

Saint Joseph's P.S. Ballycruttle February Edition

Welcome to our New and improved Newsletter. We are all learning new skills over lockdown and this is a new one I am trying to learn and master at this time.

Please remember that all school messages will now be passed onto our families through the website and the Schools NI App. If you are unsure of how to download the App onto your smart phone, please contact me for assistance. Please allow notifications and this will mean you will be notified immediately each time I send a school message.

It has been a busy month of February so far with everyone both staff, pupils and their families continuing with Home Learning for a second month. We have really enjoyed seeing your work through Seesaw and coming into school in the packs. Some classes have also posted stories, poems and snack designs to [Newsdesk](#) which have all been amazing. Remember to have a look the Headline Stories in Newsdesk everyday as there are always fun things to read and to learn about all kinds of topics. Sometimes there are also competitions posted.



1 - You can access Newsdesk by logging into [MySchool](#) and then by clicking on your Apps. Look for this symbol

You can access Newsdesk by logging into [MySchool](#) and then by clicking on your Apps. Look for this symbol

<https://www.stjosephspsballycruttles.com/home/>



Look for this Newsdesk symbol in your Apps and click on it. Remember if you want to upload a piece of work, click on School Reporter and select a Frontline or Headline Story. Remember to add a good quality image to your piece. You can also search for your friends work and add a comment (positive comments only, please) by searching for : St. Joseph's Primary School Ardglass in the search bar and your school mates work will come up for you to read and comment on. If you don't want to upload any pieces of work, you can just go to Newsdesk to read and enjoy the News stories and to play the fun games.

Keep uploading your pictures to your class teacher and if you have any fun pictures of your **'Life during Lockdown '21'** such as you building a snowman, making Pancakes for Pancake Tuesday, any birthday images or if you are out for a walk, please send them to your teacher or to myself on iporter336@c2kni.net and we can add them to the website for everyone to enjoy.

To all our Ballycruttles parents out there. You are doing an amazing job but if your child needs any help, please contact us during normal school hours via email or through Seesaw. If you need anything, please get in touch and we will try our utmost to accommodate all requests.

P.7 Post Primary Transfer Process

For information on the P.7 Post Primary Transfer Process please have a look at the following website:

<https://www.eani.org.uk/parents/admissions/post-primary-admissions-guide>

If your child was born between 2 July 2009 and 1 July 2010, they will be due to start post-primary school in September 2021.

The online application will be open between 12 noon on Monday 1 March 2021 and 4pm on Tuesday 16 March 2021. Please note that this is not a first come first served basis and post-primary schools will only begin to make decisions on applications after the closing date for applications has passed.

Your child's primary school will share with you an electronic copy of the key information leaflet 'Applying for a post-primary school place' in the coming weeks. This leaflet and further guidance will be accessible on this website to assist you in making an online application.

It is the responsibility of the Board of Governors of each school to determine the admissions criteria to be used in the event of oversubscription.

The admissions criteria for post primary schools are now available <https://www.eani.org.uk/search-schools>. Before you start your application it is very important that you read the admissions criteria of all the schools you are interested in sending your child to.

The online application is very straight-forward to complete and you will be guided through each page. In addition to the guidance videos and documents on the EA website, the Admissions Helpdesk will be available for digital assistance if you need it.

Tel: 028 9598 5595

Email postprimaryadmissions@eani.org.uk

If you are unable to apply online, paper applications will only be available on request from the Education Authority.

Please find enclosed a link to an information leaflet, 'Applying for a Post-Primary School Place'. The layout of the leaflet is different this year as it is electronic. A plain text version of the leaflet is currently being translated and it will be available on the EA website early next week in the following languages: Irish, Polish, Portuguese, Lithuanian, Romanian, Arabic and Tetum. Have a look at the key messages that are important for parents to be aware of when applying for a post-primary place.

