

OUR LADY'S PRIMARY SCHOOL

12 MILLTOWN ROAD
BENBURB, DUNGANNON
CO. TYRONE
BT71 7NJ

Tel/Fax: 028-37548237

Principal: Mr Tomás Mc Kee

E-mail: info@ourladys.tullysaran.ni.sch.uk

School Website - ourladypstullysaran.com

Our Lady's P.S.



MARCH NEWSLETTER

4th March 2020

Dear Parent/Guardian

I would like to remind you of the following important dates and events occurring in March and during the third term:

World Book Day – Friday 6th March – free non-uniform day.

First Penance (P4) – Wednesday 11th March @ 7pm in the Church of the Immaculate Conception, Tullysaran.

Community Science Day – Thursday 12th March in the Community Centre.

Green Day – Friday 13th March – non-uniform day (£1) all proceeds will go to a good cause.

School Closed – Monday 16th & Tuesday 17th March (St. Patrick's Day).

Service of Light (P7) – Thursday 19th March @ 7.30pm in St. Patrick's Cathedral, Armagh.

Spring Show – 'What a Knight' - Wednesday 8th April.

Easter Holidays – School closed Friday 10th April – 17th April (inclusive). Children finish school @ 12 noon on Holy Thursday (No dinners will be served).

Standardised Assessments – Week beginning 27th April, 2020 – Please ensure that all children attend school.

Holy Communion (P4) – Sunday 3rd May @ 10am in the Church of the Immaculate Conception, Tullysaran.

Confirmation (P7) – Sunday 31st May @ 2pm in St. Patrick's Cathedral, Armagh.

May Bank Holiday Dates: School closed on - 8th, 25th and 26th (Staff Development Day) May.

Summer Holidays: School closes for Summer holidays on Friday 26th June @ 12noon.

Any changes will be sent out by text to Parents/Guardians or amended on our website. If you have changed your mobile number/address, please inform the school in writing.

School Dinner Money: £52.00 for the month of March for those who wish to pay monthly.

Snack Money: £5.00 is now due for March. Thanks.

Lenten Mass: We plan to have Mass each Wednesday during Lent in the Church of the Immaculate Conception, Tullysaran @ 10am, some classes will attend each week.

Catholic Schools Week: We had a very successful Catholic Schools week at the end of January. Mrs Mary Donnelly and a group of local volunteers facilitated a St. Brigid's Cross making workshop with the Primary 7 children which they thoroughly enjoyed. The highlight of the week was our Grandparents' assembly which involved all the children from Reception to Primary 7 performing songs with our P7s leading the prayers. Monsignor Murray blessed the St. Brigid's crosses that had been made earlier in the week. It was great to see so many grandparents and other family members in attendance which demonstrated our vibrant school community. Thank you for your support.

Armagh Road Race: Congratulations to the 28 children who represented our school in the Armagh International Road Race. **We finished third in the small schools' section with 208 points.** All of the children ran brilliantly; thoroughly enjoyed participating and played a vital role in this excellent achievement.

Community Science Day: As part of 'Science Week' we have teamed up with Sentinus and organised three Science Workshops in the Community Centre on Thursday 12th March. All of the classes will be involved in practical Science experiments/investigations and we would encourage any parent/guardian who is available to come along and participate in the fun learning activities. Further details will follow next week.

Green Day: On Friday 13th March, we will celebrate **St. Patrick's Day** with the children all coming into school wearing something green. We will have a special assembly and some Ceilí dancing to celebrate our Irish culture.

Spring Show: 'What a Knight' - Auditions have concluded and the cast are already working diligently with Mr Mc Cusker, Mrs O'Hara and Mrs Maxwell for our Spring Spectacular, 'What a Knight'. All P5-7 children will be involved in our spring show that will take place on **Wednesday 8th April, 2020 @ 7pm in Tullysaran Community Centre**. There will also be a matinee performance @10am and a raffle at each show.

After-school Activities: We had a great variety of afterschool activities during January and February: Zumba, Fiddle, Gaelic, Soccer, Art, ICT and Sports clubs. During March and April, we will have: Fiddle, Zumba, Gaelic, Soccer, Basketball, Sports, Science (Mrs Hegarty and Mrs Dillon) and Art clubs. Mr Mc Cusker, Mrs O'Hara and Mrs Maxwell will also be working with the cast members of 'What a Knight'. We thank all our afterschool leaders and plan to offer more afterschool activities after Easter.

Breakfast Club: Breakfast Club starts @8am and children should not be dropped off until this time. Breakfast Club runs from 8-8.40am for a small charge of £1. All children who enter school grounds unsupervised before 8.40am will be brought into Breakfast Club. The teacher on duty will open the gate into the yard @8.40am (bell will ring) and then children may enter the playground.

ETI Safeguarding Inspection: At the beginning of February we had a very positive ETI Safeguarding inspection. Two inspectors visited our school and evaluated our Safeguarding documentation, protocols and policies. Following a meeting with Mrs Comiskey and I the inspectors walked around the school grounds to observe our fencing and safety arrangements; they chatted to a group of P6 children for 40 minutes, whom they had randomly selected, and met with two of our Board of Governors. They raised no concerns and spoke very highly of our: presentation of documentation; Safeguarding protocols and procedures; the P6 children – whom they said were very articulate. Both inspectors thoroughly enjoyed engaging with the children, staff and governors. A report will be published on the ETI website which will comment positively on our Safeguarding arrangements but won't be able to report on any other areas of school practice due to action short of strike.

School Carpark: Due to **Health and Safety concerns** we have **closed the school carpark to vehicles after 9am**. This was due to two incidents where children were nearly knocked down in the school grounds and a staff member's car was badly damaged. As a result of these incidents and following discussion with our Board of Governors we have decided to close the carpark to vehicles after 9am. Parents/Guardians will continue to be able to drive carefully into the school grounds in the morning and drop off their child(ren) although this will continue to be monitored. If a parent/guardian wishes to leave their vehicle and accompany their child(ren) to the school playground after 8.40am; I would urge them to park their car safely outside of school or in the parking area in front of the school foyer. Please do not leave your car while it is stationary in the main traffic thoroughfare. From 9am the bottom school gates will be closed and cones will be put across the top gates to facilitate deliveries. Please do not drive into the school grounds after 9am even if the cones have been moved. We would ask all parents/guardians who are collecting their children in the afternoon to park safely in the designated areas outside the school (please do not leave your vehicle unattended where it could obstruct other motorists). I would also request that you be respectful to the residential properties opposite the school. If you are running late your child(ren) may go to 123 or 4 o'clock Clubs if they haven't been collected by 2.10/3.10pm. You will only be charged if your child remains there after 2.15/3.15pm. I hope you appreciate the need for these arrangements in the interests of everyone's health and safety and most importantly the children's. I realise that there will be some traffic congestion around the school at collection times but I would urge you to: be patient; drive and park safely. I would like to thank you for your anticipated co-operation with this very important Health and Safety Issue.

Health Guidance – Finally I would like to inform you that we will be following the Department of Health's guidance to schools regarding COVID-19. All classrooms have been stocked with hand sanitisers and tissues. The children are being encouraged to wash their hands regularly and we would appreciate if you could reinforce this message at home. Thank you.

Please contact the school if you have any queries or concerns and keep up to date with school events via our school website and app. Thank you for your continued support.

Yours sincerely

Tomás Mc Kee

Mr Tomás Mc Kee

Principal