

# Deanby's Digest

January 2020



## From the Principal's Desk:

We are well and truly into Term 2 at school and your daughters (and their teachers) are very busy. We encourage positivity with our girls. Being positive with children shows them warmth, care and respect which is what a Nurturing School is all about. As parents, when we ask our children how their day went, we do not always get the answers we were expecting. How do we keep things positive? Here are a few strategies for talking about school with your child. When you first see your child after school she will probably be tired and hungry or thinking about other things. Let your child know that you're glad to see her, and talk about non-school topics for a while. Every afternoon will be different. Even if your child usually likes to share her day with you, there'll be days when she doesn't feel like talking. Sometimes it's a matter of sensing her mood and picking the right moment. Here are a few simple, positive and specific questions that can get your child talking: What's the news from school today? What was fun? What did you like best at school today? Keeping language positive and asking open questions will help to

improve her self-esteem. Give it a try! Mrs Hughes

“Children are the only future the world has. Teach them well.”

**Confirmation** – On Monday 27<sup>th</sup> January, our P7 classes received the Sacrament of Confirmation. Before our Confirmation, we were told the story of Pentecost and how the disciples were given the gift of the Holy Spirit. We also had to choose a Saints name and pick a sponsor. Our Confirmation took place in Sacred Heart Church. Father Eugene O'Hagan, Father Darach and Deacon Joe took part in the mass. During the mass we received the Chrism oil on our foreheads. We were confirmed with our Confirmation names. After the mass, we got to go celebrate with our families. It was a very special day for all of us in Primary 7. *Cadhla Glover P7KD*



## PTA -

January 23<sup>rd</sup> saw one of our most popular events of the year - Family Bingo Night. It is always great to see girls and boys, mums and dads, grandparents and staff all come together for a night of fun and excitement. There were many winners and two lucky girls shared the £50 Jackpot prize in game 8. We have had lots of requests for another Bingo night, so keep an eye out for a date, to be announced soon. A huge thank you to Alison, our excellent bingo caller, and to Sean-Paul for setting the hall up for us. Our biggest fundraiser this term will be our annual Easter Ballot. We are currently collecting prizes, so if you would like to donate anything, or if you work for a business or company that would like to donate, please contact our chair, Michelle Flood, or Mrs Boyle, at the school. We have just bought the school £500 of PE equipment. The girls should see this soon, being used for activities at breaktime and lunchtime.



Thanks for your continued support.

**Primary 6** – It's been a busy first month of 2020 in Primary 6. The girls have been learning all about Titanic and on Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> January visited Titanic Belfast. They had a fantastic guided tour through the museum, walked along the infamous slipway and even had lunch on-board the SS Nomadic! On Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> January, both classes were visited by Vicky from The Literacy Trust who is working in partnership with The Guardian newspaper. Vicky taught the girls all about how to spot the real news from the fake news and they got the chance to become reporters and broadcast the news. Check out our website for the videos!

**Barnardos workshops** – Barnardos are delivering a series of workshops in school for pupils and parents across the different year groups. There was a workshop entitled 'Pirates Ahoy!' for Primary 4 which consisted of pirate-themed literacy and numeracy activities with crafts. The Primary 5 children and parents had the workshop entitled 'News Watch', which consisted of journalism-themed literacy activities. The programme is designed to develop young people's literacy skills, as well as critical thinking and love of learning. Keep an eye out for up-coming workshops for other year groups.

**Choir** – Our fantastic choir are participating in this years' BBC Radio Ulster's School Choir of the Year competition. They have made it to the final six in the Antrim heats and will compete on February 14<sup>th</sup> in Stranmillis Drama Theatre. Mrs Rooney, Mrs McSteen and the girls have been practising extremely hard and hope to be winners this year! Good Luck girls!