We would encourage parents to use of the guidance on completing the online Post-Primary Application. A 'Post Primary Application Tutorial Video – Desktop View' providing a step-by-step guide to the online application is now available and a mobile phone view will follow shortly. You can access the videos at <https://www.eani.org.uk/school-management/ea-digital-admissions-online-resource-hub/videospresentations>

and we would advise parents that these materials are accessible on the EA website <https://www.eani.org.uk/parents/admissions/admissions-videos-and-guidance>

Key Messages

- The post-primary application will be accessible at www.eani.org.uk/admissions and the application opening window is between 12 noon on Monday 1 March and 4pm on Tuesday 16 March 2021.
- It is the responsibility of parents to check that all relevant information is included on their child's application before submitting the form.
- Digital assistance is available via the Admissions Helpdesk 028 9598 5595 in addition to the user guides on our website and the guidance leaflet 'Applying for a Post-Primary School Place'.
- Using the Recite Me tool on the EA website, parents can translate information and access audio transcripts of admissions criteria and our guidance materials in a range of languages. Parents may watch our subtitled video in six different languages and access translated versions of the P7 leaflet.
- Parents can check if their child would be eligible for transport assistance to a particular school on the EA website.
- Parents have the right to express school preferences but no child can be guaranteed a place at any particular school. More than half of post-primary schools are oversubscribed and not all children who apply will receive a place at an oversubscribed school. To ensure the best chance of getting their child into a post-primary school of their choice, it is strongly recommended that at least four schools are listed in the order of preference and include at least one non-grammar school. Parents

can list as many schools as they wish and in some areas where many of the schools are oversubscribed, it may be wise to list more than four schools. Up to 12 schools can be listed on the online application.

- It is important that parents find out the following information about the schools they are considering. This will help them to assess if their child is likely to be offered a place:-

1. the admissions criteria sets out how the school will decide which children will be selected/not selected if the school is oversubscribed. Parents should think about how well their child meets the criteria. The admissions criteria for all schools can be found on the EA website. If parents have questions about what something in a particular school's criteria means they can contact the school for clarification.

2. the number of applications the school received in previous years and the number of pupils who were accepted. This information is included with the school's criteria on the EA website to let parents know if the school is usually oversubscribed.

If you require any further information please contact Mrs Porter.



2 - Post Primary Admissions

NI4Kids digital Magazine

NI4Kids is a fun filled packed magazine full of information, competitions and activity lists for families and comes out every month.

Have a look at it here: <https://mailchi.mp/ni4kids/ni4kids-helping-you-all-the-way-through-472979?e=2c17bcffad>

Inside this issue, find the motivation to get you and the kids fit with their winter of wellness activities, and don't forget to enter their exclusive giveaways where you could be in with a chance to **WIN an iZi Flex Fix i-size car seat worth £250** or a **Belfast Children's Festival 2021 Family Theatre bundle!** Discover two fantastic family festivals opening their digital doors this month and beyond, as well as all their usual tempting favourites you adore like Coffee & Catch Up, Crafty Kids, Family Food and much, much more! Put your feet up with a cuppa, download your free copy straight to your smartphone or tablet with this link tinyurl.com/7oy8oinu and remember: all you need is love ... and Ni4kids!



Mathletics



We have one years subscription for Mathletics. Every child has their own login information. If your child has misplaced this, please contact your class teacher who can take a picture of it and send it to you via Seesaw. You can log into Mathletics using the following link: <https://login.mathletics.com/>

Mathletics is a global community of four million students in more than 17,000 schools and homes right around the world. We hope you and the children are enjoying this range of web-based resources for home learning and look forward to celebrating the children's successes with you. It has been fantastic to see so many children energised by the use of Mathletics in our school and we hope this will continue into the future.

Remember your teacher can assign activities for you to complete on Mathletics. Once you reach 1,000 points your child will be awarded with a Bronze Certificate. Click the My Awards button to view your certificates. Collect 5 bronze certificates and you are awarded a silver certificate. Collect 4 silvers for a gold. Lets try our hardest to gain Silver during this lockdown period.

Live Mathletics In Live Mathletics, your child can challenge other students to real-time races that will boost the speed and accuracy of their own mental mathematical calculations! You can choose to compete against students from right across the world, or from your child's own school or class. Points and credits are awarded for correct answers and beating your high score.

Have a look at the support section on the website: <https://support.3plearning.com/mathletics/>

Have fun!

Reading at home



It is important to keep reading at home during Lock Down. The children in Mrs Turley's class may receive reading books in their packs as at this young age it is vital for them to continue learning such as concepts of print.

