to have this opportunity to present to you the Governors' Report on St. John the Baptist Primary School for the 2010 - 2011 school year. It is our intention that you should be kept informed about your child's/children's progress at school and this report is one of a number of ways in which this information will be provided. Other ways will include monthly newsletters, parent/teacher interviews, school reports, records of achievement and our school website.

This report, however, cannot cover every aspect of school life; instead it gives a snapshot or a flavour of the work that is ongoing in our school. If you would like to have additional information, or clarification of any aspect of this report, please feel free to contact the Principal.

It is my hope that you will show your interest in your child's/children's education, and the progress of our school as a whole, by reading this Annual Governors' Report.

I commend this report for your consideration.

Yours sincerely,

Fr. M. O'Dwyer
(Chairman)

St. John the Baptist P.S.

Board of Governors

Trustee Representatives

Rev. M. O'Dwyer	Chairman	2013
Mrs M. Lambe		2013
Mrs G. Lawless	Secretary	2013
Mr J. Marley	Vice-Chairman	2013
Mr J. McGinn		2013

S.E.L.B. Representatives

Mrs B. Hagan		2013
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D.E.N.I. Representative

Mr P. O'Conghaile		2013
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Parents' Representative

Mr M. Hagan		2013
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Teachers' Representative

Miss C. McKinney		2013
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Principal

Mr M. Gribbon
(*Non voting member*)

Each Governor's name is followed by the date on which his/her term of office expires. The Governors are ultimately responsible for the overall management of the school. They are required to meet a minimum of three times per year, but in practice they usually meet much more often than this.

Some of their duties include:

- The oversight of the curriculum.
- The control of the budget.
- The provision of information to parents.
- The selection of staff
- The maintenance of premises.
(Shared responsibility with S.E.L.B.)
- The Admissions policy.
- Fostering links with the local community and pursuing the objectives of Mutual Understanding

Staffing 2010 – 2011

Teaching Staff

Mr M. Gribbon	Principal
Mrs G. Collins	P.1
Mrs C. Breen	P.1
Mrs N. McAlinden	P.2 (<i>Foundation Stage Co-ordinator</i>)
Mrs O. Gorman	P.2
Mrs K. Beattie	P.3 (<i>Covering Mr L. Dempsey's secondment to NEELB</i>)
Miss A. McGuinness	P.3 (<i>SENCO</i>)
Mrs A.M. Coleman	P.4 (<i>Key Stage 1 Co-ordinator</i>)
Mr J. Quinn	P.4
Miss C. McKinney	P5
Mr G. Guy	P5
Mr M. Hagan	P.6
Mr D. Magee	P.6/7 (<i>VP & Key Stage 2 Co-ordinator</i>) (<i>Shared class with Mrs F. Rafferty – 1 day per week</i>)
Mr P. Hagan	P.7
Mrs B. McKinney	R.1/2 (<i>Irish Medium Unit</i>)
Miss A. Nic Íomhair	R.3/4/5 (<i>IMU Co-ordinator</i>)
Miss C. Totten	R.6/7 (<i>Irish Medium Unit</i>) (<i>Covering Mrs E. Larkin's maternity leave</i>)
Mrs H. McStravick	(<i>Part-time Reading Recovery</i>)

Non-Teaching Staff

Name	Role	Hours
Mrs F. Toland	Secretary	36 hours

Name	Role	Hours
Mrs P. Campbell	Foundation Classroom Assistant	25 hours
Ms K Liggett	Foundation Classroom Assistant	25 hours
Ms E. Halfpenny	Foundation Classroom Assistant	25 hours
Mrs U. Barlow	S/N Classroom Assistant	20 hours
Ms S. McKeown	IMU Classroom Assistant	30 hours
Miss K. Humphrey	S/N Classroom Assistant	20 hours
Miss O. Kingham	S/N Classroom Assistant	20 hours
Mrs P. Girvan	S/N Classroom Assistant	25 hours
Ms J. Wylie	S/N Domestic Assistant	20 hours
Mrs J. Hamill	S/N Classroom Assistant	10 hours
Mrs M. Donnelly	N'hood Renewal Assistant	10 hours
Mrs H. McStravick	S/N Domestic Assistant	15 hours

