 **Good Shepherd News**

**January 2020**



**Happy New Year Everyone, we hope 2020 is kind to all of you and your families!**

**We have another busy term ahead of us in Good Shepherd.**

**This year we celebrate Good Shepherd’s 40th Anniversary. We are planning a special celebratory Mass for the occasion on Friday 13th March 2020 and we would love to see everyone there. More information to follow, but in the meantime spread the word and perhaps you might come across some photographs of Good Shepherd over the years. We would really love to have them to display in school. Feel free to send them into school or call into the school office.**

**On Tuesday 14th January @6:30pm our P7 Pupils begin their preparation for the Sacrament of Confirmation. We look forward to joining with them and their families in the Ceremony of Light.**

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| **January 2020** | | | | | | |
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Dates for your Diary

**Tues 7th: Application for Nursery/P1 Admissions 2020 opens @ 12 Noon**

**Tues 7th: St Cecilia’s/St Mary’s/St Columb’s/St Patrick’s & St Brigid’s Talks – Y7**

**Pupils**

**Wed 8th: St Joseph’s & Thornhill talks – Y7 Pupils**

**Thurs 9th /16th/23rd/30th: Helping Hands Programme: Y5 (Mrs Connor’s Class)**

**Fri 10th: IFA Schools Coaching Fundamental Skills Programme begins: KS2 Pupils**

**Mon 13th: Flu Vaccination Programme (School Nurse)**

**Mon 13th: Term 2 After School Activities begin**

**Tues 14th: Robotics Workshop – Y6**

**Tues 14th: Ceremony of Light @ 6:30pm in St Columb’s - Y7 Pupils**

**Fri 17th: Nursery visit to Nerve Centre Cinema**

**Fri 17th: Girls School Gaelic Team Foyle Arena @ 12:00-2:30pm**

**Wed 22nd: Cross Country Primary School Finals Day**

**Monday 27th: Catholic Schools’ Week**

**Thurs 30th: Application for Nursery / P1 Admissions 2020 closes @ 12 Noon**

**Fri 31st: Y7 Transfer forms must be returned to school office with any supporting documents. (Supporting documents may be photocopied at office if necessary)**

**Announcements!**



**We are still waiting on some parental consent forms to be returned before our website can go live. We will keep you posted!**

**Congratulations to Mrs Kyle and her family on the birth of her beautiful Baby Boy. We look forward to meeting Baby Conlan soon.**

**As a school community we offer our sincere condolences to Mrs Roisin Harkin on the death of her Father over the Christmas holidays. We ask you to keep Mrs Harkin and her family in your thoughts and prayers.**

**Take Note:**

\*As we begin our new year perhaps we can all make an extra effort to ensure that our school runs as effectively and efficiently as possible in the best interests of everyone. On that note please give your fullest attention to the following:

\***Attendance**: As you are aware you must inform school on the first morning of your child being absent from school. Attendance is monitored closely in school and discussed regularly with EWO. Punctuality is also noted. Please be aware that your child’s attendance is affected by arriving late to school. If you have not notified school of your child’s absence you will receive a text message. Please reply to this message stating the reason for your child’s absence. Once your child’s attendance goes below 90% we will monitor closely and you will be kept informed of their stage in the process before it reaches EWO level. Receiving an attendance update is not always a cause for concern it is part of the policy & procedures for managing attendance that we must adhere to.

\***Parentpay:** We are under extreme pressure due to budgetary constraints therefore all outstanding bills/debts must be paid in full immediately. If you have difficulties around this contact school and we will be happy to make alternative arrangements.

\*All dinners/trips/swimming/events… **must** be paid for in advance. Payment on Parentpay secures parental consent for children to participate in events/trips… we are unable to allow children to participate without parental consent therefore payment in advance is a must.

\*Thank you for your continued support in relation to parking in the appropriate designated spaces outside the school gates. Your Children have been discussing this in school and are appreciative, as are staff of your respect for their health & safety.

\*Periodically we have outbreaks of head lice in school. We would encourage you to check your child’s hair on a regular basis and treat appropriately. It is also advisable to keep long hair tied up.

\*Thank you to everyone who supported Save the Children Christmas Jumper Day. We raised a total of £349.86. Well done everyone!

\*Admissions process for Nursery and Primary One places 2020 opens on 07/01/2020 @ 12 Noon and closes on 30/01/2020 @ 12 Noon. Applications are completed online on EA website.

\*Yr 7 pupils will receive a Transfer form to be completed by Parents/Carers and returned to School no later than Friday 31st January 2020. Parents must return these forms and the relevant supporting documents in person to the school office.