Concepts of Print refers to the awareness of 'how print works'. This includes the knowledge of the concept of what books, print, and written language are, and how they function. It encompasses a number of understandings that allow the reading process to take place including:

- understanding that print conveys a message
- knowledge about book orientation and directionality of print, and
- distinction between sentences, words and letters, and
- knowledge of the alphabetic system and the difference between letters and words.

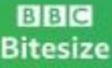
Through exposure to shared book reading in early childhood, and through modelled, shared, and guided reading in the early years, children develop these important concepts of print.

Children in P4-7 will be directed towards reading books they have at home or from the following two websites:

Register on Oxford Owl on <https://www.oxfordowl.co.uk/> or register for a free 30 day trial of Reading eggs on: <https://readingeggs.co.uk/coronavirus-covid-19/>

Children in P4-7 should remember the skills and strategies they have previously learnt on how to work out unknown words such as to look for small words they already know inside the big word, to break it into syllables, to read on and come back to it or to start the sentence again and look at the pictures for clues. P 4&5 have a 'Read at Home' book uploaded to the Home Learning section of the website for the children to read and enjoy at home.

BBC Bitesize on CBBC

 Lockdown Learning Mon 25 - Fri 29 Jan				
Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Primary Learning on CBBC				
09:00 BBC Bitesize Daily 5-7 years Science + Rockets	09:00 BBC Bitesize Daily 5-7 years Science + Dinosaur footprints	09:00 BBC Bitesize Daily 5-7 years Science + Sound as vibrations	09:00 BBC Bitesize Daily 5-7 years Science + Bubbles	09:00 BBC Bitesize Daily 5-7 years Science + Friction + Being Equal
09:20 BBC Bitesize Daily 7-9 years Science + Gravity + Copernicus	09:20 BBC Bitesize Daily 7-9 years Science + Fossils	09:20 BBC Bitesize Daily 7-9 years Science + Making Noises Louder	09:20 BBC Bitesize Daily 7-9 years Science + Mixing things	09:20 BBC Bitesize Daily 7-9 years Science + Speaking up
09:40 BBC Bitesize Daily 9-11 years Science + Astronauts	09:40 BBC Bitesize Daily 9-11 years Science + Evolution	09:40 BBC Bitesize Daily 9-11 years Science + Reflected Light	09:40 BBC Bitesize Daily 9-11 years Science + Freezing things	09:40 BBC Bitesize Daily 9-11 years Science + Being Equal
10:05 Celebrity Supply Teacher Dance with Darcey Bussell	10:00 Celebrity Supply Teacher Wellbeing with Katie Piper	10:05 Celebrity Supply Teacher Drama with Isabel Clifton	10:05 Horrible Histories	10:05 Celebrity Supply Teacher English with Katya Adler
10:15 Horrible Histories	10:10 Horrible Histories	10:15 Horrible Histories	10:35 Our School	10:20 Horrible Histories
10:45 Our School	10:40 Our School	10:45 Our School	11:00 The Big Schools Winterwatch Live Lesson	10:45 Our School
11:05 Art Ninja	11:05 Art Ninja	11:05 Art Ninja	11:35 Operation Ouch!	11:10 Art Ninja
11:35 Operation Ouch!	11:30 Operation Ouch!	11:35 Operation Ouch!	11:55 Celebrity Supply Teacher History with Ed Balls	11:35 Operation Ouch!
Secondary Learning on BBC Two (11-14 years)				
13:00 Bitesize Daily Secondary: Motivational Monday Maths, English & History	13:00 Bitesize Daily Secondary: Study Tips Tuesday English & Biology	13:00 Bitesize Daily Secondary: Wellbeing Wednesday Chemistry & Maths	13:00 Bitesize Daily Secondary: Thinking Thursday Maths & English	13:00 Bitesize Daily Secondary: Feelgood Friday English & Physics
14:00 Inside the Human Body: Creation	14:00 Inside the Human Body: Building Your Brain	14:00 Inside the Human Body: Hostile World	14:00 The Human Body: Secrets of Your Life Revealed: Grow	14:00 The Human Body: Secrets of Your Life Revealed: Survive
Continue your learning at bbc.co.uk/bitesize Catch up on all the shows on BBC iPlayer				15:00 The Human Body: Secrets of Your Life Revealed: Learn

As a third national lockdown is under way, the BBC is bringing hundreds of educational resources together to help with home-schooling.