Name	Role	Hours
Mrs H. Black	Cleaner	10 hours
Mrs J. Dunbar	Cleaner	10 hours
Mrs M. Livingstone	Cleaner	10 hours
Mrs D. Weir	Cleaner	10 hours

Name	Role	Hours
Mr P. McConville	Caretaker	36 hours

Name	Role	Hours
Mrs H. Black	Supervisory Assistant	6 ¼ hours
Mrs J. Dunbar	Supervisory Assistant	6 ¼ hours
Mrs S. Judge	Supervisory Assistant	6 ¼ hours
Mrs J. McCann	Supervisory Assistant	6 ¼ hours
Mrs F. McNally	Supervisory Assistant	6 ¼ hours
Mrs P. Murray	Supervisory Assistant	6 ¼ hours

Name	Role
Mr J. Campbell	Crossing patrol

School Meals Kitchen Staff	
Mrs H. Flack (Cook in Charge)	Mrs S. Gibson (Assistant Cook)
Mrs D. Weir	Mrs G. McCooe
Ms M. Skelton	Mrs J. Curran

At the end of the school year Mr Liam Dempsey left St. John the Baptist PS to become Principal of Gaelscoil an tSeanchaí.

The Board of Governors is grateful for the dedicated service of Liam who brought much wisdom and good humour to St. John the Baptist P.S. and wish him every success in his new post.

Financial Report 2010 – 2011

Budget

- Formula Allocation £1,027,737
- Additional Budget Allocations:
 - Energy £ 1,499
 - Extended Schools £ 46,898
(Including Portadown Cluster Group Funds)
 - Inset £ 5,001
 - Irish Medium £ 15,108
 - Literacy & Numeracy £ 1,633
 - Revised Curr. £ 2,820
 - Contingency £ 6,358
 - Income £ 8,500
- LMS Accrued carryover from previous year £ 58,537

Total Budget for 2010/11 school year: - **£ 1,174,091**

Expenditure **£ 1,103,481**

LMS accrued carryover to April 2011 **£ 70,610**

Our LMS carryover is necessary to maintain current staffing levels over the next three years and is an essential element of our current three year budget plan.

Review of the Past School Year

The school year 2010 - 2011 has been another successful one in which many noteworthy achievements have been made in all aspects of school life. The teachers have continued to present the Northern Ireland Curriculum to the children in many varied and stimulating ways and at the same time developed and maintained good relationships within the school. They have also maintained the Catholic Ethos of the school, which is of great importance.

As part of the school's ongoing work on the curriculum the school had five exceptional closures / staff training days. The first exceptional closure day on 10th September was dedicated to Child Protection training, a staff Code of Conduct and the school ethos. The second exceptional closure day on 28th October was dedicated to Autistic Spectrum training and a review of planning. The third exceptional closure day on 7th January was dedicated to Interactive Whiteboard training for staff and a presentation on the HeartMath system. The school's fourth exceptional closure day on 16th March was dedicated to developing SMART targets for IEPs and was presented by Mr Tom Young from the SELB while Mr Adrian Lavery from C2K provided further training for the staff on the use of Assessment Manager. The final and last exceptional closure day on 31st May was given to whole staff training for the evolving Annual Report / Pupil Profile format. All school reports at the end of the school year used the C2K Annual Report format.

Alongside these staff training days work continued in developing an updated and consistent approach to SEN across the school. This work was led by Miss Anne McGuinness and her SEN task team and culminated with a revised school SEN policy which was presented to the Governors on 26th January. Miss McGuinness was supported in her SEN work by Mrs Mary Loughran from the SELB. She also attended a course on the "Way Forward in SEN" in March.

