



St. John the Baptist PS

Bunscoil Eoin Baiste
Newsletter / Nuachtlitir

March / Márta 2020

Confirmation



Congratulations are extended to our P7 pupils who received the Sacrament of Confirmation on Saturday 7th March from Bishop Michael Router.

This was a very special day, not only for these pupils and their families but also for St. John the Baptist as a school community.

Particular thanks must go to the P7 teachers and teaching assistants for all their hard work in preparing pupils to receive this sacrament.

We are also very grateful to the priests, the sacristy team, the Knights of St. Columbanus and our altar servers for their contribution to this memorable occasion.

Pupils in Rang 6/7 will receive the Sacrament of Cóineartú on Friday 13th March in St. Malachy's Church, Armagh at 5p.m.

Please keep all our confirmandi in your prayers.

Easter Egg Raffle

Trocaire Appeal 2020



Commencing
Monday 9th March our School

Council will be selling tickets, priced at 20p each for our Easter Egg Raffle in aid of Trocaire.

Our Raffle will take place on **8th April 2020**.

We thank our School Council members for their help in this project and all of you for your continued support and generosity.

Pupils had lots of fun celebrating 'World Book Day' as posts on our website illustrate.

Thanks are extended to Mrs Coleman, Literacy Co-ordinator, for organising events and to all the staff and pupils for their participation.

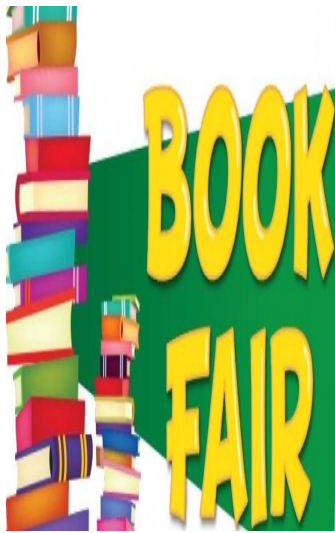
We are particularly grateful to Elaine Livingstone, Community Champion with Asda, who visited P1, P2 and R1/2 as 'Alice in Wonderland' to read to all our pupils.



Green Day



On **Friday 13th March** pupils and staff are celebrating '**Green Day**' by asking everyone to wear something **green** to school. This is promoting not only the work of our Eco Council who are striving very hard to raise awareness of eco and global issues but also celebrating our patron saint, St. Patrick. **We are asking everyone to donate £1 on the day.** All monies raised will be donated to Grace Collins, a Year 13 pupil at St Joseph's Grammar School Donaghmore, who this summer will travel to Siem Reap, Cambodia on behalf of **Habitat for Humanity**. While there, Grace and other students from her school will help to build sustainable housing in an underprivileged community in the area. This is most important work given that in a population of 15 million, over 15% of Cambodians live below the poverty line. Thank you in advance for your generosity and support for this very worthy cause.



Book Fair

A huge thank you to everyone who supported our recent Book Fair which proved a great success.

As a result of your generosity the school earned £666 commission in new books.

Special thanks are due to Mrs Coleman who was responsible for organising the Fair.

Improvements to School Grounds

In recent weeks work has been ongoing to improve safeguarding and security measures in and around our school grounds.

New fencing and gates have been installed to secure the premises with work almost complete.

Please note the main external gates to the front yard will be closed by the Building Supervisor at **9.15 a.m.**

Gates leading to the Key Stage One and Foundation blocks will be closed at **9.05a.m.**

Entry to the school after this time will be through the main reception area with access gained via the pathway running alongside the P1 classrooms.

We greatly appreciate your patience and co-operation during this work.

Prayer Services

Please note the list of dates below for Prayer Services in the coming weeks.

If for some reason any of these dates need to change we will notify you of these changes as soon as possible.

12th March ~ Primary One 9.30am

26th March ~ Primary Six 9.30am

2nd April ~ Rang a Dó/Trí/Ceathair 9.30am



Congratulations to all those pupils who have achieved Star of the Month awards.



Well done also to all those pupils who achieved Accelerated Reader Awards.



Congratulations to the winners of our recent Safer Internet Competition. Thanks are extended to Mrs McDonald, our ICT Co ordinator, for overseeing this event.



Reminder ~ Nut Free Zone

As St. John the Baptist is a 'nut free zone' may we remind you of the importance of avoiding foods that contain nuts e.g. Peanut Butter,

Nutella when preparing school lunches. Thank you.

Visit from the Diocesan Advisor— Fr. Ryan McAleer

On 2nd March Fr. McAleer visited the sacramental classes in St. John the Baptist, namely P4/Rang 4 and P7/Rang 6/7. Fr. McAleer acknowledged 'the great work' staff do every day to pass on the faith and also noted the emphasis placed on the Catholic ethos in the classroom and throughout the school in general. We are most grateful to Fr. McAleer for his continued support and encouragement.

Friends of St. John the Baptist



A very big thank you to all those who indicated their willingness to become involved in our Parent Support

Group, the **Friends of St John the Baptist**. Our first meeting will take place on **Monday 6th April at 7pm.**

Student Teachers

We are delighted to have Mr Phelim McAtarsney, a third year student in Stranmillis College and Miss Clodagh Ryan, a third year student at St. Mary's University College complete their school experience in St. John the Baptist.



In the interests of **health and safety** can we remind all pupils and parents of the importance of using the footpath on the main driveway leading to and from the school. This provides the ideal opportunity to reinforce road safety messages. We greatly appreciate your co-operation in this matter.

Reminder

All pupils will finish school at 2p.m. on **Friday 13th March**. School is closed on **Monday 16th and Tuesday 17th March**. Classes resume **Wednesday 18th March**.