



## April 2024 Newsletter



We look forward to welcoming back HURT into the school who will deliver a 6-week drugs and alcohol awareness programme to the Year 7 classes in preparation for their Confirmation Pledge. This programme will start on Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> April.

# Jo Jingles



Free JoJingles Music & Movement Sessions

Monday 8th April  
Monday 15th April  
Monday 22nd April  
@ 11.20am



We are delighted to offer 3 free sessions of JoJingles to prenursery children and their Parents/Guardians. Please enter the school via the main reception. We look forward to welcoming you!



Empathy



Leadership



Creativity



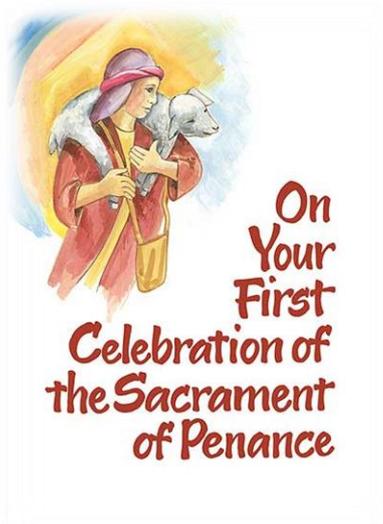
Teamwork



Readiness  
to implement  
change



We are delighted to inform our school community that we have been nominated for the Dublin City University Changer Maker Schools Award. This aims to recognise our approach to the development of empathy, leadership, creativity, teamwork and readiness to implement change in our school. We will keep you updated on how we proceed with our nomination.



The Primary 4 children will celebrate the Sacrament of Penance on Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> April @ 1.30pm in St. Columb's Church, Chapel Road.



We are welcoming back M & M Theatrical Productions to Good Shepherd Primary & Nursery School on Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> April.

Primary 3 - Primary 7 look forward to being enchanted with their adaptation of the classic children's novel 'The Secret Garden' by Frances Hodgson Burnett. A wonderful opportunity to experience the wonder of a live theatre performance within the school. We ask for a £3 per child donation to assist in funding this. Thank you!



A date for the diary: There will be a Friends of Good Shepherd Meeting on Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> May @ 2.30pm in the school staff room about our upcoming school disco to be held in May. All new members welcome!



Primary 4-Primary 7 enjoyed a very informative assembly by our Eco Council on Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> March. Our Eco Council have now set us a few challenges...

- Turn off all electrics at home for 1 hour on Earth Day Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> April...send your pics to Mrs McCafferty: [info@goodshepherd.derry.ni.sch.uk](mailto:info@goodshepherd.derry.ni.sch.uk)  
**It would also be a great idea to make an active travel journey to school on this day also!**
- P4-P7 Create a junk art toy or piece of art using items from your recycling bin **or** upcycle a piece of clothing/reuse something which would usually find its way to the bin- bring your entry into school on Friday 12<sup>th</sup> April. Our eco council will be rewarding prizes for creativity and imagination...good luck!

## World Earth Day!

- **Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> April**

- **For one hour switch off all electric and heat in your house!**

- **Have Fun!**



You can email photos of your family taking part to Mrs McCafferty!

## Competition Time!



Up cycling!



## Competition Time!



Junk Art





**CHILDREN'S  
HEARTBEAT  
TRUST**  
Northern Ireland's  
Children's Heart Charity

## Primary 7 Special Charities

Our thoughtful Primary 7 children donated £289 to charity after their recent Confirmation. They chose two charities to support. Well done boys and girls on your generosity and kindness.



Congratulations to Jarlath our Primary 5 superstar on a fantastic performance in Oliver the Musical at the Millennium Forum. We are so proud of you!

## Attendance updates...



### WHY ATTENDANCE AT SCHOOL IS SO IMPORTANT –

If a child of compulsory school age is registered at a school it is essential that they attend their school regularly and maintain a pattern of good attendance throughout their school career.

Excellent attendance at school is important to allow a child or young person to fulfil their potential.

Below are just some of the key reasons why it is so important children attend school:

- To learn.
- To have fun.
- To make new friends.
- To experience new things in life.
- To develop awareness of other cultures, religion, ethnicity and gender differences.
- To achieve.
- To gain qualifications.
- To develop new skills.
- To build confidence and self-esteem.
- To have the best possible start in life.