Mr Gribbon attended an information session on the Assessment of Cross Curricular Skills in Dungannon Teachers' Centre and Mr Guy and Miss McKinney attended the Cross Curricular Skills online training course in January.

Mr Magee, Miss McKinney, Mr M. Hagan, Mrs Collins and Bean Mhic Choinnigh attended a Co-ordinators course on Data Analysis in the Clounagh Centre in February. Mr Magee and Mr M. Hagan also attended a C2K Assessment course in May.

Mr Quinn attended a World Around Us Co-ordinators course in May.

Mr Gribbon attended the Regional Training Unit's Leadership conference in Cookstown in March.

Our Key Stage 2 Literacy Co-ordinator, Miss Colette McKinney, attended training for the "Reading Partnership" programme along with two classroom assistants, Eithne Halfpenny and Kirsty Halfpenny. Eithne and Kirsty then successfully delivered the "Reading Partnership" programme across the school along with some of our other classroom assistants, Justine Wylie, Marie Donnelly and Ursula Barlow. In addition to this, Miss McKinney and our "Reading Partnership" trained classroom assistants held a series of workshops for other interested assistants who then helped deliver the "Reading Partnership" programme throughout the school. Many children benefited from the implementation of this programme.

One of our classroom assistants, Mrs Paula Girvan, working on the Reading Partnership programme in the refurbished library with Maria from Primary 5.



Mr Martin Hagan was once again invited by CCEA to become a “CCEA Professional Associate”. Part of his work with CCEA involved writing and piloting tasks for online Numeracy assessment activities. Some children from Mr Hagan’s class were also chosen to trial these new assessment materials.

Our Irish Medium unit Co-ordinator, Iníon Nic Íomhair attended the Comhairle na Gaelscolaíochta Conference in Belfast and an Irish Medium Literacy course in May, while Bean Mhic Choinnigh attended Comdháil na Gaelscoileanna in November. Bean Mhic Choinnigh also was involved in writing Irish Language materials for An t Aisaonad, St. Mary’s University College.

The Extended Schools scheme continued in the school during the 2010 – 2011 school year. St. John the Baptist PS received an Extended Schools grant from the Department of Education that enabled programmes and clubs to be developed outside curriculum time that would benefit the pupils, their families and the wider community. These clubs included an Early Birds club, a healthy eating break, reading clubs, dancing clubs, media and web clubs and sporting clubs. The extended schools grant was also used to support St. Mary’s Youth Centre’s Tuesday and Thursday after school club and their annual Summer Scheme. The school continued to act as the lead school in the Extended Schools cluster group of local primary, nursery and secondary schools. This entailed managing the cluster finances of the Portadown Cluster Group consisting of Ballyoran, Hart Memorial, Presentation and St. John the Baptist Primary Schools, St. John the Baptist Nursery School and Drumcree College. The extended schools Irish Dancing club had several entries in Portadown Festival achieving considerable success.

The Performance Review and Staff Development scheme was once more successfully implemented throughout the school. Targets for development were agreed with teaching staff and practice was observed. Fr. O’Dwyer and Mr Jerome Marley continued to act as the “Governor Reviewer”, observing the practice of the principal. They were assisted in this role by Mrs Roberta Brownlee, who was appointed by CCMS as the

“External Adviser”. The Board of Governors and the principal are very grateful to Mrs Brownlee for her excellent support and advice throughout the PRSD process. The Performance Review and Staff Development scheme once again proved to be a positive experience for St. John the Baptist P.S.

Mr Gribbon continued to serve as a CCMS Professional Assessor and was again invited to be a member of the Teaching Awards Trust Northern Ireland judging panel. He also continued to represent principals from N. Ireland on the Irish National Teachers’ Organisation’s Principals’ and Deputy Principals’ Committee.

Parent Teacher Meetings were held on 27th October and 15th March.

The InCAS (Interactive Computerised Assessment System) tests were administered to all Primary 4 – 7 pupils during the autumn term and results reported to parents in graphical form prior to the first parent – teacher meetings.



