



NEWS @ St.Comgall's

ISSUE 1: 2015 -2016



Shoe Box Appeal



Road of Hope is a Northern Ireland based, cross community charity with volunteers throughout the North and South of Ireland. They operate on a purely voluntary basis and all the donations gifts and collections given to the Charity are used for the benefit of those in need.

The Road of Hope team believes that the vast majority of people have a kind and generous nature. Road of Hope nurtures people's generosity and kindness in the knowledge that "many hands make light work." We are here to help others, especially those who have been affected by conflict, internationally, nationally and locally. Their Shoe Box Appeal enables them to help underprivileged people of Hungary & Romania. Here at St. Comgall's we have certainly shown that people do indeed have a kind and generous nature, as the response to the Shoe Box Appeal was immense. We and the Road of Hope charity would like to thank you all very much for your generosity. This year we collected an amazing:

403 Shoe Boxes

Once again thank you, your kindness will make such a difference to someone's life.

St. Comgalls



St. Comgall's Fundraising Group



Asda Bag Pack

Our Fundraising Group held a Bag Pack On Sunday 2nd August at Asda Store, Junction One. This was a great success and raised

£1,034.22!

We would like to thank all those who gave their time during the summer holidays to help our school and raise an amazing amount of money.

Thank You All Very Much!



Christmas Cards

As you know the children worked hard on their Christmas card designs. Money made from this venture amounted to

£892.65!

for school resources. We would like to thank all the children for their beautiful designs and the Fundraising Group for all their hard work that made this possible.

Book Banding

With grateful thanks to our school fundraising group we purchased over £10,000 worth of books during the summer months. This means we will now be in a position to change, for the better, how we teach reading in school. Our Teachers and Classroom Assistants got busy sorting out and banding all the new books. Thanks to them and the Fundraising Group for all their hard work.



The Fundraising Group, after a number of events, this term have raised an unbelievable

£1926.87

Thank you so so much!

Our Day of Languages

On Thursday 24th September we celebrated Our Day of Languages. The Languages day was a time to celebrate the 6,000+ languages spoken around the world, and we celebrated some of the languages of children in our school – we had some multilingual fun! Each year group learnt facts about their assigned country. They also learnt a few words of the language spoken in that country.



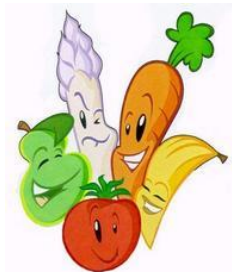
All the children came to school dressed in the colours of their assigned country and some dressed in the national dress of that country.





P.2 Children go to the Green Grocers

As part of our first theme – Yum Yum Yum P2A enjoyed a trip to the Greengrocers on Thursday 24th September. We all walked down to Dayfresh in the Castle Mall and got to see all the different fruits and vegetables that were on sale. We found that flowers, eggs, bread and even sweets and chocolate are sold at the Greengrocers. We even got a healthy treat at the end of our trip – a bag with an apple, orange and kiwi to take home! Thank you to the ladies at the Greengrocers – you were so kind!



On Wednesday 23rd September P2B visited the greengrocers. We saw lots of delicious fruit and vegetables. We especially loved seeing the giant potatoes and onions. The greengrocer gave each of us a goodie bag filled with an apple, orange, kiwi and chocolate treat. We had lots of fun.



P.3's Visit the Castle Grounds

As part of our theme 'Bright Sparks' we are learning about our school crest. The Round Tower is on our school crest so we decided to visit it! We found out that it is 28 metres high. We wondered who might have lived there and how they would have got inside.



MACMILLAN COFFEE MORNING



On 25th September, here at St. Comgall's we took part in the World's Biggest Coffee Morning for Macmillan Cancer Support. We would like to thank all who attended and those who donated tasty cakes and buns. We had an amazing turnout and raised £982.27 for a very worthwhile cause.

A BIG THANKS to everyone for your generosity.





