

Newsletter

20th May 2019



Dates for Your Diary	
Election Day	Thursday 23 rd May
Bank Holiday Week-end	Friday 24 th – Tuesday 28 th May
P7 Residential Trip to Dublin	Thursday 30 th – Friday 31 st May
Sport's Day	Wednesday 12 th June

Please Note: The school will be closed from Thursday 23rd May to Tuesday 28th May, inclusive. This is a change to the previous holiday arrangement due to the European Election.



Congratulations to all the children and their parents who received **First Holy Communion** on Saturday 11th May in St Theresa's Church. Everyone took part beautifully and those who had an extra responsibility – reading and presenting gifts did so with great confidence and respect. Many of the boys and girls wore their special clothes into school on Monday morning for their assembly. Thank-you to Mrs McAleer and Fr Canning for all the preparation.



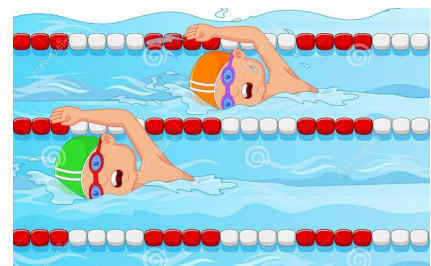
Netball – Congratulations to our Primary 6 netball team who won the local Strabane Schools Annual Netball Tournament, sponsored by The Fir Trees Hotel, on Friday afternoon. They beat a strong St Catherine's P.S. team in a tough and entertaining match. Heartiest congratulations to Abi Moore who was selected as Player of the Year.



Football – Best of luck to the boys and girls who will compete in the local Strabane Primary Schools Annual Tournament at Melvin Sports Centre on tomorrow, Tuesday 21st May for the Marty Gormley Cup.



Swimming Gala – Best of luck to Alice McKay, Abi Moore, Tiana Moore, Mia Callaghan, Conor McClintock and AN Other (to be confirmed) who will be representing the school in the annual Riversdale Swimming Gala on Thursday 30th May.



STEM Aware – Minecraft/Lego Celebration

Sion Mills Primary School hosted the STEM Aware Celebration of the Minecraft/Lego technology project that our Primary 5 pupils have taken part in under the guidance of Paul and Jackie from STEM Aware. Our school, along with St Theresa's, Glebe, St Eugene's, Victoria Bridge and St Columba's Clady have completed four sessions using problem solving skills to create a 3D plan of each respective school using Minecraft and solving challenges using Lego. We enjoyed seeing each other's work. A short video of the children's Minecraft creations is available on the school website. The rest of the session was taken up with Lego challenges that Jackie and Paul set up. As engineers the children reflected on - no matter how hard the challenge don't give up and learn from the things that didn't work out as expected. Congratulations to the team from St Eugene's who managed to build the tallest tower.

Tonight Primary 5 children will be bringing along their parents to a parent/child Lego challenge session which promises to be great fun as well as educational.



Spring Into Summer Fair

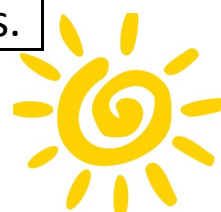
Friday evening, 17th May, saw our second **Spring into Summer Fair**. What a wonderful evening we had. The weather was fine, after a few unexpected showers and thanks to the dry spell the grounds were in a perfect condition for bouncy castles, football and just ambling about renewing friendships and having fun.

Sincerest thanks to everyone involved in the Summer Fair on Friday evening, the PTFA, staff, sponsors, parents, pupils and visitors. For quite a few weeks the PTFA have been planning, booking, visiting local businesses for sponsorship, checking weather apps, devising a Plan B (just-in-case!!), cajoling volunteers for stalls, gates or activities etc. We are very grateful to Jonny Martin, acting building supervisor for the preparations he has been carrying out that made Friday afternoon quite stress free. Photos from the night are available on the website and in the local papers. So whether you were a helper or brought your children and your purse/wallet along on the night we are deeply grateful for your generosity and the PTFA will ensure that the funds generated will be used for things that will support the children's experience at school.

A particular thanks to all the stall holders and volunteers including ONE GOAL and Masala Restaurant Strabane providing food and activities for everyone to enjoy. Special thanks to Michael Devine for the burgers, Violet Bailey and Trevor Wilson for manning the bbq as well as the Church of Ireland for loaning us the BBQ. See the school website for more photographs of the evening - www.sionmillsps.com



Spring into Summer GRAND RAFFLE	
Sponsor	Winner
Restaurant 1861 Meal Voucher	Casey Patton
Well Being Health and Beauty Spa - Voucher (Stress Relief)	Erin McAleese
Lloyds Hamper	Claire Dooher
DK Glass Designs—Crystal Etching	Noah Sheen
Nerf Gun	Zara Moore
Wall Print (Sliderobes)	Joanne Matthews
Bottle of Whiskey	Julie/Alex Begley
Box of Chocolates	Jake McDermott
We are massively grateful to our wonderful sponsors.	



Right of the Month for May is Article 30

Every child has the right to enjoy their own culture, use their own language and practise their own religion.



Mrs King's P4/5 Shared Education Trip

As part of their Shared Education topic with Strabane Primary School Mrs King's P4/5 class visited the Playtrail in Derry on Friday 10th May. The children took part in hands-on practical activities that help make their learning more memorable.