Whether on TV, [online](#) or on social media, we have lots of brilliant content to help you learn at home.

On TV

- Starting on Monday 11 January, CBBC will broadcast three hours of primary school programmes from 9am every weekday. They will include BBC Bitesize Daily, as well as other

much-loved shows with an educational twist, such as Our School, Celebrity Supply Teacher, Horrible Histories and more.

- Secondary students will be able to watch two hours of programmes supporting the curriculum on BBC Two every weekday. These will be complemented by drama adaptations, as well as relevant BBC science, history and factual programmes.
- Bitesize Daily Primary and Secondary will also air every day on BBC Red Button, and episodes will be [available on demand on BBC iPlayer](#).
- Why don't you download the weekly timetable and allow your child/ren some time to watch these lessons.

Online PE lessons with the Clanrye Group



**CLANRYE GROUP
KIDS PROGRAMMES**

EBA STAY AT HOME P.E.
MONDAY, WEDNESDAY & FRIDAYS (FROM 12TH FEB)
P1 - P3 AT 12.30PM P4 - P7 AT 1.15PM
Let our local coaches entertain your kids for half hour,
and allow parents to enjoy a hot coffee!
Join our coaches for fun P.E. sessions with music,
games and challenges!

FAMILY DANCE FIT - TUESDAYS AT 5PM
Join Sarah Hillier Dance Company for 4 weeks of new
dance moves and great music **beginning 9th February**.
The perfect class for all the family, with new routines
each week.

KIDS TAEKWONDO - WEDNESDAYS AT 5PM
Join Cathal Pagan's School of Taekwondo for
Kids Taekwondo **beginning 18th February!**
Perfect for kids wanting to try something new!

KIDS GARDENING - WEDNESDAYS AT 6.30PM
Create a bug hotel, how to care for the wildlife in the
garden, how to use up your old containers to grow your
own food and flowers and how to get a head start on
propagating seeds. **Running until 24th February**

REGISTER ON: WWW.CLANRYEGROUP.COM/BOOK-NOW
OR CONTACT INFO@CLANRYEGROUP.COM FOR MORE INFORMATION

Logos at the bottom include: Sport Northern Ireland, An tSliocht na hÉireann, European Union, Economy and Communities, and others.

3 - See @clanryegroup on Facebook for more information

<https://www.clanryegroup.com/book-now/classes/online-classes/kids-exercise-programme/lunchtime-pe>

Break up your home schooling day with some Stay at Home PE with our Everybody Active Coaches!

There will be a mix of fun exercises, games and music each weekday - a great way for your kids to keep active throughout the lockdown period.

SESSIONS BEGIN MONDAY 11TH JANUARY

PRIMARY 1 - 3 at 12.30PM - 1PM

PRIMARY 4 - 7 at 1.15PM - 1.45PM

Young at Art



Young at Art are looking for audience members like you to take part in a Cultural Panel.

We want to catch up, know how your life has changed, and hear your thoughts about how we can plan better for the future. We have partnered with Thrive, a charity that supports Northern Ireland's arts and culture organisations to connect with their audiences. They will run **a year-long Cultural Panel from now until December 2021**. By joining this panel, you will be asked to fill in regular short surveys and take part in occasional casual discussions via Zoom or on the phone. Why should you join? Because **your opinion has never been more important** and we'd love our next steps to be guided by you. See the link for more information:

<https://mailchi.mp/youngatart/cultural-panel?e=0dc6d1f082>

Hello

And we're live!

We're delighted to launch our programme for the 2021 Belfast Children's Festival, which will take place online for the first time from 5-14 March.

Our programme will premiere a new horror opera for children from the Belfast Ensemble; feature a magical audio theatre experience for the whole family, all the way from Australia with Mountain Goat Mountain; host a dance double-bill inspired by the insects that inhabit a world beneath our feet from Second Hand Dance.