### HOW PARENTS CAN HELP –

- Establish a good routine in the mornings and evenings so your child is prepared for the school day ahead.
- Make sure your child goes to school regularly and follows the school rules.
- Ensure your child arrives at school on time – not late.
- Arrange dental and medical appointments outside school hours when possible.
- Always inform the school if your child is absent due to illness – this should be followed up with a written note when your child returns to school.
- Take truancy seriously – if your child is not attending school as you expect they may be putting themselves at risk – Who are they with? What are they doing?
- Take family holidays outside term time.
- Talk to your child about school and take an interest in their school work (including homeworks).
- Attend parent evenings and school events.
- Praise and reward your child's achievements at school.
- Always support school staff in their efforts to control difficult or challenging behaviour.
- Discuss any problems or difficulties with the school – staff are there to help and will be supportive.

## School reopens on Monday 8<sup>th</sup> April 2024

Date	What's on?
Monday 8 <sup>th</sup> April	JoJingles pre-nursery music and movement @11.20am
Monday 8 <sup>th</sup> April	After School R9 Sports P1 & P2: 2-3pm, P3 P4 P5 P6 P7: 3-4pm. Week 1
Monday 8 <sup>th</sup> April	From today onwards over the next couple of weeks; children in Primary 3-Primary 7 will be completing standardised tests in literacy, numeracy, and spelling to best inform future planning for their learning. Please ensure your child is punctual for school to ensure the smooth administration of assessments.
Tuesday 9 <sup>th</sup> April	Afterschool Singing Lessons Week 1 P1 & P2 2-2.45pm, P3, P4, P5, P6 & P7 3-3.45pm
Tuesday 9 <sup>th</sup> April	Chess Club 3-4pm P5, P6 & P7 Week 10 (make up for chess club cancelled previously)
Tuesday 9 <sup>th</sup> April	Derry City Soccer League: Good Shepherd vs Holy Child & St. Eugene's PS @The Shared Village 3pm
Wednesday 10 <sup>th</sup> April	After School Guitar Lessons P5, P6 & P7 Week 3
Wednesday 10 <sup>th</sup> April	After School Dance P1 & P2: 2-3pm, P3 P4 P5 P6 P7: 3-4pm Week 1
Wednesday 10 <sup>th</sup> April	P7MF & P7DH classes swimming week 3
Thursday 11 <sup>th</sup> April	After School Maiden City Soccer P1 & P2: 2-3pm, P3, P4, P5, P6 & P7: 3-4pm Final Week of Current Block
Thursday 11 <sup>th</sup> April	P4 Sacrament of Penance in St. Columb's Church @1.30pm
Friday 12 <sup>th</sup> April	P5DW class swimming week 3
Friday 12 <sup>th</sup> April	Primary 4-Primary 7 Eco Council junk art/upcycle challenge
Monday 15 <sup>th</sup> April	After School R9 Sports P1 & P2: 2-3pm, P3 P4 P5 P6 P7: 3-4pm. Week 2
Monday 15 <sup>th</sup> April	JoJingles prenursery music and movement @11.20am
Monday 15 <sup>th</sup> April	After School Mini Professors P1 & P2: 2-2.50pm, P3 & P4: 3-3.50pm Week 1
Tuesday 16 <sup>th</sup> April	P3, P4, P5, P6 & P7 'The Secret Garden Show & Workshop' £3 per child- please pay via ParentPay
Tuesday 16 <sup>th</sup> April	Chess Club 3-4pm P5, P6 & P7 Week 1
Tuesday 16 <sup>th</sup> April	Derry City Soccer League: Good Shepherd vs St. Eugene's PS & St. Columba's PS @Bay Road Soccer 3pm
Tuesday 16 <sup>th</sup> April	Afterschool Singing Lessons Week 2 P1 & P2 2-2.45pm, P3, P4, P5, P6 & P7 3-3.45pm
Wednesday 17 <sup>th</sup> April	After School Guitar Lessons P5, P6 & P7 Week 4
Wednesday 17 <sup>th</sup> April	After School Dance P1 & P2: 2-3pm, P3 P4 P5 P6 P7: 3-4pm Week 2
Wednesday 17 <sup>th</sup> April	P7MF & P7DH classes swimming week 4
Thursday 18 <sup>th</sup> April	After School Maiden City Soccer P1 & P2: 2-3pm, P3, P4, P5, P6 & P7: 3-4pm Week 1