The attendance rate for the 2010 - 2011 school year was 93.9%, which was an improvement on last year’s attendance. This was encouraging given the bad weather we experienced in December.

The class with the best attendance rate was Bean Mhic Choinnigh’s Rang 1& 2 with an attendance rate of 96.5%.

Seventeen children achieved 100% attendance for the school year.

St. John the Baptist Parent/Teacher Association

Many fund raising events were held throughout the year including our Sunday Funday which was held on 29th May after having to be postpone twice owing to poor weather. While the weather was not perfect, thankfully, we had a long enough dry spell to ensure that all present had a very enjoyable time. Over £4,000 was raised on the day! Many parents supported this event and helped make it a huge success despite the weather.

*The Bouncy
Castles were a
great attraction
for the children at
the Sunday
Funday*



The PTA's planned Christmas Flower Show presented by Fr. Sean McEvoy had to be postponed owing to the Arctic weather we all endured in December. It was re-scheduled for 24th March and was well attended raising over £400.

A very successful "Treasure Hunt" was organised by the PTA on 16th June with the help of Fr. O'Dwyer. Almost £300 was raised for the PTA on the night.

Once again the PTA sponsored our annual Prize Giving Ceremonies to the tune of £641.

Many members of the P.T.A. also willingly gave of their time and energy to help at various functions for the school, the parish and the community at large.

The PTA once again affiliated to the National Confederation of Parent Teacher Associations.

The Board of Governors would like to thank all the parents and teachers for their endeavours and are grateful for the contribution the PTA makes to the lives and educational experiences of all the children.

Education For Mutual Understanding

The Northern Ireland Curriculum makes Education for Mutual Understanding (EMU) compulsory for all children of school age. This is not an additional subject, but instead a Cross Curricular Theme which should be taught through other subjects.

Our school has a long tradition of cross community links in both sporting and cultural fields. St. John the Baptist P.S. has also established and maintained a strong cross community link with Edenderry C.P.S. despite funding being severely restricted in recent times. As usual the highlight of our link with Edenderry was the “All Set” project that involved Mr Hagan’s P6 class and a similar class from Edenderry PS. With the support of Mary Fox and Ian Carmichael the children from both schools had lessons in traditional dance and the tin whistle. Both schools joined with six other schools to produce a show that was performed in the Seagoe Hotel for parents and families. The show was very well attended by the parents of all the children involved. The Governors would like to thank Mary and Ian and the staff and pupils of Edenderry PS for their support and co-operation in this very enriching project.

As a follow-up to this project some children from both schools participated in a six week “African Drums” programme.

The school once again made a significant contribution to “The Ulster Project” a cross community project that brings Catholic and Protestant teenagers to the United States for a month long project during July. Twenty teenagers and five leaders spent four weeks in the two Kansas towns of Hutchinson and McPherson during July with the Ulster Project Kansas. Prior to their trips both Kansas projects met on many occasions in the school. Mr Gribbon acted as co-ordinator for both Kansas projects.

The school also hosted a research meeting for Dr. Melinada Leonard from the University of Kentucky on 18th May. Dr Leonard and twelve undergraduate students met with over sixty participants and past-participants of the Ulster Project to complete questionnaires in an attempt to measure the impact of the Ulster project on young people. Dr Leonard planned to report her findings to the Ulster Project International Conference in Lake Charles, Louisiana in November 2011.

The school also once again hosted the Ulster Project Leadership Training day on Sunday 27th February when Ulster Project leaders and co-ordinators of projects from all over N. Ireland met to discuss leadership and child protection issues. The leaders returned to the school on Sunday 5th June for a “Time of Discovery” workshop presented by Kelly O’Keefe from Milwaukee.

All these events helped build new friendships and understanding among all the adults, staff and children who took part.