Roots of Empathy
Racines de l'empathie

Roots of Empathy



This year the children in P.5C have been invited to participate in a program called Roots of Empathy (ROE). This program teaches children about feelings, their own feelings and the feelings of others. Once every three weeks, baby Ryan and his parent will visit the classroom. Mrs Ewing, who is a trained Roots Of Empathy instructor, will gather the children in the classroom around a green blanket and together they watch the baby grow.

The children predict and cheer when their ROE baby reaches the 'developmental milestones' of the first year: "He can roll over!" "He got his first tooth!" "He can sit up!"

Mrs Ewing also coaches the children in observing the baby and reading the cues the baby gives as to how the baby is feeling: "Is the baby happy or sad?" They then use this discussion as a lever for the children to talk about their own emotions and to understand how their classmates feel: "Do you smile when you're happy?" "How can you tell when your friend is happy?" Being able to understand how other people are feeling is called *empathy*. Mrs Ewing also visits the classroom before and after each family visit to prepare and reinforce teachings using a specialised lesson plan for each visit.

For more than ten years, across Canada and internationally, thousands of children are learning about respect and how to care for one another through the lessons involving their Roots of Empathy baby.

We are excited that P5C has been chosen to participate in Roots of Empathy.





Maths Challenge Week



I loved maths week, the people in my group were Mia, Eilish, Josh, Aodhan and me. The challenge that we liked was the one where we had to make squares from different shapes. It was hard but we finally got it. We all loved maths week.

By Sophie Patterson P5C



I liked the maths week penguin challenge. The challenge was we had to get all the penguins on the iceberg but the iceberg was wobbly. The rules were that if one of the penguins fell down the side and got stuck you had to rescue it straight away or Mr McShane would have knocked all the penguins down. My team was Luke, Leo, Niamh, Joel and me. My team was the first finished the penguin challenge. I really liked maths week because we learned maths, we did fun challenges and we learned to work with other people.

By Nell Dunne Clarke P5C



I liked maths week jigsaw challenge. The challenge was to find a way to put the road together, it was really hard. There were 20 pieces which meant we had to do a rectangle 4 by 5. My group included Shea, Anna-Rose, Emily, Shine, Katie and me. We were the first group to complete the jigsaw challenge. Even Mr. McShane got stuck but we still did it. It showed us that nothing is impossible. I really liked maths week very much.

By Ben Donaghy. P5C

P.7 Prayer Day at St. Joseph's



On 9th October 2015 our P.7 pupils attended a Day of Prayer for Missionary Children in St. Joseph's Parish Hall, altogether 10 schools gathered to celebrate the abundant life God gives us. They learnt new dances from around the world, from Ireland, India and even the South Pacific. They explored what life might be like for different children across the world and finally, they came together to pray for them. Bishop Noel celebrated the Mass. It was a wonderful day and the children thoroughly enjoyed it.





P2 Yum Yum Yum Harvest Assembly



Primary two worked very hard to prepare for their Yum Yum Yum Harvest Assembly on Friday 16th October. Every child had a part to play whether it was a farmer, a scarecrow, a baker a greengrocer or even a dancer! In our assembly we thanked God for all the fruit, vegetables and bread that we eat by singing songs and saying prayers together. Primary two had so much fun dressing up to represent all the jobs that people do at harvest time. The costumes were amazing and we thank all parents and children for their kind efforts. We hope everyone enjoyed our performance.

Thank you God for Harvest.

THE SWORD IN THE STONE



A theatre group came to St. Comgall's to put on a play call The Sword in the Stone. At the start they asked for volunteers and surprisingly I was picked. I was taken to an empty classroom where I was told what I was picked to do. I was chosen to be a jester, the costume was red and purple. I was told my lines and then we walked back to the hall. I sat at the front and after about a minute it was time for me to play my part. I stood on the stage and said my lines. I thought because I was a jester I should make everybody laugh, so I did a dance behind the main actors back and then a lot of people giggled. When I sat back down there was not long left. I really enjoyed the show and I am sure that many would agree.

