



Visit by
Minister for Education
Mr John O'Dowd MLA

Saint John's Primary School

26th November 2014





Why Saint John's Primary School?

Obviously we all think our own school is the greatest, but we thought the work that is going on in Saint John's is particularly special. We invited Minister John O'Dowd to help celebrate this work by visiting and seeing first-hand what's going on in Saint John's!

Why now?

Whilst the school is always striving for the best possible standards for the children, there are a number of projects which are enhancing or will enhance the experiences of the children.

Refurbishments

Thanks to the Minister's Department, St John's has recently had almost £200k refurbishment of toilets and related works developing a new storage area and Infant Entrance. This work was completed in mid-October. We hope to continue this work by refurbishing the front entrance in the near future.

Outdoor learning

Thanks to the National Lottery Awards for All Programme the school received £10,000 of funding to develop an Outdoor play area, an extensive play trail and with £5000 of funding from the wonderful St John's PTA the school was able to add a creative & eco area to rear of school alongside the new outdoor trail area. This work complements the foundation play area opened in 2009 and it is planned that the next phase will develop the play area for the infants at the front of the school.

Supporting families through learning

St John's in conjunction with Killowen PS and Kylemore Nursery successfully bid for funding to DSD for "Supporting families through learning" Project. This is supported by the West Bann Development Centre The Project creates a small Nurturing-style Unit in each of the two Primary Schools and strengthen links with Kylemore Nursery through a shared Transition worker. This Project attracted £140k of funding and we hope that the project will be extended.

Shared learning

St John's has a long tradition of genuine and purposeful shared education projects with Killowen PS (Y1-7). We benefit from successful bids for funding through the CRED and Integrated Education Fund PACT programmes to support annual community –based learning projects. This allows the two schools to come together through a variety of different learning experiences to promote our shared local history and to explore different cultures, identities and build lasting relationships within the community.

Launch of our website

The visit from the minister is also an opportunity for St John's to launch our new website. This will significantly enhance communication with home, community and beyond. We already have a very active and informative Twitter feed established last year

Visit www.stjohnspscoleraine.com

Follow us at @stjohncoleraine

#stjohnsiswhereitsat



Programme of events

Minister's tour of the school

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| Minister greeted by members of the school council, Principal Mr Kieran O'Neill & Chair of governors Mr Liam McQuillan |
| Tour of school begins – accompanied by school council members Opportunities throughout to see the recent refurbishments |
| Year 4: Fruit investigation |
| Year 5: Art activities |
| Outside to rear of school |
| Year 7: Gardening and opportunity to see new outdoor equipment sponsored by PTA/Awards for all |
| Year 6: Hurling/Camogie session assisted by coaches from Eoghan Rua GAC |
| Return to inside of school |
| Year 3: ICT in action including new iPads |
| Nurturing Centre |
| Year 2: Play – indoor/outdoor |
| Year 1: Structured play |
| Minister leads Year 1s into the hall where all other classes and guests have assembled |



Programme of events

Invited guests – Assembly hall

2.15-2.30

Showcase of musical talent in Saint John's

Instrumental performances from:

Beginner clarinets

Clarinet & flute ensemble

String ensemble

'cello duet

School choir

Tin whistle

All classes join the guests in the hall following their classroom visit from Minister O'Dowd

2.30-2.45

Welcome hymn and prayer

Greeting in English, Irish and Polish

Invitation for Minister to speak

Presentation of gift

Photo opportunity

2.45

Minister departs

Reception for guests in school dining hall

We would like to thank you sincerely for taking time to share in this very special occasion in the life of our great school.