<b>Date</b>	<b>What's on?</b>
Friday 19 <sup>th</sup> April	P5DW class swimming week 4
Monday 22 <sup>nd</sup> April	JoJingles prenursery music and movement @11.20am
Monday 22 <sup>nd</sup> April	After School Mini Professors P1 & P2: 2-2.50pm, P3 & P4: 3-3.50pm Week 2
Monday 22 <sup>nd</sup> April	After School R9 Sports P1 & P2: 2-3pm, P3 P4 P5 P6 P7: 3-4pm. Week 3
Monday 22 <sup>nd</sup> April	Earth Day- turn your electrics off for 1 hour! Make an effort to make an active travel journey to school
Tuesday 23 <sup>rd</sup> April	Afterschool Singing Lessons Week 3 P1 & P2 2-2.45pm, P3, P4, P5, P6 & P7 3-3.45pm
Tuesday 23 <sup>rd</sup> April	Chess Club 3-4pm P5, P6 & P7 Week 2
Wednesday 24 <sup>th</sup> April	After School Guitar Lessons P5, P6 & P7 Week 5
Wednesday 24 <sup>th</sup> April	After School Dance P1 & P2: 2-3pm, P3 P4 P5 P6 P7: 3-4pm Week 3
Wednesday 24 <sup>th</sup> April	P7MF & P7DH classes swimming week 5
Thursday 25 <sup>th</sup> April	After School Maiden City Soccer P1 & P2: 2-3pm, P3, P4, P5, P6 & P7: 3-4pm Week 2
Thursday 25 <sup>th</sup> April	Notification of Nursery (stage 1 applications) and Primary 1 application outcomes for 2024-25
Friday 26 <sup>th</sup> April	P5DW class swimming week 5
Monday 29 <sup>th</sup> April	After School R9 Sports P1 & P2: 2-3pm, P3 P4 P5 P6 P7: 3-4pm. Week 4
Monday 29 <sup>th</sup> April	After School Mini Professors P1 & P2: 2-2.50pm, P3 & P4: 3-3.50pm Week 3
Tuesday 30 <sup>th</sup> April	Afterschool Singing Lessons Week 4 P1 & P2 2-2.45pm, P3, P4, P5, P6 & P7 3-3.45pm
Tuesday 30 <sup>th</sup> April	Chess Club 3-4pm P5, P6 & P7 Week 3



**Teaching and learning starts at 9am every day.** It is important that your child is punctual for school. School gates open from 8.45am. **Breakfast club is open from 8.10am. No need to book in for the breakfast club- £1 a day per child.** **Please enter the school grounds via the Nursery pedestrian gate.** In the interests of health and safety, children should not be left unsupervised at the school gates before they open.

## Safeguarding Information



In the interests of health and safety we now ask that children do not bring any shellfish products or nut products to school for either break or lunch. This includes Nutella.



We would like to take the opportunity to remind parents/guardians that **no cars are permitted inside the school grounds at any time** unless this has been pre-arranged with Mrs McCafferty or you are a blue badge holder. Please share this information with grandparents and childminders as refusal often causes offence.

**Please ensure that the school gates are kept clear. Cars should not be parked on the yellow zigzag lines outside the school gates at any time.** Please talk to your child about general road safety. Enter and exit the school using the pedestrian gates only. Once your child is collected from school, please keep them beside you at all times. These measures are in the interest of everyone's health and safety. Thank you!

## **Members of the Schools Safeguarding team are:**

The Chair of the Board of Governors (Mr P. Duffy)

The Designated Governor for Child Protection (Dr M Gormley)

The Designated Teacher for Child Protection (Mrs Maria Harley)

Deputy Designated Teacher for Child Protection (Mrs S. McCafferty).

Other members of Safeguarding Team:

Mrs P. Houston/Mrs R Warne /Mrs Kyle/ Mrs A Kivlehan/Mr D Herron.

School policies can be found on the school website under the 'My School' section. There is also a wide range of support information for parents in the 'Parents Section' of the school website. This is updated regularly.

The school holiday lists can be accessed here:

<https://www.goodshepherdps.net/parents-area/holiday-list/>

The new school dinner menu can be accessed here- please check which week we are on as there is a 4 week menu:

[https://storage.googleapis.com/siteassetsswd/475/docletter/20240320013334\\_91\\_PS\\_Spring\\_Summer\\_24\\_P1-P7.pdf](https://storage.googleapis.com/siteassetsswd/475/docletter/20240320013334_91_PS_Spring_Summer_24_P1-P7.pdf)



Please ensure that you download the Schools NI App which is linked to our website. Click on the ? on the app and ensure that notifications are turned on. This is our central means of communication.