By Rory McLornan P.7B

Judo



On 13th October 2015 our P.4, 5 & 6 pupils went to a Judo demonstration in the Assembly Hall. During this demonstration we learned all about Judo, the different moves and we also learned some Japanese language. The girls played a game called Teishi (停止) which means stop. They moved around the mat and had to stop when Danny the instructor said so.

We also learned all about respect, coming onto the mat and leaving the mat. The boys learned how to fall properly when taking part in Judo. This was called a break fall and makes sure no one would get hurt.

All the children in Primary 4, 5 and 6 enjoyed this demonstration. At the end Danny said that there would be a club beginning in January for children who are interested in joining.

Walk to School Week Poster Competition

Last year the children took part in Travelwise NI's 'Walk to School Week' poster competition. St. Comgall's had a successful winning entry. Congratulations went to Miss Reynolds' Primary 1D, who's collage poster was chosen as the Foundation Stage Winner. They won a Hi Viz vest for every child in our school, helping us all to stay safe when we walk to school every day. We had a special assembly when every child was presented with their Hi Viz vest. We hope everyone is making good use of theirs now the darker days of winter are upon us.





HALLOWEEN AT ST. COMGALL'S



P.1 Autumn Walk

On Friday 6th November, we wrapped up warm and made our way to the Castle Grounds for our autumn walk. We found lots of autumn objects such as conkers and leaves, which we will use in our play activities in the coming weeks. We noticed all the beautiful colours of autumn time and how the leaves are now falling off the trees. Everyone had great fun on our walk and we look forward to visiting the Castle Grounds again when autumn changes to winter!



Eco Schools News



Here is our new Eco Team Front row – Alex McLornan, Jonathon Massarella, Leona Nelson, Second Row – Aoibheann Borelann, Ben McLornan, Eva Sansome, Third Row – Rory Sweeney, Fiona McLornan, Louis Gaul, Fourth Row - Niamh McAllister, Katelynn McCracken, Back Row – Ethan McManus, Erin Esler.



The Eco Committee

During the first eco meeting we were welcomed to the committee and were talking through what we were going to do. We played icebreakers and got to know : Mr Henry(chairman), Jonathon, Ava, Ethan, Fiona, Rory, Niamh, Erin (minute taker). We were shown the greenhouse, made entirely of plastic bottles, that last year's team made before it started to rain. Once inside we made our litter picking rota for KS1 and KS2, that is how we ended our evening at the meeting. By Erin Esler P7A

Cash for Clobber

This year the Eco Schools Committee have been focusing again on the Cash For Clobber Competition which we previously won two years ago. The team distributed 'Cash For Clobber' recycling bags to all the children in the hope they would fill them with unwanted clothes, towels, curtains and bed linen. If you require another bag please contact Mr Henry. To recycle the bags bring them to the pink clothes banks located at each entrance to the school. The winning school could receive a cash prize of £3000 and all the clothes are sent to Africa so it is a great help to charities.

Eco Team's Trip to Greenmount

Eco Committee went to Greenmount on Friday 20th November. They went there to learn more about plants. We learnt about tulip bulbs, the students there taught us how to plant them and how much soil we would need for them. Next we learned about winter planters which consisted of ivy, bulbs and two colourful plants. The colourful plants colours consisted of purple and pink. Greenmount had very friendly people, so friendly they let us keep our winter planter and one of our tulip plants that we made. The workers at Greenmount took a picture of us and they also gave us a tree that wasn't fully grown and it's not that big either. The St Comgall's Eco Team had a wonderful experience at Greenmount

By Ethan McManus 7B



MACMILLAN CANCER SUPPORT



Cynthia Cherry from Macmillan Cancer Support came to our School on 13th October 2015 and was presented with a cheque for £982.27, money raised from our Coffee Morning. Again a BIG THANK YOU, EVERYONE.

Travelling Book Fair comes to St. Comgall's



The Travelling Book Fair came to St Comgall's on the 7th – 14th October. The book fair is a fantastic way for parents to supplement their child's home reading material. It also helps raise money for books in our school as we can purchase books to a percentage value of all money spent at the fair by parents. This has been a great way in the past of enhancing our school stock. The children were excited to see the book fair in the school foyer and had fun picking a book to buy and bringing it home to read.

