

News Update- 22.1.22



Dear Parents,

We would like to express our sincere thanks for your continued support and understanding at such a difficult time. We are currently experiencing significant numbers of positive cases in our pupil population, alongside major staffing shortages. We will endeavour to do all we can to ensure provision remains in place for our pupils, attending school. The situation is continually changing, please be assured 'Health and Safety' will take precedence in all decisions going forward, as we continue to liaise with EANI and PHA.

Regular lateral flow tests are recommended for pupils who are deemed to be in close contact. We have positive cases reported in all classes at this time. Please refer to previous correspondence issued from PHA for particular class groups.

Note : PHA - We have been advised that if a child tests negative on day 5 and day 6 of their lateral flow and do not have a raised temperature, they are permitted to return to school. Please note, day 1 occurs from the first day a positive lateral flow test/PCR test has been recorded. Please do seek advice from PHA if you have any confusion regarding when day 1 is for your child(ren).

Pupil Absenteeism:

We will provide some activities of work during isolation. The volume of pupils currently absent from school having tested positive from Covid, **are considered to be ill. Please be advised your child is not expected to complete work while absent, due to illness.**

Going forward, please be advised in order to support our class teachers, those in isolation can obtain packs which will be available for your child.

It will consist of some activities, as a point of revision for children who **are in isolation only.** Please access **Bug Club** for reading materials and **Accelerated Reader**.

The current situation and increasing pressures on staffing at this time is no longer sustainable.

If classes move into **Remote Learning**, contact will be made daily via Seesaw and pupils will be given, in this instance only a pack to complete, in conjunction with daily contact on Seesaw.

Reminder - Applications for Admission to Primary one:

Monday 10th January 2022 at 12 noon.

Applications are now open via online portal: www.eani.org.uk (Admissions)

Applications for P1 Admissions **close** on **Friday 28th January 2022 at noon.**

Thursday 28th April 2022 – Parents receive notification of outcome of applications via online portal.

Applications for Admission to Post-Primary School

Tuesday 1st February 2022:

Post Primary applications open at 12 noon via online portal: www.eani.org.uk (Admissions)

Applications for Post Primary close at 4.00p.m - **Wednesday 23rd February 2022.**

Saturday 21st May 2022 – Parents receive notification of outcome of applications via online portal.



P6 Transfer Class:

For the attentions of all P6 parents, in light of current staffing pressures and with the rapid increase in pupils contracting Covid, we will not be commencing our P6 Transfer class until after Half Term. We will update you in due course.



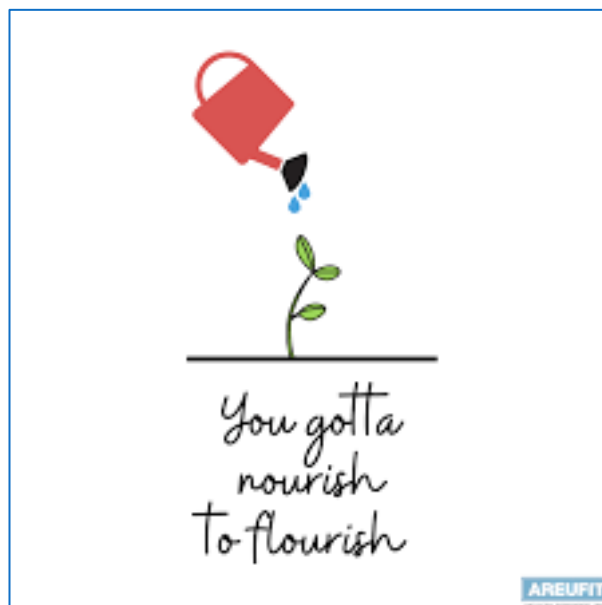
Friends of St. Joseph and St. James's are launching our Smartie Challenge.

What you have to do: Take your tube of Smarties home, purchased by our Friends of Committee and fill your tube with 20 pence pieces. We are counting on everyone to do their part to raise much needed funds for our wonderful school.

Tubes are asked to be returned before the end of this term prior to the Easter break.

We would like to inform you about an important project that our school is going to be involved in. We have been given the opportunity to take part in a pilot project of 'Operation Encompass'. We are one of around 76 schools taking part in the Newry, Mourne and Down area. Operation Encompass is a partnership between Police and Schools and is aimed at supporting children who are victims of domestic violence.

As we continue to navigate our way through these adverse circumstances, we encourage both pupils and staff to administer some self-care. We advocate this for everyone in our school community.



Yours in continued partnership

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