Premises and Environment

The school library was refurbished during the school year with a half-stud wall erected, wooden floor laid, new bookcases purchased, new blinds installed and tables, chairs and cushions purchased. New library stock was also sourced for the central library. In addition to this, a dedicated laptop area was created in the school with the erection of a half-stud wall and the laying of a wooden floor. New chairs were purchased for the laptop area. The Governors are grateful to our caretaker, Mr Paul McConville for his hard-work in creating these areas and to our classroom assistant, Mrs Marie Donnelly and one of our student teachers, Mr Ryan Rafferty for their creative artwork.

The school's telephone system was upgraded during the year with additional extensions installed.

The conifer hedge along the side of the school was cut and the broken fencing in front of the Infant classrooms was replaced. The caretaker fenced off an area to the side of the Foundation entrance to create a garden area and a site for a new playhouse. These areas will be developed during the course of the 2011-2012 school year.

Members of the Portadown Rotary Club visited the school to plant a "Crocus Flower Bed" with the children to raise awareness for Leukaemia research.

A new wooden shed was purchased and put in place between the Foundation classrooms and the nursery to store Foundation equipment and the area underneath the canopy at the Foundation entrance was fenced to help create a defined outside play area for the P1 / P2 children.

The school staffroom and kitchen area was refurbished with the old carpet and cupboards being removed and replaced with new cupboards and a wooden floor.

School Achievements and Activities

Assessment

The Primary 4 and Primary 7 children participated in the End of Key Stage assessment procedure. The assessment results were reported to the parents of all Primary 4 and Primary 7 parents at the end of June.

Key Stage 1

At the end of Key stage 1 (Primary 4 & Rang 4) the average child should be attaining Level 2 in Mathematics and English or Irish.

In St. John the Baptist P.S. / Bunscoil Eoin Baiste our Key Stage 1 pupils achieved the following outcomes:

SUBJECT	W *	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3
ENGLISH	2.04%	4.08%	69.39%	24.49%
MATHS		8.77%	68.42%	22.81%
IRISH			62.50%	37.50%

W * = Working towards Level 1

The levels attained by our children in Key Stage 1 compared very favourably with the N. Ireland average.

The Board of Governors would like to congratulate all our Rang 4 and Primary 4 pupils and teachers on their great results.

Assessment cont.

Key Stage 2

At the end of Key Stage 2 (Primary 7 & Rang 7) the average child should be attaining Level 4 in Mathematics and English or Irish

In St. John the Baptist P.S. / Bunscoil Eoin Baiste our Key Stage 2 pupils achieved the following outcomes:

SUBJECT	Level 2	Level 3	Level 4	Level 5
ENGLISH	3.64%	3.64%	74.55%	16.36%
MATHS	1.82%	10.91%	61.82%	25.45%
IRISH			100.00%	

** These results include four children with a Statement of Special Educational Needs*

The levels attained by our children in Key Stage 2 compared very favourably with the N. Ireland average.

The Board of Governors would like to congratulate all our Primary 7 and Rang 7 pupils and teachers on their great results.

Transfer

During the school year 2010 - 2011 fifty-five children transferred to secondary education.

The Primary 7 children transferred to the following schools:

Brownlow College	1
Drumcree College, Portadown	9
Integrated College Dungannon	1
Killicomaine JHS	1
Lismore Comprehensive	6
St. Catherine's College, Armagh	17
St. Catherine's College, (Irish Unit)	8
St. Patrick's Academy, Dungannon	4
St. Patrick's Grammar, Armagh	8

The Board of Governors would like to wish all these children every success in their new schools.

Religious Education and The Sacraments

Fifty-eight children were prepared for First Confession, which took place on Tuesday 5th April in St. John the Baptist Church. As children from the Bunscoil were also making An Chéad Fhaoistin, the service was bilingual.

Fifty children in the mainstream school made their First Communion at 11.00am on Saturday 28th May in St. John the Baptist Church, while also on that day in St. John the Baptist Church, eight children from the bunscoil were presented for An Chéad Chomaoineach at 1.00pm.

