

May News Update 2020(2)



Welcome to a second update for May,

May I firstly congratulate all the participants from our May challenge, who submitted their beautiful solo pieces. I am delighted to say that local news media have also celebrated the talents of our wonderful pupils and assisted in spreading the joy, from 'Armagh I,' 'The Newry Reporter' and 'The Banbridge Chronicle' who have all shared our finished piece. Our current views online now total 14.1K, which is absolutely fantastic and I know this will continue to increase as our message of 'Joy' spreads, as we have received lovely messages that our song is being shared with residents in care homes as far as Enniskillen. A huge congratulations and sincere thank you to you all!



Pack 3

As part of our ongoing work to support our pupils' education, alongside the online platforms, we are compiling a final 'Home Learning' pack for the month of June. This will be a more concise pack of work, not dating the weeks, enabling you to be flexible to promote a more activity based approach, whilst enabling revision of the term gone past, with a focus on Literacy and Numeracy in particular. While we appreciate that fatigue has and is setting in, we recommend you take time off from home learning in the final week of May and perhaps use this final week as a revision week to catch up on other work you may not have covered to date. We must stress that this is merely a measure to support our pupils, it is not prescriptive and is purely a pack to consolidate the detailed packs that have been distributed previously. You may choose not to use this pack in June, but it may prove very useful over the Summer break to ensure your child(ren) are as well

prepared as they can be under the circumstances to embrace entering a new year group in the new academic year and all that enfolds with it.

Your child's class teacher will continue to publish ideas via the Home Learning tab on our website and via Seesaw. We invite you to please continue submitting one piece of Literacy and Numeracy only each week, which is suffice.

We anticipate the packs to be ready for collection on **Thursday 28th May** **please see details below**

Primary 1 & 2	9.00-9.45
Primary 2 & 3	10.00-10.45
Primary 4 & 5	11.00-11.45
Primary 5 & 6	12.00-12.45
Primary 6 & 7	1.00-1.45



Please note you will all receive the official letter in your child's Home Learning pack regarding our school app, which everyone should download, as this will be our immediate and most direct form of communication with you all, linking always with our website.

GL (PPTC) Assessment Update

To all current P6 pupils and parents, please see below updated information regarding the date for 2020 Transfer test. We intend to provide a further transfer pack for those pupils who intend on sitting this examination. If you wish your child to sit this examination can you confirm with me via email on cwadsworth679@c2kni.net by **Wednesday 20.5.20 at the latest**. This will ensure we provide the correct number of packs. I aim to make telephone contact with you all in due course. If you require further information please visit <https://www.thetransfertest.com/pptc-gl-assessment>

PPTC (GL) Update

11th May 2020, from the [PPTC website](#)
GL Key dates announced.

Entrance Assessment: Saturday 5th December 2020

Registration opens: Monday 1st June 2020

Registration closes: Friday 9th October 2020

Supplementary Entrance Assessment: Saturday 19th December 2020



Bee Active- June's challenge

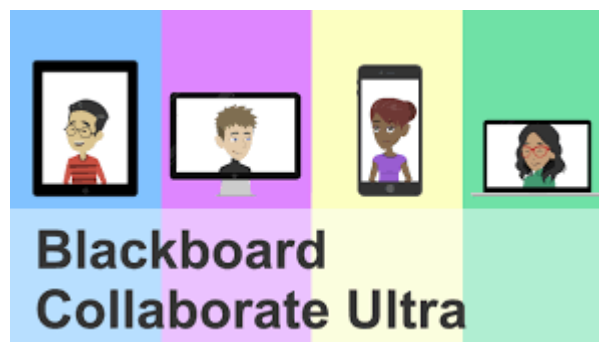
Please view Anto's video challenge via our Home Learning section on our website. You can also view these via Seesaw, distributed to you all from our hard working class teachers. Please submit your finished short videos or photos via Seesaw **by 3.6.20!**



P4 - First Communicants



To all our P4 pupils. I hope you enjoyed viewing the mass online from Armagh Cathedral on Sunday 17.5.20. We were thinking of you all and praying for you and your families. I have no doubt we will have the opportunity to celebrate this important sacrament with you all in time.



Communication with our pupils

Dear Parents, moving forward our class teachers are very much aiming to communicate via Seesaw, particularly for the rest of May and the month of June. Of course if you wish to contact your child's teacher please feel free to do so via email and Seesaw or telephone school. I must stress we are currently sourcing other avenues to communicate with our pupils. We are working to ensure online communication platforms are secure and we very much anticipate to access these as we move forward. We are currently exploring the option of utilising **Collaborate Ultra** and as a staff we aim to familiarise ourselves with this over the coming weeks.

Accessing this is similar to zoom, but it is a safer platform which c2k recommends for schools to now use.

ECO WEEK 2020
18th – 22nd May 2020



ECO WEEK is a week-long initiative that includes a series of online events focused on the topics of Food, Fashion, fitness & Future. These events will take place as webinars, podcasts, content, talks, workshops, competitions, challenges, well-being & fitness activities televised events. Additionally, on Thursday 21 May we will be announcing the winners of the Young Environmentalist Awards 2020
Please see additional links on our website this week from the ECO-UNESCO team shared by Mrs Shortt our WAU Coordinator.



Please follow attached link to access resources provided from the Mental Health Foundation <https://www.mentalhealth.org.uk/campaigns/mental-health-awareness-week>. The particular theme is Kindness and no better way for starting by being kind to ourselves. You will find extremely useful resources to assist you if you wish to get involved and how 30 minutes of movement can help boost our mental health and well being, particularly during such unusual times.

May I take this opportunity to sincerely commend you all for the fantastic support you are providing for all our pupils at this time. It is so heartening to see how much our wonderful community of St. Joseph and St. James' come together and I honestly feel so privileged and blessed to be part of a wonderful school community. Please do not hesitate to contact me directly or if you require any further information or clarification, please know we are here to help.

Yours in partnership

C. Wadsworth