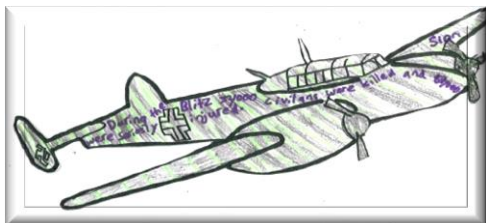


**This year the school raised
£912.75**

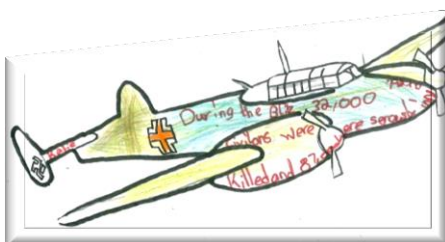
**Hope everyone enjoyed reading the books
they bought.**

Thank you very much for all your support.

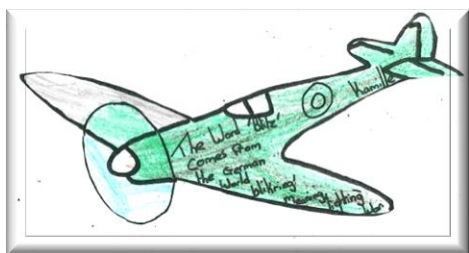
The Blitz by P.4's



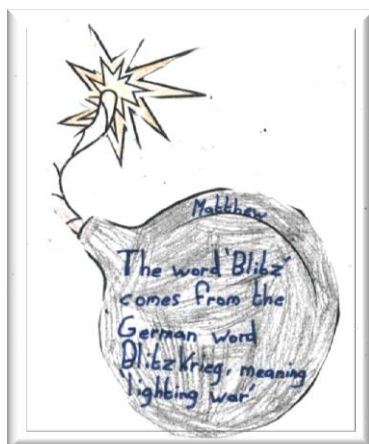
The word 'Blitz' comes from the German word Blitzkrieg meaning 'lightning war'.



During the Blitz 32,000 civilians were killed and 87,000 were seriously injured.



Different types of bombs were dropped, such as H.E. (High Explosive) and oil bombs.

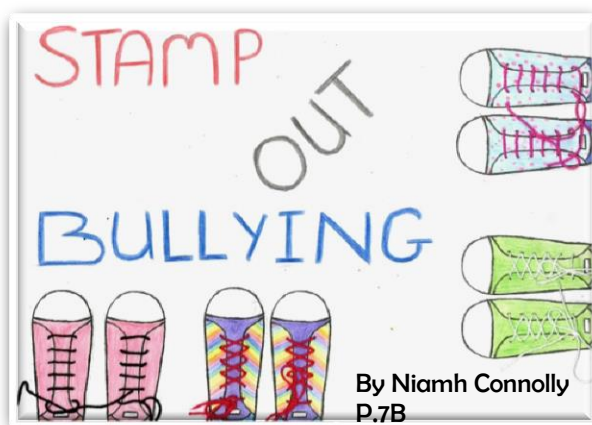


Anti-Bullying Week



Yesterday, my class performed a 'Play in a Day'. The play was called 'No Laughing Matter' and we had only 3 hours to learn our lines. We were taught by an actor/writer from London called Sam. Sam works for KONFLUX. We performed in front of our school and parents. If we forgot our words, we just had to say different words. The first scene was about a bully called Simon. He was telling us what to do – 'Simon Says'. A girl called Niamh stood up to Simon and Simon said, "I am just having a laugh." We learned not to be bullies and if we are being bullied we should stand up to the bullies.

By Harvey and Harry P.6B



By Niamh Connolly
P.7B



Stop bullying

I really do not like when someone pushes me off my bike.

I also feel like a fool when someone calls me names at school.

If they do one thing again I shall quickly tell on them.