Forty-seven children received the Sacrament of Confirmation on Sunday 10th April from Bishop Gerard Clifford in St. John the Baptist Church. Prior to Confirmation a “Ceremony of Light” was held in St. John the Baptist Church.

Fr. O’Dwyer organised a number of preparation services at the normal weekend Masses for all the children who were making their First Confession, First Communion and Confirmation. These services were greatly appreciated and helped make the Sacraments more meaningful for everyone involved. This was reflected in the excellent attendance at each service.

Prior to Confirmation our Primary 7 children were afforded, and many availed of, the opportunity to participate in the “Gift” programme organised by Miss Patricia McCooe and the ShYne Youth group. This programme helped make the children’s Confirmation a more meaningful and special occasion.

Our weekly Key Stage Assemblies continued on Friday mornings and were well attended by the parents and grandparents of the children presenting the assemblies. At the Key Stage Assemblies the children presented themes from the school’s “Alive O” Religious Education programme and received our Star Pupils Awards. Parents and grandparents who have attended the Key Stage Assemblies have

commented very favourably on them and the children certainly enjoyed their presence. To support our Religious Education programme and our school ethos, a special value was chosen each month to become our focus and “Value of the Month”. Over the course of the year values such as “Respect”, “Gratitude”, “Honesty”, “Fairness”, “Kindness”, “Responsibility” and “Compassion” were highlighted and promoted across the school.

The Diocesan RE Adviser, Sr. Elizabeth made her annual school visit to the Primary 4 & Primary 7 Sacramental classes. The children and staff appreciated the dedication, great warmth and most encouraging comments of Sr. Elizabeth

Children from the Bunscoil participated in Aifreann Gaeilge Lá Fhéile Pádraig. (St. Patrick’s Day Mass)

Fr. Krzysztow (Polish priest) visited the school on several occasions throughout the year to attend to the spiritual needs of our Polish children in their home language.

Catholic Schools’ Week was celebrated in the school between January 30th and February 5th, with Wednesday 2nd February being dedicated as “Grandparents’ Day. To mark this day many of the children produced excellent drawings / paintings of their grandmother or grandfather.

An end of year Mass was celebrated in St. John the Baptist Church on 24th June, to mark the feast of St. John the Baptist.

Christmas 2010

The annual Christmas Carol Service was held in St. John the Baptist Church on Monday 13th December.

The children from the bunscoil presented “Ceolchoirm na Nollag” on 14th December. Unfortunately the Foundation Stage 1 nativity play, “It’s

a Party” and the Key Stage 1 nativity play “Off to Bethlehem” had to be postponed owing to the Arctic weather we all endured in December. The children eventually presented their Christmas dramas on 13th & 14th January 2011.

Christmas Dinner was served by the school kitchen staff on Thursday 15th December.

Charity

The children collected £273 for the Drumcree Parish Developing World Project by donating the proceeds of their “Halloween Dressing Up Day” on 26th October.

These Primary 7 girls entered into the spirit of the Halloween Dressing Up Day!



At Christmas the children also raised £200 for St. Vincent de Paul by donating a fraction of their Christmas Party collection. We asked each child to bring in £2 towards their Christmas party with the surplus going to St. Vincent de Paul. Congratulations to the many children who donated more than the £2 that was asked of them.

The children also donated Shoe Boxes full of Christmas gifts for the Drop Inn Ministries Shoe Box appeal for Belarus, the Ukraine and Latvia. One hundred and fifty-nine shoe boxes were donated.

A “Wear Something Green” day on Friday 18th March raised £230 Comic Relief while an Easter Egg, donated by Mrs Anne Murphy, was raffled for Macmillan Cancer, raising £347.

Sport

After school clubs were held for both gaelic and soccer throughout the year as part of our Extended Schools programme. A past pupil, Paul Carvill, was the coach.

