***ST JOSEPH’S PRIMARY SCHOOL, CROSSGAR***

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 **:4 Ballynahinch Rd, BT30 9HS**

 ***Principal: Mrs S McArdle***

06/04/23

Dear Parents and carers,

It is so hard to believe we are finishing our second term this year already!

Term 2 has been another busy term. Our primary 3 children made their first confession and primary 7 celebrated the sacrament of confirmation. All classes have been working closely with Glasswater Primary School through our shared education programme learning together and enjoying many school trips.

A lot of work has gone into developing our new playground behind the mobile classrooms. We have purchased many new resources and play equipment for all classes to access, which the children are greatly enjoying.

The children from primary 1 to primary 4 have continued with their Irish lessons with Maria and we are very impressed how well they are progressing and engaging in her lessons.

We are delighted as our last new interactive panel has just been installed in the primary 3 classroom yesterday. All classes now have updated ones and staff have received training on using them effectively in the classrooms. They are a fantastic resource to enhance teaching and learning and we are so grateful to our PTA for the fantastic fundraising they have been doing over the last few years to provide these amazing panels. A huge thank you to all of you for supporting our fundraising activities for these.

Congratulations to all our Easter hamper winners – we were delighted to see winners from all classes. A very special thank you goes to Mrs Edemen in the office and Miss Forsythe for organising the raffle and to Hannah Shortt for the beautiful Easter hamper that she donated.

We want to thank you for all of the lovely comments that have been sent for the Education Awards nominations. It has been very rewarding reading the very kind comments our school community have sent. We feel very privileged that our school has been nominated for the best primary school award, best principal award, best teacher award (Miss Colhoun) and best class support award (Mrs Small). We are very fortunate to have a fantastic team of staff who are committed to supporting our children and genuinely care for them.

We have been notified of a planned strike by teachers on 26th April for a whole day. We will update you on this as we receive further information.

As we draw closer to the end of the spring term, we have a few important dates for your diary.

* We return on Monday 17th April for the new summer term
* Bank holiday School closures, Monday the 1st, 8th & 29th May
* Staff days only 2nd May, 30th May and 16th June (pupils off)
* School finishes at 11:30am for all children on 28th June.

As we lead into our final term, I wanted to remind you of a few details:

* Morning care will continue from 8:15am and costs £1.50 per day. Bookings should be made on school money for this
* All other children, in all classes, should arrive between 8:50am-9am promptly and go directly to their classrooms. Only children attending morning care should be on site before 8:50am
* Primary 1 and 2 finish school at 2pm and primary 3-7 finish at 3pm (except on a Friday 2pm finish for whole school)
* After school care runs from 2-5pm daily (4pm on Fridays) at £3 per hour. Bookings should be made on school money for this
* All primary 1-3 children should be accompanied by an adult into school
* If children arrive after 9am they should report to reception with their parent/carer who will sign their child in as a late arrival, with a reason for being late – this is required for correct coding on our attendance records. No child should be sent into school late alone.

Following a PTA meeting it has been decided to run an outdoor event including a book fair and uniform shop using recycled items of books, uniforms and school shoes. This event will be held in term 3 and will be used to raise funds for our school. If you have any unused books (children’s or adults), uniforms or school shoes in good condition, please keep them so they can be donated to the school for this event. We will communicate with you when these can be left off at the school as we currently have very little storage space. Further details will follow.

Any arrears on our school Money system should be paid up to date as soon as possible.

We wish all our parents, carers, and children of the St Joseph’s a very Happy Easter and hope you all enjoy the break.

Kind Regards

Mrs S McArdle

Principal