Bullying is wrong can you not see.

A bully is not a nice person to be.

Please don't give bullying a try.

It makes other people sometimes cry.

Nell Dunn-Clarke P5C



'No Laughing Matter'

Primary 6B did a performance in one day. It was called 'No Laughing Matter'. Sam was one of the actors from KONFLUX who taught us the play. Sam was from London. We rehearsed this show for 3 hours. The show took about 15-20 minutes. We rehearsed this show in our classroom and the assembly hall. Everyone had parts in the show. Some of the people watching the show said we did really well and that we worked hard. Sam said proper actors would rehearse 5 days for 8 weeks and 8 hours a day. Some of the people watching the show said they learned a lot from our performance. Sam said we were brilliant. If we forgot our lines we just had to say what came to our minds. Some people had more than one part, but still did well. We performed in front of our parents, teachers and some of the children from our school. We had a wonderful time and learned a lot about bullying. The first scene was about a bully called Simon and he was telling someone what to do. Finally someone stood up to him to teach him a lesson. The 2nd scene was when some people were talking about Simon, saying they didn't like him and that he was a bully. All the rest of the scenes were quite long. We all enjoyed the show! It was great fun!

By Aine and Katelynn P6B



E-SAFETY

On Friday 20th November in assembly two policemen called Gary and Mark came to talk to us about E-Safety. They spelt out a word, it was SMART. The S stood for Safety - Being safe on the internet. The M stood for Meet - 'Should I meet this person?' The A stood for Acceptable - 'Is the website acceptable?' The R stood for Reliable - 'Can I rely on this? And the T stood Tell - 'I should tell, because this person is bullying me'.

That spells SMART



S – SAFE

M – MEET

A – ACCEPTABLE

R – RELIABLE

T – TELL

AND HERE'S A TIP! – Don't use your real name on the internet.

Now we know how to be safe on the internet!

By Eva McClelland and Rhea Waring P.5A



Sprocket Rocket Cycling

The Sprocket Rocket Programme presents young riders with the opportunity to learn fundamental cycling skills that cater for their size, physical development and interest. Most importantly the programme aims to recruit new riders to the sport, raise the profile of cycling and provide a progressive skill programme which will develop stronger and better riders in the future. Some of our P.7 children were able to take part in this programme and thoroughly enjoyed it.



Lucky Winners



Congratulations!

Akil, Ethan, Conor, Jack and Michael Celebrating Success! These lucky winners scored over 100 points taking part in the Mangahigh Challenges during Maths Week. Congratulations to everyone who took part and especailly to Conor Gusterson who achieved the top score in the school.





P.7 K'NEX Bridge Challenge

On Wednesday 25th November, we went into the school hall to build K'NEX bridges. When we went into the school hall, a person from W5 called Allie came to make the bridges with us. Before we made the bridges, Allie taught us about the force of gravity. She taught us that Sir Isaac Newton discovered gravity, when an apple fell on his head from his apple tree.

After the forces, we started to build our K'NEX cubes. We had to make a cube to test the strength of K'NEX. After we built the cubes, Mr. McLaughlin took pictures of us holding the cubes.

Finally we made our bridges. We had 25 minutes to build a one metre long bridge made out of K'NEX. We worked in groups of 6 or 4. After we made our bridge, if we had spare time, we tested before giving it to Allie. We found out that a truss bridge is the strongest type of bridge because it had triangles. Some of our bridges collapsed and some of them could hold the 1kg weight. Some even collapsed before the weight was put on because it was too short or thin. It was a really good experience and it was also fun.