Coaching sessions in the gaelic fundamentals programme were offered throughout the year by Liam McCorry of the Armagh County Board. Raffle tickets were sold by the children in September to help support the coaching work of the Armagh County Board raising £2,100.

St. Malachy's Hurling Club and the Armagh County Board also offered a series of coaching sessions for our pupils throughout the year.



The boys had a great season in the Mid Ulster Schools' football competitions, winning the large schools' league and losing narrowly in the N. Ireland Cup final at Seaview,

The boys again represented the school honourably in the various Cumann na mBunscoil Primary School competitions, the St. Francis P4/5 tournament and won the shield in the St. Michael's tournament.

Paul Carvill also organised a Primary 3, a Primary 4 and a Primary 5 gaelic blitz hosted by the school. All our Primary 3 – 5 children had the opportunity to participate in these “fun” competitions alongside children from other local primary schools.

As part of the Department of Education initiative, Nadine Murphy, an IFA coach supported a number of our Key Stage 1 teachers and helped develop their PE skills by delivering a programme of Soccer and PE fundamentals lessons throughout the year.

The school once again competed in the Large Schools' Swimming Gala, with several children winning Gold, Silver and Bronze medals.

The Governors would like to thank the parents, classroom assistants and teachers who supported the children throughout the year and assisted with all their sporting endeavours.

Trips

In June, forty-three P7 boys and girls spent five days in Manchester. While there, they visited Alton Towers and had a guided tour of Manchester United's stadium, Old Trafford.

All the children were also due to visit Anfield, however, as everyone was so well behaved throughout the trip, Mr Guy and Mr Hagan decided not to punish them!



In November some children and parents from the school availed of the opportunity to see Manchester United beat Blackburn 7 – 1 at Old Trafford.

There were also a number of one-day educational visits organised during the course of the year. All children from Primary 1 – 4 visited the Cinema in Banbridge. The Primary 3 & 4 children also went to the pantomime in Armagh. The Primary 5 – 7 children attended Drumcree College’s “You’ve Got Talent” show in April.

The Primary 1 children visited Peatlands Park in the autumn and spring terms and also visited “Mad Hatters” in Lurgan in June.

The Primary 2 children visited the Palace Stables in Armagh for Apple Week in October. They too enjoyed a visit to “Mad Hatters” in Lurgan in June

The Primary 4 children went to the cinema to see “Kung Fu Panda 2”.

The Primary 5 children visited the Ulster Museum.

The Rang 6 & 7 and Mr Magee’s Primary 6 & 7 class visited the Titanic dock and pump house and took a tour of the Stormont Assembly buildings in January.

Other Activities

Staff and children from the school were invited to the official opening of the Drumcree Parish Pastoral Centre on Thursday 27th January. While there they had the opportunity to meet with Uachtarán na hÉireann, (the President of Ireland) Mrs Mary McAleese.

An Open Evening was held for Bunscoil Eoin Baiste on 17th January with a guest speaker was from Comhairle na Gaelscolaíochta.

Children from the Irish Medium unit participated in “Seachtain na Gaeilge”. (Irish Language Week) A céilí was held in the school on Saturday 12th March and a bilingual quiz was held in the school on Monday 14th March. The week culminated with the children participating in Aifreann Gaeilge Lá Fhéile Pádraig (St. Patrick’s Day

Mass) and with a St. Patrick's Day celebration in the Parish Pastoral Centre.

Mrs Coleman's and Mr Quinn's Primary 4 classes were involved in a year long "strings" project led by staff of the SELB Music Service. They completed their project with a performance for parents in May.



The Primary 5 children were involved in a project with the Ulster Orchestra. They attended a workshop with musicians from the Ulster Orchestra in May and then participated in an Ulster Orchestra concert in Craigavon Civic Centre in June.

The school entered a team in the Portadown Credit Union Quiz competition in Portadown Town hall during the spring term.

The Young Enterprise Programme was presented to our Primary 2 classes during the spring term and to our Primary 7 classes on 23rd November.