We also welcome Catherine Wheels and Barrowland Ballet from Scotland and the host the return of Maiden Voyage Dance to this year's festival to premiere their new performance, 'Turnabout'. And who would have thought when we started to put the programme together almost 18 months ago, the resonance that our opening festival performance from Replay Theatre Company, a piece set in the aftermath of a global pandemic, would have!



All that plus Cahoot's NI's brain-bamboozling interactive 'The University of Wonder and Imagination', Festival favourites like the Book Clinic from Children's Books Ireland and Baby Rave @ Home from Young at Art have been specially adapted for online audiences and Cherrie OnTop will read a selection of diversity and inclusion themed 'Dragtime Bedtime Stories' stories especially for under 5s.

Excited? So are we!!! **Check out our highlights video [here!](#)**

Performances will be hosted across a range of digital platforms including QFT Player and Zoom and all bookings can be made through our website or our Box Office which is open 10am -2pm Monday to Friday.

As always, we are pleased to be able to make the festival as accessible as possible, with many performances offered free of charge.

Check out our [digital brochure](#) and get in touch with our Box Office via boxoffice@youngatart.co.uk or call 028 90994425

Stay tuned to our social media channels for regular festival updates and performance previews!



In other news:

Children's Books Ireland are delighted to announce that the Junior Juries' scheme as part of the KPMG Children's Books Ireland Awards is now open for sign-up! Junior Juries is a unique free programme for schools, libraries and book clubs, designed to encourage reading for pleasure and appreciation for a wide variety of books for all ages.

Registration is completely free and you can indicate your interest in receiving books, having an artist/author online school visit in the form. **Register online [here](#)**

Team YAA

Safer Internet Day



Safer Internet Day 2021 was celebrated around the world on Tuesday 9th February 2021.

The global theme is 'together for a better internet' and this year in the UK we are putting the focus on how young people can tell fact from fiction, and work together to create an internet we trust.

Everyone has their part to play in making the internet a better place, including you!

Have a look at the following website for some top tips to keep your children safe online.

<https://www.saferinternet.org.uk/safer-internet-day/safer-internet-day-2021/safer-internet-day-2021-top-tips>

There are also resources and information on the Home Learning section of the school website.

Litter Less Campaign

#LITTERLESSTOGETHER

A call for all pupils across UK and Ireland to #LitterLessTogether! Wrigley Litter Less Campaign will temporarily move outside the school gates but you still have your chance to run the campaign while staying safe...HOW? TAKE ON ONE OF THESE 3 CHALLENGES AND BECOME A UK AND IRELAND HERO!

1. Poster challenge
What's your anti-litter message?

By drawing/painting/making a collage or any other art technique you might wish to use, share your anti-litter message by putting it up in your window - be creative and have fun!

Share with us by posting your message on Facebook, Instagram and/or Twitter using #LitterLessTogether and #LitterLesscampaign

2. Upcycling challenge

Have you ever used a plastic bottle as a bird feeder? What else can you reuse a plastic bottle for? Do you know of any other item that could be turned into something else useful?

Let us know by posting your creations on Facebook, Instagram and/or Twitter using #LitterLessTogether and #LitterLesscampaign

(Unfortunately plastic messes will not be accepted)

3. Litter Hunting Trail

Are you tired of all the long hours sitting in the house, looking at your screen? Are you planning to go for a walk with your parents and your dog? Or perhaps you just need a motivation to go outside?

Plan with your family a fun Litter Hunting Trail while out enjoying your walk and improving your skills as a photo reporter! How many items can you spot?

Get your phone or your mum's phone (ask for your parents help) and take one or more snapshots of all the litter items you will find along your walk.

Post your snapshot on Facebook, Instagram and/or Twitter using the hashtag #LitterLessTogether and #LitterLesscampaign

HOW TO SUBMIT YOUR ENTRY

Step 1: Upload your photo to Twitter, Instagram or Facebook, tag us @Eco_SchoolsUK @EcoNI and use both hashtags #LitterLessTogether #LitterLesscampaign

Step 2: Make sure to include your school name and town in your post

Feel free to copy the text below and fill in your school's details
"I'm from _____ School, in _____ and I'm helping to keep our community litter free!
#LitterLessTogether #LitterLesscampaign"

Step 3: Ask your friends and family to like and share your post!

There will be prizes for the best entered winners will be contacted by Eco-Schools via direct message.