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ECO-SCHOOLS



Sustrans School Mark Silver



Schools of Sanctuary

## Important Dates for your Diary:

Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> February -

Cancer Focus visit (P1-7)  
P2 Buddy Up

Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> February -

Action Mental Health Workshop P5LP  
P1 Buddy Up

Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> February -

P7 visit Trinity College  
Barnardo's Pirates Ahoy workshop P4  
P7 Readers visit Our Lady's Nursery  
P3KS Young at Art

Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> February -

P7KD Buddy Up

Friday 7<sup>th</sup> February -

P6JG Ulster Museum

Monday 10<sup>th</sup> February -

Action Mental Health Workshop P5KT

Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> February -

Internet Safety Day  
Action Mental Health Workshop P6AB

Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> February -

Action Mental Health Workshop P6JG  
PeacePlayers P7JM  
Barnardo's Stress Busters P6  
Young At Art P3KS

Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> February -

Action Mental Health Workshop P7JM

Friday 14<sup>th</sup> February -

School Mass, Sacred Heart Church @10am  
BBC Radio Ulster - Choir of the Year

Monday 17<sup>th</sup> - Friday 21<sup>st</sup> February -

MID TERM BREAK

Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> February -

P7KD Buddy Up

Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> February -

PeacePlayers P7JM

Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> February -

Action Mental Health Workshop P7KD

## Internet Safety Day 2020 -

Our young people are immersed in social media and gaming from a very young age and the pressure on children from their own peers is huge. Research has shown that although phones/tablets have many benefits to children's learning, too much screen time can have a negative impact on learning and behaviour.

Using Apps such as TikTok, Snapchat and WhatsApp can be dangerous and there have been reported issues of inappropriate language and children being offensive to each other. We cannot monitor these situations in school, but you can at home. Many of these Apps are just not suitable for primary school children. The school cannot be responsible for any issues that arise at home. Any worrying activity should be reported to the PSNI.

Here at Our Lady's, teachers constantly encourage their classes to behave appropriately online. In the run up to Internet Safety Day on the 11<sup>th</sup> February, KS1 pupils will again learn all about being safe online. In KS2 we are working in partnership with external providers of online safety workshops. The Primary 6 pupils have already had an online safety talk before Christmas with BEAM e-safety. Other programmes are currently being organised for Primary 5 and 7.

Please talk to your daughters about the dangers of the internet and also about showing respect for their friends when playing online games. We know that you want to keep your children safe and that is why this guidance is so important. Do not leave it until it is too late!



**stay safe online**  
Remember the 5 SMART rules when using the internet and mobile phones.

- S SAFE:** Keep safe by being careful not to give out personal information – such as your full name, email address, phone number, home address, photos or school name – to people you are chatting with online.
- M MEET:** Meeting someone you have only been in touch with online can be dangerous. Only do so with your parents' or carers' permission and even then only when they can be present.
- A ACCEPTING:** Accepting emails, IM messages, or opening files, pictures or texts from people you don't know or trust can lead to problems – they may contain viruses or nasty messages!
- R RELIABLE:** Information you find on the internet may not be true, or someone online may be lying about who they are. Make sure you check information before you believe it.
- T TELL:** Tell your parent, carer or a trusted adult if someone or something makes you feel uncomfortable or worried, or if you or someone you know is being bullied online.

Find out more at Childnet's website ...

## January Girls of the Week -

P1CK - Faye Torley, Eve Wright

P2JS - Kara Short, Codie-Leigh Petticrew

P2SH - Mia Quinn, Rachel O'Neill

P3KS - Aoibhe Wilkinson, Alyscia Begley

P4PD - Darcy Devlin, Afiadh McKeown Campbell

P4ED - Baylee Finnegan, Caiti Stewart

P5LP - Naomi Park, Clodagh Catney

P5KT - Eva Larkin-Boyle, Hannah Hudson

P6JG - Nyana McWilliams, Luighseach Sharma

P7KD - Amina Kempston, Aideen McDonnell

P7JM - Saoirse Turley, Ava Hillick, Katie McStravick