By Danyal and Matilda P7A



Christmas Pantomime

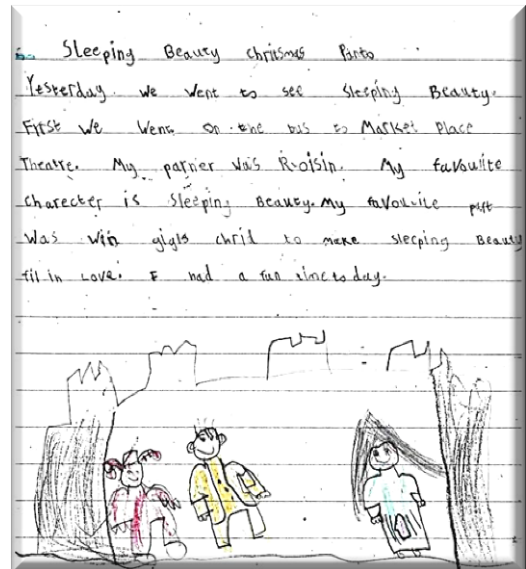


The Pantomime was in the Grand Opera House. It was really good. They sang very silly songs and their costumes were funny. I really enjoyed it.

By Aoife Stewart P.4B



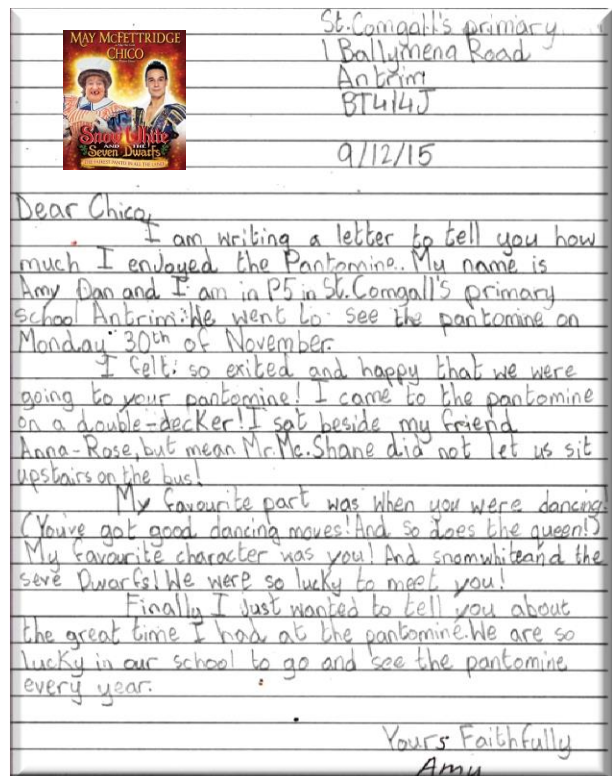
By Autumn Williamson P.3A



By Clodagh Quigg P.3A

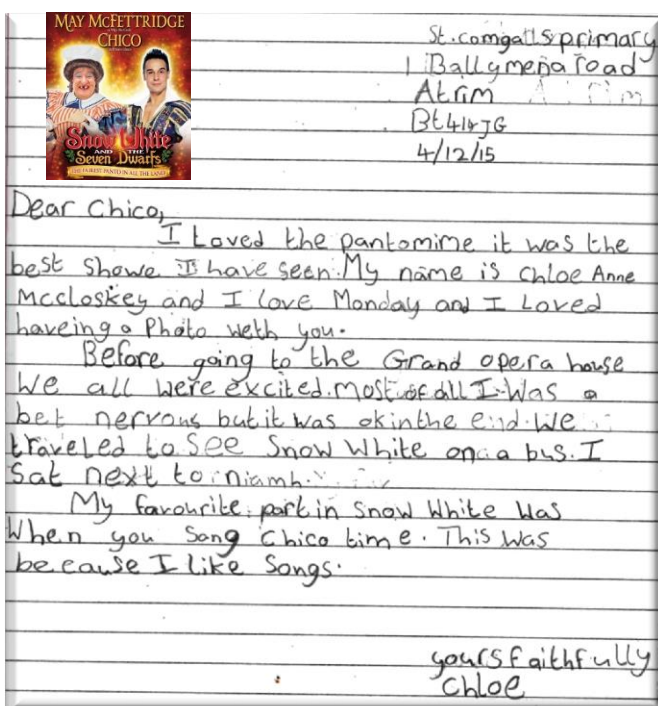


Our P.5 children, as a writing exercise, wrote a letter to Chico telling him how much they enjoyed the Pantomime.