AVAILABLE PRIZES AND CERTIFICATES FOR THE WINNERS OF EACH CHALLENGE

If you have not registered for the Litter Less Campaign in your country yet DO IT NOW!

Get in touch with Francesca and GOOD LUCK!
francesca.doolan@keepnorthernirelandbeautiful.org

Let's all do our best!

Exciting times, UK and Ireland have joined forces to create an alternative #LitterLessCampaign for all our pupils, families and teachers being at home to nominate the UK and Ireland Litter Hero 2021!

YOU CAN STILL PARTICIPATE AND BE ENTITLED TO RECEIVE FUNDING, PRIZES AND CERTIFICATES

How?

1. Take on one of the challenges described in the poster below and post a photo of your action on Facebook, Instagram and/or Twitter
2. Always use the hashtags #litterlesscampaign #litterlesstogether
3. Tag us on our Social Media
Instagram @eco.ni
Twitter @Eco-SchoolsNI
Facebook @EcoSchoolsNI

Have a look at the information in relation to the Litter Less Campaign in association with ECO schools N.I.

Choose one of the challenges mentioned in the poster and post a picture on Facebook, Instagram or Twitter using the correct hashtags as shown in the image.

The P.7 children can enter the following competition Young Reporter for the Environment. See the information on the following website:

<https://www.keepnorthernirelandbeautiful.org/cgi-bin/generic?instanceID=9#:~:text=Eco%2DHome-Young%20Reporters%20for%20the%20Environment,programme%20operates%20in%2035%20countries.>

P7 pupils participating in the Litter Less Campaign through YRE, have to take photos of the litter and waste they find when outside for a walk and send 2-4 photos of the litter found, just as they were young reporters presenting a photo reportage.

Parents should try to avoid taking photos of the kids touching the litter, but helping them in taking the photos of the litter.

Good luck.

Sustrans Fun and Challenges



Sustrans family 1K a day challenge –

https://www.ultrabritain.com/events/sustrans/family-1k-a-day?utm_source=Sustrans&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=11585151_4.2%20Week%204%20Outside%20In&utm_content=Challenge_button&dm_i=6EB,6WB5R,40158R,RPEQB,1

How does the virtual challenge work?

Once you've signed up, you'll have access to your family challenge dashboard complete with a motivational rainbow that gets more colourful as you progress.

You can add your own photos and comments and share your progress with friends and family. And when you've completed clocking up an impressive 1k-a-day for seven days, we'll send you:

- your own personalised family certificate
- and a 20% discount voucher to use in the [Sustrans Shop](#).

Would you like to take on the Sustrans family 1k-a-day challenge?

And the BIG PEDAL! Back for 2021

https://www.ultrabritain.com/events/sustrans/family-1k-a-day?utm_source=Sustrans&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=11585151_4.2%20Week%20%20Outside%20In&utm_content=Challenge_button&dm_i=6EB,6WB5R,40158R,RPEQB,1

Some of you may be very familiar with the Big Pedal, however because it did not go ahead as planned last year and with things looking uncertain moving forward we have decided to revamp the event to ensure it runs as smoothly as possible. More details to follow but registration is open now –

<https://bigpedal.org.uk/>

Information and the infosheet which should give a little insight into how they are planning on running things this year. will be found on the school website in the Home Learning section.

Best wishes,

Iain Sneddon

Active Travel Officer, Schools – South Central | Sustrans Northern Ireland

High Five Newsletter



It's time for another edition of HIGH FIVE! The newsletter produced by Primary Behaviour Support and Provisions, packed full of good ideas to inspire, support and challenge all our young people to be the best they can be. The content is based on Take 5 Steps to Wellbeing and links in with the updated SEN Resource file chapter; Working with the Whole Community to Understand, Nurture and Support Social Behaviour and Emotional Wellbeing (<https://www.education-ni.gov.uk/publications/resource-file-children-special-educational-needs>) In this edition we are thinking about being kind. When we are overwhelmed by things that are outside our control, a little bit of kindness from others can make all the difference. Kindness can be shown in the smallest of gestures, like doing a little job so someone else doesn't have to, or it can be something big, like raising money for a charity. Click on the link below to access this week's edition of HIGH FIVE: <https://www.eani.org.uk/publications/issue-18-primary-behaviour-support-provisionsnewsletter-high-five> Each new issue is posted to the C2K noticeboard and EA website as well as the EA twitter and Facebook accounts; please feel free to share or retweet these posts.

