



Summer Newsletter

2022



Primary 7 Class of 2022

Leavers' Assembly 2022

What a wonderful Leavers' Assembly we had yesterday, 28th June. Our Primary 7s brought us on a journey from 2010, the year most of them were born, to 2022, the year they celebrate an ending that brings them to a new beginning. That journey was full of FAC-TOIDS, that brought both tears and laughter. The tributes paid by their



friends in P6, who have shared the past two years with them brought the same emotions. Their rendition of *This is Me* from *The Greatest Showman* was both superbly joyful and heart-breaking for many children, parents and staff. We are SO PROUD of these boys and girls and know they are ready for a new challenge. All in Sion Mills Primary School sends them every positive wish for their future years in their new school.

Paverpol statuettes

Through our Extended Schools funding we host an Intergenerational Project for our Primary 6 pupils and an adult from their family. Mrs Gloria Perry facilitates the project and the children along with their grandparent or other relative, create a wonderful Paverpol statuette, that represents some aspect of the child and their adult's relationship. We normally celebrate this project in conjunction with our cluster schools, St Eugene's Victoria Bridge, St Theresa's Glebe and St Columba's Clady, but that part is on hold due to the pandemic. The statuettes were presented at the Leavers' assembly. What beautiful family heirlooms they are!



Citizenship Awards

Each year the adults involved in classes consider children who have been a great team player. Who have been kind, a good friend, respectful of their peers and adults, honest, reliable and who generally do their best to stick to the class agreements. Who can manage their own emotions and show empathy to others; who can have disagreements but move on when differences are sorted out. There are many children who fall into this category but only one can receive the Citizenship Award.

Speech & Language	Joe Thompson
P1S	Alexander Szarubka
P2C	Niamh Mullen
P2H	Laylah Stewart
P3C	Myka Donnelly
P4L	Abbie-Rose Mc Mullen
P5K	Lauren Galloway-Doherty
P6/7C	Naomi Aiken
P6/7Mc G	Zara Moore

Sports Day

What a joy it was to return to our traditional Sports Day. We were very lucky with the weather and the children thoroughly enjoyed themselves. Many photographs were posted on Facebook and we will get them onto the website, for those who don't use Facebook. The action shots surely showed how much effort the boys and girls put in. Thank you to Mrs Hendron who organised the event and to Jonny Martin, who ensured the grounds were ready and safe for children and parents alike. We are forever grateful to the PTFA who gave of their time and provided snacks and tea/coffee for our visitors as well as fundraising. Megan and her team of helpers, who were unable to take part in the activities, did a great job with their tuckshop and draw. They raised over £200 for school funds, some of which, went towards our post assembly tea party.

Winners of the draw were: Bella Curran P3C, Eden Hill P4L and Leo Dooher P1 SpLU.

Strawberry Fair

Thank you to Rev. Johnny McFarland for allowing us to have a stand at the Strawberry Fair on 18th June. It helped promote our endeavour to gain integrated status. We are also delighted to announce Tyler Britton as the winner of the Strawberry Fair free draw that is open to all the pupils of Sion Mills PS.





Mathletics

CONGRATULATIONS on achieving **GOLD** to Harry Nixon and David Fritea, both P1 and Rionnah Deazley and Tammy Gibson, both P4. Well done everyone.

Raffle Winners for June are P1S Josh Jones, P2C Khal Rushe, P2H Tilly Doherty Kildea, P3C Mason McNulty, P4L Grace McClintock, P5K Luca Finlay, P6/7McG Rebecca McKane and P6/7C Dalton Henderson. Well done everyone

A big thank you to Mrs Campbell for all the behind-the-scenes work in keeping this excellent resource going all year.

Dates for Your Diary	
School Closes at 12 noon	Thursday 30 th June
School Reopens	Tuesday 30th August -Bubble A
Both half days until 12 noon	Wednesday 31st August – Bubble B
School Reopens full day	Thursday 1st September



THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT RAISING OVER £1,300!

The PTFA successfully raised funds in 2021-22 at the following events with your support: Easy Fundraising, Christmas Raffle, Walking Trail and Sports Day. These funds have been used to support the school in the following ways this year:



Educational Subscriptions



Class Christmas Parties



School Rewards Cupboard



Hi Vis Safety



Mathletics Reward Vouchers



End of Term Ice cream treats

PTFA

As the 2021 – 2022 school year draws to a close the staff wish to thank the PTFA for their fantastic support throughout. We are forever grateful to them for their time and fantastic fundraising ideas, this year a whopping £1300. Families' generosity never ceases to amaze us and we are so grateful. The PTFA posted on Facebook this week all the extras our children enjoy and through these enhance their learning. Include FACEBOOK POST To complete a HAPPY year, when our school remained open for the full year, we all enjoyed ice creams on last Thursday 23rd June. It really feels a LOT LIKE SUMMER!!



Return to School Arrangements

On 30th and 31st of August we are introducing children to their new teachers and classes in a smaller group. Each class will have a Bubble A and Bubble B. This arrangement is for **one half day only**. On Thursday 1st September all children from P2 – P7 will return to full days.

Home-time

We anticipate that home-time will no longer be staggered from 1st September.

P1 & P2 – School day finishes at 2.00p.m.

P3 – P7 – School Day finishes at 3.00p.m.

Classes will still exit through Gates 1, 2 & 3. Details will be forwarded in August.

Rights Respecting Schools Award

We were delighted to receive our **SILVER** Rights Respecting Schools certificate on Tuesday along with huge banner for the front fence. One of our tasks on the Rights Respecting Schools journey is raising awareness of rights in the community. There is no doubt that the gorgeous banner will have people asking what it's about ... your children will tell you. Once again CONGRATULATIONS to Mrs Sproule and her ambassadors, Robert, Amirah, Naomi and Jodi, on a super year's work, that culminated in the silver award.



Transformation to *Integrated* status

We are well on track to achieve our aim of being *officially* recognised as an integrated school. Following the Parental Ballot in March, the next step was writing a Case for Change and compiling an Action Plan. Mrs Kingh and Mrs Cunningham have spent a lot of time on these tasks since March and I'm happy to report that the Case for Change was submitted to the Education Authority (EA) yesterday.

It will be perused and hopefully signed off by the EA before then being forwarded to the Minister of Education's office. It is then presented for public consultation for 6 – 8 weeks. It is expected that consultation won't happen until September. Following that our Case will go forward for ministerial approval.

At this point we would like to thank Mrs Kingh, Mrs Cunningham, Mr McNulty Chair of Governors, Laura Largey and Lynn Johnston, NICIE, Frances Donnelly EA for their help with the Case for Change document.



Accelerated Reading



Winners of the monthly raffle are: **Emmie Millar and Abbie Preston P3C, Sophie-Rose Havern P4L, Aoife Kelly P5K, Sienna O'Loughlin P7C and Conn Kelly P7McG.**

Accelerated Reading has continued to go from strength to strength in 2021 – 2022. Children are reading 100s of thousands of words and more and more are becoming word millionaires.

This is testament to all the hard work over the past year by the children, teachers and parents here in Sion Mills.

Let us all continue with this great success and no better way to do this than participate in the Libraries NI Summer reading Challenge. Children aged 4 – 11 can join the 'Gadgeteers' to spark their curiosity about the world around them.

Find out more and get involved on <https://bit.ly/LNISRC2022>