When we went inside the building there were lots of people. The teachers told us that we're going to watch Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs. We went to our seats and watched the show. The characters were very funny. Snow White's costume was fabulous.

By Monica James P.4B





Whoops - a - Daisy Angel



Gaelic Tournament



On Wednesday 18th November ten boys from Primary 6 & 7 went to a Gaelic Tournament in the Antrim Forum. There were twelve teams that were divided between two pitches. St. Comgall's biggest win was against Creggan, we beat them 14 to nil. The matches were five aside which means one goalkeeper, two defenders, one midfielder and one forward. St. Comgall's played their hardest and ended up getting fifth place. Everybody enjoyed the tournament and will be looking forward to the next one.

By Aidan McWhinney P7B & Rory McLornan P.7B



Abigail Waring, Niamh Connolly, Clodágh Brady, Louise Robinson, Erin Scullion, Muirenn Mulholland, Aine McCafferty and Anisha McGarry took part in the Cumann na mBunscol Gaelic Tournament.

The Gaelic tournament took place at the Antrim Forum. The teams we played against were Mount St Michaels, St Bridgid's, St Joseph's Antrim, St Joseph's Crumlin. Everybody played brilliantly in their positions. We really enjoyed the experience and we can't wait to take part in the outdoor tournament.

By Abigail Waring, Niamh Connolly and Clodágh Brady P.7B

SACRAMENTAL INFORMATION FOR PARENTS

Dear parents, please find below the sacramental information for this school year. Please place the dates in your diary. It is important to attend the parent meetings as all enrolment and commitment services take place the weekend immediately following the meeting. Note that all parent sacramental evenings take place at parish level and are hosted in St. Joseph's Parish Centre.

	Date	Information	Location
P3	Thur 14 Jan	Penance Parent Meeting – 6.30pm (Parents Only)	St Joseph's Parish Centre
	Sat 16 Jan	Enrolment Service for SACRAMENT OF FIRST PENANCE - P.3A & P.3C - 6.30pm Mass	St Comgall's Church
	Sun 17 Jan	Enrolment Service for SACRAMENT OF FIRST PENANCE - P.3B - 12 noon Mass	St Comgall's Church
	THUR 10 MAR	SACRAMENT OF FIRST PENANCE – 6.30PM	St Comgall's Church
P4	Thurs 28 th Jan	First Communion Meeting -6pm (Parents only)	St Joseph's Parish Centre
	Sat 30 th Jan	Enrolment Service for SACRAMENT OF FIRST COMMUNION - P.4A & P.4C - 6.30pm Mass	St Comgall's Church
	Sun 31 st Jan	Enrolment Service for SACRAMENT OF FIRST COMMUNION - P.4B - 12 noon Mass	St Comgall's Church
	SAT 4 JUNE	SACRAMENT OF FIRST COMMUNION – 11AM	St Comgall's Church
P7	Thur 21 st Jan	Confirmation parent meeting - 7pm (Parents only)	St Joseph's Parish Centre
	Sat 23 th Jan	Service of Commitment– P.7B - at 6.30pm Mass (Children and families.)	St Comgall's Church
	Sun 24 th Jan	Service of Commitment– P.7A - at 12 noon Mass (Children and families.)	St Comgall's Church
	TUE 23RD FEB	SACRAMENT OF CONFIMATION – 1PM The Service of Light date to follow	

Information & Reminders

Names on Uniforms

Please remember to clearly label all items of your child's school uniform, especially jumpers, cardigans and coats.



Emails:

Would all parents who completed a form requesting letters and information to be sent to them by email, please remember to check your emails regularly so you will not miss any important news, letters, dates and general information.



Absence Letters

If your child is absent from school, please inform the teacher in writing of the reason for the absence.

Children coming to School Early:

Children should not be on the school grounds before 8.45am unless they are attending breakfast club. There is no supervision for children before this time.