N.I. Water Primary School Initiatives

Northern Ireland Water - Primary School Initiatives

Due to lockdown, Northern Ireland Water's Education Team have not been able to complete their usual face to face visits and so they have created new virtual lessons and developed a number of resources for schools. Virtual lessons and resources can be accessed by emailing education@niwater.com. They are also giving away a free Waterbutt to any primary school that requests access to the virtual lessons and resources AND other water saving freebies. Read more [here](#).

They have also launched a schools poster competition with a focus on saving water and how much water we use every day. This competition is normally only open to entries via school but this year they have opened the competition up to pupils that are remotely learning. You can find out more about the competition via the relevant links below.

Link for teachers for poster competition entries being submitted via a school: [HERE](#)

Link for parents for poster competition entries being submitted via an individual not through their school: [HERE](#)



To launch new online learning resources and virtual water lessons for primary schools, NI Water is offering a free waterbutt for your school!

Available just in time to help support teachers and pupils during this current period of home learning, resources include virtual lessons exploring the Wonderful World of Water.

Anna Killen, Outreach and Learning Officer at NI Water explains **“Our educational classroom visits are always an extremely popular resource, visiting over 50,000 pupils per year. In order to continue this valuable resource during this lockdown period, we developed new ways to interact with pupils to ensure the valuable lessons covering water and the environment continues.**

“Our three new educational videos and accompanying follow up activities have been designed around the KS2 Curriculum and help teachers explore the topics of the water cycle, saving water and cleaning water in an informative and engaging way. The virtual lessons can be accessed by teachers by emailing education@niwater.com

“Once you have requested the virtual lessons, simply fill in our survey on what you thought to get a FREE waterbutt for your school.*

“Water is one of the most precious resources on earth and something we often take for granted. We turn on the tap without giving a second thought about how much water we are actually using but climate change, global warming and population growth are putting pressure on our water supply, even within Northern Ireland, a country where it always seems to rain.

To further inspire pupils to save water at home, we have free water saving devices available to order, pupils can request these (with a little help from parents) and have them delivered straight to their homes by simply visiting <https://www.savewatersavemoney.co.uk/>.

To find out more visit <https://www.niwater.com/resources-for-schools/>

Water Service Competition

“We use how much water?”

Competition

Instructions for Parents

1. Draw a poster highlighting how much water we use and the simple things we can all do to save water.
2. The competition is open to all KS2 aged pupils with a category for Special Needs.
3. Goody Bags for 1st, 2nd and 3rd place within P5, P6 and P7 age groups.
3. Posters can be drawn by hand or ICT.
4. Take a clear picture of the entry and email to education@niwater.com. Please include the pupils name, school and age group in the email
5. Entries should reach NI Water by 5pm Friday 7th May 2021.
6. Winning entries will be notified of the results in May 2021.
7. Current guidelines permitting prizes will be distributed at an Award Ceremony at NI Waters Wastewater Heritage Centre, Duncrue Street, Belfast the week commencing 7th June 2021.
8. Winners will be required to participate in publicity surrounding the competition.
9. We may wish to reproduce the winning submissions for promotional materials or publicity purposes.

‘We use how much water?’

Inspiration for Teachers

Watch our saving water video for handy hints and tips on saving water at home and school – email anna.killen@niwater.com to access the link.

Background Information:

Water, Water everywhere but can you drink it all

Water is something we all take for granted. We just turn on the tap and it appears but we don't often think of how much water we actually use.

Only around 1% of earth's water is fresh water suitable for us to drink and even then this must be collected and cleaned to make it safe for us to use.

In Northern Ireland we are very lucky we just have to turn on the tap to use clean, safe water and we often use a lot more than we think.

We don't measure how much we use each time and if are asked how much water we use a day we often have to guess.

NI Water clean around 585 million litres of water every day and we each use approximately 150 litres a day but much of this is wasted.

