

**Holy Rosary Primary School**

**March 2018 Newsletter No. 8**

Congratulations and best wishes to Mrs Bailie on her new job as Principal of Holy Rosary Nursery School.

Sadly, for Holy Rosary PS, we will be losing Mrs Bailie at Easter as she has been appointed as the new Principal of the Nursey School. Maura has spent many, many years with us and she has carried out a number of roles as P1 Teacher, Leader of Foundation (P1+2), Leader for Child Protection (Designated Teacher) as well as being a member of the Senior Leadership Team. Maura also spent many years as the central pillar in the Home School Association. We will miss her but at the same time we are delighted with her successful appointment. Good luck and best wishes Maura…. though you’re not going too far from Holy Rosary Primary!!!

**Dates for your Diary:**

* Friday 23rd March – Trocaire fundraising day in school – Wear a fun wig or hat day!
* Wednesday 28th March school closes at 12pm (no dinners) for the Easter holidays and reopens on Monday 9th April.
* Thursday 22nd March HSA **Family Bingo Night** from 7-8.30pm in school
* Monday 9th April HSA Meeting in school at 7pm
* Sunday 13th May First Holy Communion for P4 children

**PeacePlayers**

Miss Murray’s Primary 7 class are participating in a 6-week cross-community basketball programme delivered by PeacePlayers International. PeacePlayers uses the game of basketball to unite young people from the Protestant/Unionist and Catholic/Nationalist communities in Belfast and select surrounding areas. Miss Murray’s class will be “twinned” with another P7 class from Belvoir Park Primary School. In addition to basketball drills and skills, the children will take part in age-appropriate community relations and team-building activities.

**Fairtrade Fortnight**

Fairtrade fortnight in Holy Rosary was fantastic this year. A huge thank you to all our Primary 6 pupils, teachers and parents who finished Fairtrade Fortnight off with an amazing bun sale.  It was wonderful to have the whole school participate where children got the opportunity to share their knowledge about Fairtrade.  We raised £380 which will be donated to The Fairtrade Foundation.  A very successful Fairtrade Fortnight!

**Home School Association**

The HSA are holding a Family Bingo night in school on **Thursday 22nd March from 7-8.30pm**, all families and friends of Holy Rosary are welcome to attend. This promises to be a fun night so please come along to support the school and the HSA. During the recent past the HSA have helped us to fund - a new sound system, playground equipment, new playground markings, new basketball and netball kits, buses for class trips and a P7 end of year trip. They also run an extremely successful and enjoyable Christmas Bazaar and Family Fun Night every year. If you are interested in helping out, please give your name to one of our reception team.

**Trocaire**

We are currently selling tickets for Easter hampers for each Key Stage.  The ballot will be drawn on the last day of term. Tickets are 20p each.  All money raised will go to Trocaire. Friday 23rd will be our fundraising day for Trocaire. This year children (and adults!) can wear a wig or a hat to school.

**Sports Update**

Congratulations to the Netball Team for completing 13 League matches in January and February. The team are now preparing for Finals day on Thursday 19th April and one friendly match has been organised for the boys in March.

**Literacy at Holy Rosary**

Our celebration of World Book Day 2018 took place in the midst of snow and ice but it didn’t dwindle our love of books! Every child in our school received a reading book to keep forever thanks to the WBD tokens we received. The World Book Day Door Competition was a huge success – all of the class doors were tweeted or put up on our school website for everyone to see. Congratulations especially to the winning classes within each Key Stage – each winning class was rewarded with a selection of games and toys as a prize!

Many thanks to all of our parents for promoting reading so rigorously with the children. Your support and purchases at our Book Fair and Book Clubs allowed Mr McVeigh to order over £800 of books from Scholastic. These books have helped replenish and restock part of our Key Stage 2 book store. The money you spent at the Book Fair and Book Club earned our school commission and allowed us to give that money straight back to the children and invest in their love of reading.

We have invested over £70,000 of our budget on new guided reading materials for our children to avail of. We now have a huge store of beautiful reading books of different styles and we know that these new resources will assist in the promotion of reading. As part of this investment we have subscribed to Oxford and Collins online Reading Systems. Passwords and usernames have been sent out to all parents in a letter and will be posted on our school website. Remember – you can log on to Oxford Owl or Collins websites to access our subscription to eBooks at any time.

The use of ICT in literacy is going from strength to strength. The stop-motion animations created throughout the school are of the highest quality – there are so many young animators, producers, directors and script-writers in our school! We hope that these experiences continue to help our children to produce quality pieces of extended writing. P5 Miss Devenney and P7 Miss Murray have teamed up with Botanic Primary School in order to develop digital literacy skills through an exciting project based on our own city. Within this the children will plan, produce, evaluate and redraft various pieces of writing as well as creating outstanding stop-motion movies – we wish them the very best of luck!

Our Young Writer’s competition has been launched. Warren visited all of our children last week and we hope that he can come back and give workshops to some our classes in order to help our school produce a winning entry. The winning child will receive a Family Trip to Disneyland Paris, £500 of books for their school and judge; David Walliams, will visit their school to present the prize! It’s so EXCITING! Best of luck everyone!

As term three approaches rapidly it is always worthwhile to start thinking about how to keep our minds and skills ‘ticking-over’ during the summer. Here are some top tips for promoting literacy with very young children in your home during the summer break:

* Talk to your child and name objects, people, and events in the everyday environment.

• Go on an alphabet scavenger hunt, searching your neighbourhood for things that begin with each letter of the alphabet. A-ant B-birdhouse, C-cloud, D-doorway and so on.

• Repeat your child's words and add to them.

• Talk to your child during daily routine activities such as bath or mealtime and respond to his or her questions.

• Draw your child's attention to print in everyday settings such as traffic signs, shop logos, and food containers.

• Introduce new vocabulary words during holidays and special activities such as outings to the zoo, the park, and so on.

• Engage your child in singing, rhyming games, and nursery rhymes.

• Read picture and story books that focus on sounds, rhymes, and alliteration (words that start with the same sound).

• Reread your child's favourite books.

• Focus your child's attention on books by pointing to words and pictures as you read.

• On a sunny day, gather up a bucket, some water and a large paint brush to paint words on the fence or wall. If it's really warm outside, your words will disappear like magic. Of course, pavement chalk also works well.

• Provide a variety of materials to encourage drawing and scribbling. Encourage your child to describe or tell a story about his/her drawing and write down the words.

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