

# Principal Update 19.2.24



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Dear Parents,

We have been very busy since our last Principal's update in January, with lots of exciting events happening in our school and wider community.



At the beginning of this month, we celebrated together as part of the Parish Mass on Thursday 1.2.24- St. Brigid's Day. It was a wonderful opportunity once more to connect with our Parish community. We hope you enjoyed the synopsis of how we marked the day in our short video issued on our school Facebook Page. We would like to commend our pupils who sang as part of the school choir, our pupils who led the readings of the day and offertory procession. We thank Mrs Shortt for preparing the pupils who read so well and to Mrs Crawley for accompanying our choir.



## Information update -P7 Parents

Reminder the portal closes **noon Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> February 2024**. Please do not hesitate to contact the school office if you require any advice, or follow the link as attached to the Education Authority's post.

Information update on Post Primary applications for all parents of P7 pupils.

Education Authority  
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You can log back into your account and make any necessary changes or add more information to your Post Primary application up until noon on Thursday, 22 February.

For more information and guidance on the application process, visit <https://ow.ly/FH5U50Qobbm>

#EAadmissions

[www.eani.org.uk/admissions](https://www.eani.org.uk/admissions)

**POST PRIMARY APPLICATIONS CLOSE 22 FEBRUARY 2024**

**SUBMIT**

After you submit your application, you can log back into your account to make any changes or add more information up to the closing date of **12 noon on Thursday 22 February**

<https://connect.eani.org.uk/parent>

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We had a wonderful week before Half term commenced, marking 'Children's Mental Health Week'. As part of this particular week, our pupils had a specific daily focus. The week was launched with the most amazing support from our pupils getting involved in our 'Walking Bus' initiative.



A series of initiatives were followed each day e.g. 'A mile a day' challenge on Tuesday, Wednesday was 'Rainbow Quest'. Thursday we completed the 'Take 5 sensory discovery', we then concluded our week on Friday with the theme of 'kindness/Super Hero Day', where each pupil donated one non-perishable food item towards 'Newry Larder'. Each class chose to collect foods in a specific colour, assigned to their class. As you can see from the photos below it was a huge success. Thank you to everyone for your kindness, everyone definitely showed up to be true 'Super Heroes' for this event.

# Thank You!



We were completely overwhelmed by the generosity of our school community and the coordinators of Newry Larder wish to thank you all for such kindness.





Congratulations to all our pupils who received the most recent Principal's award so far in February. Special recognition must also be given to our pupils, who attained word millionaire in Accelerated Reader. A fantastic achievement indeed.



Since our last Principal's update the **SEAG** entrance exam results have been issued to some of our P7 pupils, who sat this exam. We would like to congratulate those who sat this exam, on their commitment and hard work. We have no doubt you will continue to reach for the stars.

Thankyou also to Mrs Shortt, who led this class as an After School. We wish all our pupils in P7, every good wish as they endeavour to choose their Post Primary school of their choice in the coming week.



We would like to thank Darragh and Connor from St. Patrick's College Banbridge, for leading Gaelic Football throughout this term with pupils from P5, 6 and 7.

We have loved having them each Wednesday and know our pupils Gaelic football skills continue to gain strength.



Mr O'Hagan is resuming his After school Gaelic sessions each Thursday for pupils P4-7. Please ensure you register via Parentpay for this club. Numbers may be limited, and will be given on a first come basis.



Well done to all our Digital Leaders for leading a whole school assembly under the guidance of Mrs Sloan, as part of raising awareness on Internet Safety.



We continue with our 'Irish Dance for Fun' each Tuesday as an After School club. We are polishing our skills in preparation for our Ceile, as part of our St. Patrick's Day celebrations.

All proceeds for this After School activity go directly to school funds! New members more than welcome.

As we commence with the holy season of Lent, we will leave you with advice from Pope Francis, as published by Armagh Parish.

On Ash Wednesday Pope Francis urged us to return to the heart to be our authentic selves.



Do you want to fast this Lent?  
WORDS FROM POPE FRANCIS

- Fast from hurting words and say kind words.
- Fast from sadness and be filled with gratitude.
- Fast from anger and be filled with patience.
- Fast from pessimism and be filled with hope.
- Fast from worries and trust in God.
- Fast from complaints and contemplate simplicity.
- Fast from pressures and be prayerful.
- Fast from bitterness and fill your heart with joy.
- Fast from selfishness and be compassionate to others.
- Fast from grudges and be reconciled.
- Fast from words and be silent so you can listen.

*Yours in continued partnership*

*C. Wadsworth and staff of St. Joseph and St. James's P.S.*