Climate change, global warming and increased populations have all put pressure on our water supplies so it is important that we work together to reduce the amount of water we waste to ensure a safe supply for the future.

Top tips for saving water

Bathroom

- ☑ Toilet flushing is very important and is one of the biggest uses of water. A larger handle flush cistern can use up to 9 litres to flush. Putting a Save a Flush Bag in these cisterns can save as much as 2 litres per flush.
- ☑ A smaller button flush cistern uses 6 litres per flush for the large button and 3 litres per flush for the small button. Always make sure you push the right button!
- ☑ Do you have a leaky loo? A leaky loo isn't always easy to spot but it can waste up to 400 litres per day!! To find out if your loo is leaking contact NI Water for your free leaky loo strip.
- ☑ Fix those drips- a dripping tap can waste approximately 15 litres of water per day – that's 5,500 litres per year or enough to fill up 5 ½ fire engines
- ☑ Have a short shower instead of a bath- A bath uses an average of 80 litres compared to a 35 litres for a 5 minute shower.
- ☑ Why not take our 4 minute shower challenge and reduce your water use even further, sing your favourite song or contact NI Water for your free 4 minute shower timer.
- ☑ Reducing your shower time by just 2 minutes can save around 100 litres of water a week, that's enough for 40 thirst quenching glasses of water.
- ☑ Do you remember to turn the tap off while brushing your teeth? Leaving the tap running while your brushing wastes 6 litres per minute so leaving it running for 2 minutes wastes 12 litres = 24 litres per day, 168 litres per week or 8736 per year.

Kitchen

- ☑ A washing machine uses approximately 60 litres of water so remember to fully load it. Did you know putting a full load in the washing machine instead of 2 half loads can save 80 litres of water?
- ☑ Fully load the dishwasher: A dishwasher uses about 40 litres of water and remember no need to rinse before putting into the dishwasher simply scrape any leftover into the food bin.
- ☑ Tap water is one of the healthiest refreshing drinks and it is important we keep well hydrated instead of letting the tap run to get cold water keep a jug of water in the fridge. Running the tap to get cold water can waste 3 litres of water each time. In the garden
- ☑ Using a hose for 15 minutes uses approximately 135 litres of water so when watering the plants use a watering can instead.
- ☑ Fill up your watering can using rain water collected in a waterbutt you could even use this water to wash the car.

☒ Power hoses can use as much as 500 litres of water in just 15 minutes that's enough water for a family of 4 for a full day! So wash the car with a bucket and sponge not a hose

Good luck with the competition

Ash Wednesday 17th February and the start of Lent



The Catholic Schools Service have provided schools with some information and resources in relation to Ash Wednesday and Lent. Please see the information below and the resources will be found in the Home Learning section of the school website.

Unfortunately, because of the pandemic, Ash Wednesday will be very different for the children as they will be unable to receive the Cross of Ashes on their forehead. To help the children reflect on this day, perhaps the teachers would like to use a prayer and art activity developed by the Derry Diocese – to be used in conjunction with the **DrawingGod.com** Boston resource materials by Karen Kiefer.

The Drawing God resources encourage children to take time on Ash Wednesday to remember that we are all made in God's image and likeness. However, sometimes we forget that and turn away from God, but the season of Lent helps us to turn again towards God through his Son Jesus.

Please find attached the Drawing God Lenten activities:

- Ash Wednesday Prayer & Art Activity (from the Derry Diocese)
 - 'Drawing God' Ash Wednesday Template
 - Stations of the Cross

YouTube Tutorial link <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=k9L9quhvDsU&feature=youtu.be>



[Drawing God Stations of the Cross LENT](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=...) We are sharing what the Drawing God Stations of the Cross project is all about. Enjoy!www.youtube.com

Your teachers may also find useful, the attached PDF resource file of Lenten materials from the **Society of Missionary Children** comprising the following:

- A Prayer Service for Ash Wednesday (17th February), marking the beginning of Lent
- A Lenten 'Calendar of Kindness' with activities to carry out each day
- Prayers and activities during Holy Week
- A Prayer Service for Easter Sunday (4th April)
- Society of Missionary Children's Easter colouring competition for pupils

Have a look at the school website for more NEWS and Home Learning Resources on <https://www.stjosephspsballycruttie.com/home/>