BREAKFAST CLUB: from 8.10am - 8.45am Cost £1.50
Main School Hall.

Parents are reminded:

Pick up collection point of your child at home time:

Parents collecting P1 + P2 please collect your child from the teacher in the classroom – access through back gate or pedestrian gate at top of playground.

P3 + P4 children will meet their parents in the junior playground.

Senior children P5 – P7 will meet parents in senior playground.

This is to cut down on traffic through the main school building and promote safety within the school.



Tuck and dinner money

Please ensure your child has the money to pay for tuck and dinners if they use it. It becomes very difficult to manage for our teaching and canteen staff if money becomes "owed." Again, thank you in anticipation for your help with this.



Passports

Any Passport Forms requiring signature from a member of staff will now cost a nominal fee of £5.00, which will go towards school funds.

Our School uniform suppliers are

**Select Kidz
Schoolwear Specialist
In Ballymena**

47 -49 Springwell Street
Ballymena

T: 02825652128 M: 07516115865

Select Kidz are the School uniform supplier for crested uniform.

REMEMBERING OUR LOVED ONES

In November we remembered our family and friends who have died. We put a special display in the foyer and had a book for children and staff to write the names of their loved ones. We prayed at Assembly for all those written in the book.



P.1 APPLICATIONS FOR SEPT 16

Deadline for applications for P.1 is Wednesday 13th January at 12.00 noon.
Application forms available from the school office.

Holiday Dates

SPRING MID TERM BREAK

Monday 15th – Wednesday 17th February

ST. PATRICK

Thursday 17th March

EASTER

Friday 25th March – Friday 1st April

MAY DAY

Monday 2nd

SUMMER MID-TERM BREAK

Monday 16th – Friday 20th May

MAY BANK HOLIDAY

Monday 30th

**School finishes for Summer Holidays
Thursday 30th June 2016 at 12noon**

Dates for your Diary.....

P.1 & P.2 – 8th – 12 Feb Proposed dates for 2nd Parent Consultation Week

P.5 - March 16th St. Patrick's Day Assembly

P.7 – Jan 14th Trip to Greenmount

June 15th & 16th End of Year Show

March 2nd – 8th Bookfair

March 16th Green Day (no uniform, wear something green).

April 12th – 19th German Partner School Visit

May 26th Sports Day for P.1, P.2, P.3 & P.4

May 27th Sports Day for P.5, P.6 & P.7

ATTENTION CHILDREN,

PLEASE REMEMBER WHEN CROSSING THE ROAD ON FOOT, ON A BICYCLE OR A SCOOTER.....



Find the safest place to cross then stop.
Stand on the pavement near the kerb or the edge if there is no kerb.



Give yourself lots of time to have a good look all around.
Make sure you can see if anything is coming and drivers can see you.



Listen carefully because you can sometimes hear traffic before you can see it.
Never cross the road whilst chatting to people, listening to your iPod or talking on your mobile phone.

BE AWARE EVEN WHEN YOU ARE IN SCHOOL GROUNDS OR CARPARKS

SCHOOL WEBSITE!

Please take some time to visit our school website! There you will find all the information you need about school. You can meet the classes and learn about the interesting events happening in school. We now have a translate engine, so the website can be viewed in other languages. Please select a language of your choice from the drop down list on our homepage. In addition we have added a 'scrolling announcements sections' on the top of the homepage – this will draw your attention to any current activity in the school.



stcomgalls.co.uk

Christmas Holiday Dates and Arrangements

The school will close for the Christmas Holidays on Monday 21st December at 12noon for all pupils. This is a **NON** uniform day. There will be NO breakfast club and NO tuck or lunches on Monday 21st. THERE WILL BE NO BUSES in the morning or at 12 o'clock. As normal, additional parking for collection on this day will be provided in the front playground of the school. *Please follow the direction of the staff. School will re-open on Wednesday 6th January 2016 (This will be a full day as normal).

**The Board of Governors, Principal & Staff
Wish you all a Happy & Peaceful
Christmas, see you in 2016**