The School Nurses visited the school in May to perform the Primary 1 Health Appraisals and Nurse Reviews throughout the school.

An Internet Safety Talk was presented to the P5-7 children in February by the PSNI and a representative of Microsoft.

The Primary 7 children were presented with a number of talks and presentations throughout the year on a variety of themes including Transition and Puberty and Drugs Awareness. They also had visits from teachers and pupils from a number of secondary and grammar schools.

The Fire Service visited the school with the PSNI to give a “Fireworks Safety” talk to the children on 13th October. They also returned to give the Primary 5 children their annual Fire Safety talk. One of our parents’ David Shortt, who is a Fireman, also visited the school in March to talk to the Primary 1 – 3 children about his job.

Two other parents, Tom Bolger, a postman and Robert Tiffney, a farmer visited the school during the year to talk to the Primary 1 – 3 children about their jobs.

The “Time to Read” project, sponsored by Business in the Community continued in the school throughout the year.

“Educate Me” visited the school in April with their “minibeasts” presentation and staff and animals from the TACT wildlife centre also visited the school with a presentation for the foundation stage children. The children were also treated to a “Birds of Prey” exhibition.

The school photographer visited the school during the spring term.

The SELB Library van visited the school twice during the year, The Scholastic Book Fair visited the school in October and the Irish Book Fair visited the school in December.

A meeting was held for the parents of Primary 1 children on 9th November to explain the teaching of Literacy in the Revised NI Curriculum and an Induction Meeting was held for the new Primary 1 intake on 20th June 2011.

For the first time, all children from Primary 4 - Primary 7 completed the CCEA ICT Accreditation programme with the help and support of Mr Guy and their class teachers.

Aoibheann Chambers (P7) won the High Street Mall “Mothers’ Day” art competition.

Trudy Mallon (P6) and Megan Hamill (P7) won prizes at the Rotary Club Young Writers Competition and were presented with their awards in the Seagoe Hotel in April.

The Cycling Proficiency programme was presented to the Primary 6 & 7 children during the summer term.

To mark their final year in St. John the Baptist PS the Primary 7 children produced a “Leavers’ DVD” which they launched in April. The extended schools media team also took this opportunity to present their own video which they filmed and edited to parents. They also presented their “Leavers’ Assembly to parents at the end of June.

Sports Week was held for all children during the week Monday 13th – Friday 17th June. Many parents attended the Sports days to see their children participate in a variety of events.

To reflect the many outstanding success of the 2010 - 2011 school year, and celebrate all our achievements, the school had a Prize Giving Ceremony in June for each Key Stage. Awards were presented to the Boy and Girl of the Year in the Key Stages and the Irish Unit, as well as awards for Contribution to School Life and Endeavour. There were awards for Art, Mathematics, Science, Music, Poetry and Handwriting as well as for all our school sports including gaelic, netball soccer and swimming. .

Our Prize Giving Ceremonies were well attended and were a fitting way to round off an excellent school year.



Key Stage 1
Girl of the Year
Blathnat McConville

Key Stage 1
Boy of the Year
Liam Hughes



EC1 Dalta na
Bliana

Dillan Gosney



EC2 Dalta na Bliana

Brónagh Nic
Bhrannaig

Agus

Caoilfhinn Ní
Mhurchú



Key Stage 2 Boy
of the Year

Odhran McGeown



Key Stage 2
Girl of the Year

Emily Tiffney



Oisín Conaty

Key Stage 1

**Contribution to
School Life Award**

Oisín Barlow

Key Stage 2

**Contribution to
School Life Award**





Leticia Soares
Key Stage 1
Endeavour Award

Olivia McNally
Key Stage 2
Endeavour Award



The Board of Governors and Staff of St. John the Baptist PS would like to thank all our parents for their support throughout the 2010 – 2011 school year.

Thank You!



**For all the latest news and
photographs visit our School Website
at:**

www.stjohnthebaptist.org.uk