



29<sup>th</sup> February 2024

Dear Parents/ Carers.

Firstly I would like to say a big Thank You to the Staff, Children, Governors and you the Parents for the warm welcome I have received in St Oliver's. I worked for more than 20 years in St James's Primary School in Whiteabbey so I am excited about the change and the new challenge for me.

I would like to also thank Mr Byrne for meeting me to pass over information and answer questions during our handover. The children and staff speak so fondly about him and they will never forget his (albeit short) time here as their principal.

St Oliver's is a very busy place! Here are some important notices for the rest of the term. If there is any more information you need that is not included then please do not hesitate to contact us.

Please remember to visit our Website regularly to see what is going on in our school.

### Important Dates for your Diary:

#### World Book Day

World Book Day is taking place on Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> March. As you know this is an annual celebration of reading and helps promote the joy and pleasure of reading. It will be a non-uniform day, and this year we would like the children to use their imagination to dress up as 'an adjective'. This can be an opportunity for the children (and parents) to use your imagination. You could be 'bright', 'colourful', 'green'...

The possibilities are endless!

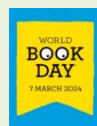
#### Sacramental Dates

##### *The Sacrament of First Penance*

The Sacrament of First Penance will take place in St Oliver's Church on Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> March at 7pm. We welcome all Year 4 children and parents to this very special ceremony and thank the Year 6 and 7 children who are coming to sing with the choir.

**The Sacrament of Confirmation:** Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> April

**First Holy Communion:** Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> May



#### Transfer Test

Mrs Donaghy will be holding an information session on Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> of March for any Year 6 parents who are interested in finding out about the process.

## **St. Patrick 's Day**

We will have our 'Green Day' on Friday 15<sup>th</sup> March and children may come to school wearing something green. I have heard great things about the traditional celebrations in St Oliver's and am very much looking forward to the entertainment.

The school will be closed on Monday 18<sup>th</sup> March for the Feast of St. Patrick and re-opens on Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> March.

## **GAA Football Blitz**

St. Teresa's, Tullyherron is hosting the "Malachy Mc Geeney Mixed Teams Competition" on Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> March at 10am to 12 noon in St. Killian's GAA Grounds, Whitecross. I'm sure we will see a great display of football on this occasion.



## **Year 4/5 Trip**

Our Y4/5 children will be going on a trip to Navan Fort on Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> March.

## **Easter**

School will finish for Easter on Holy Thursday at 12 noon. There will be no dinners this day.

## **Teaching and Learning:**



### **Accelerated Reading and Mathletics**

Mrs McCreesh spoke to the children during assembly on Friday all about Accelerated Reading. As you know it is a computer based programme that monitors and encourages children's independent reading. Children read and quiz on a book and they build up points towards a target. It is designed so that all children can reach their target so please encourage your child to read as much as possible.

Mathletics

The following Friday, we were treated to a special assembly by Year 4/5 telling us all about Mathletics. Just like AR, it is an online programme to help children improve their numeracy through fun and engaging activities.

Children have their own unique logins for each programme and if there are any problems please contact the class teacher.



### **Lent and Trocaire**

During Lent Year 7 have been learning all about Water Justice as part of this year's Trocaire Lenten campaign. We are encouraging children to put any small change in the Trocaire Box in their classroom.

**Tin Whistle** continues with children in Years 4-7 – remember your tin whistle every Monday!

### **Ulster GAA & Healthy Kidz**

We are so fortunate to have the coaches from the Ulster GAA and Healthy Kidz in school to work with all classes on Thursdays and Fridays. This term the Healthy Kidz focus is on developing dance and the music has been pumping in the hall on Fridays!

Remember to wear your PE gear on these days

## **Pupil Well-Being.**

### **Paws b**

Year 6/7 children are taking part in a 6 week Mindfulness programme arranged by Aware NI.

### **Weekly Awards**

Our children receive awards for 'Pupil of the Week' in each class, a 'Dinner Hall' award and also Miss Gibney gives a special award to one child in her after school club.

Please remember to visit our Website regularly to see our weekly award winners.

### **Friends of St Oliver's / PTA**

As with all schools, unfortunately our budget is not sufficient to cover all the many improvements that need to be made and opportunities for our whole school community. I would love to re-establish our Parent Fundraising group or if there are any new volunteers you would be very welcome. Please contact me if you have any ideas.

## **Reminders!**

### **After School Club**

After-School Club continues (Monday, Tuesday and Thursday only at present) at a cost of £2.50 per day. We are doing our best to secure staffing for the other 2 days. Please book and pay in advance each Friday for the following week.

### **Dinner Money/Other Payments**

Please only send money in on Fridays. The dinner menu is on our school website.

### **Communication**

We ask that you contact the school via email [info@stolivers.carrickrovaddy.ni.sch.uk](mailto:info@stolivers.carrickrovaddy.ni.sch.uk) in the first instance to leave a message for the relevant staff. No telephone calls will be put through to teachers during teaching time. Staff will also be unable to discuss children with parents during drop off or pick up times.

### **Attendance and Lateness**

As you know, children's attendance is monitored and reviewed in partnership with the Education Welfare Service. If your child is absent, you must inform the school of a reason for your child's absence so it can be recorded. You should email or phone the school office (leaving a voice mail) on the first day of your child's absence. It is also important that your child comes to school on time. Class starts at 8.45am. If your child arrives late, this is recorded on their registration certificate and can impact on their overall attendance rate. Please do not drop off children before 8.30am as there may not be supervision.

### **Healthy Eating**

We are continuing to promote healthy eating as part of a healthy lifestyle. Please send a healthy snack and water only for your child to drink.



**Thank you for your cooperation on these matters.**

**Yours Faithfully**

**Mrs Donaghy**