

Principal:

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NOVEMBER 2023

SCHOOL CLOSURES

The school will close on **Thursday December 21st December at 12:00pm** for the **Christmas Holidays** and will **re-open on Thursday January 4th 2024**.

STRIKE ACTION

Due to the ongoing funding crisis in Education in Northern Ireland, EA has warned of Industrial Action notified by UNISON (non-teaching) in the form of a one day strike on Thursday 16th November. Following a Risk Assessment if this Strike goes ahead, St. Mary's P.S will be closed to pupils on this day Thursday 16th Nov.

SCHOOL TRIPS

P.6s - Ulster Museum in Belfast on Friday 17th November as part of their 'Vikings' topic.

P.4s - Florencecourt on Friday 10th Nov. as part of their 'Journey of Produce' topic.

P.3s - Enniskillen Museum on Friday 17th Nov. as part of their 'Toys' topic.

SCHOOL CHRISTMAS PRODUCTION

An important date for the Diary. Our school Christmas Production will return on **Tuesday 12th December at 7.30pm**. **The venue will be confirmed closer to the time**. P.3-P.7 children will participate in the Christmas Production. We will also have a matinee performance to help reduce the audience at the evening performance time tbc.

P.1 & P.2 children will have their own Nativity in St. Mary's Church on Tuesday **the 5th of December at 7pm**. More details will follow in December's Newsletter.

Tickets are £10 per family and £5 each for extended family e.g. Uncles/Aunts/Grandparents. Tickets will be on sale from 20th November from the school office and not on the night. The School Nativity is a great opportunity to help raise funds for our school and we sincerely thank you in advance for this. Due to our increased numbers we are asking parents not to bring P.1 & 2 children to the evening performance, they will see the Nativity during the matinee.

CUMANN NA mBUNSCOL - QUIZ - Good luck to the 4 P.7's who are representing the St. Mary's P.S Maguiresbridge in the Cumann na mBunscol county quiz in Holy Trinity Primary School on Tuesday the 28th of November.

PANTOMIME TRIP

The P.3 - P7 children will be travelling to the Opera House in Belfast to see 'Snow White' in Panto on **Thursday 7th December**. The cost of the panto trip per pupil is £20, to be paid in the office by the last week in November. On the same day or near that day the P.1 & P.2 children will go to the cinema in Enniskillen. The cost of the P.1 & 2 trip will be £10.

CHILDREN'S MASS

Canon Jimmy has invited us to participate in our monthly Children's Mass on Saturday 11th Nov. at 6pm in St. Mary's Church Maguiresbridge. The P.6 children will lead the liturgy, P.5 & 7 children will participate in the choir, P.1-P.3 children will be invited to the altar to show their work from their *Grow In Love* books and P.4 will bring their Holy Communion Candle.

CHARITY

P.3 - P.7 children were polled to decide which charity we would be raising money for this year and the charity which received the most votes was Cancer Connect. Our first Charity event will be a Christmas Raffle during December. Tickets will be available in school from **28th November** and cost **40p each or £1:50 per strip of 5**.

BREAKFAST CLUB

The breakfast club continues to run daily from 8am-8.45am at a cost of £2 per child. Prior booking is not necessary just send your child in and Rose will take the register. We are very pleased with the interest and participation in our Breakfast Club. Considering this sustained interest, the Breakfast Club will continue for the rest of the academic year.

SHARED EDUCATION

We are delighted to report that the Shared Education Programme, linking with our neighbouring school Maguiresbridge Primary School is back this year. During the month of November P.4 & P.5 from St. Mary's and P4 & 5 from MPS will be meeting for Shared learning Classes throughout the month.

ANTI-BULLYING WEEK

Monday 13th to Friday 18th of November is Anti-Bullying Week. The pupils and staff will be taking part in lots of activities, discussion and important surveys to mark this key week in the School's calendar. The theme of this year's Anti-Bullying Week is "Make A Noise About Bullying" Let's come together and REACH OUT to stop bullying."

SUSTRANS ACTIVE TRAVEL TO SCHOOL - ROAD SAFETY WEEK

Monday 20th to Friday 24th of November is Road Safety Week. The pupils and staff will be taking part in activities and discussions about keeping safe on the road.

We will be holding a **Ditch the Dark day** on **Friday 24th November** to raise awareness of the importance of 'Being Bright and Being Seen' on our roads. Pupils and staff will be encouraged to travel into school actively that morning and everyone will dress up as brightly as possible!

We would ask all those children who can to meet at the Church Car Park at 8.30am that morning. Staff will be present to lead the walk but parents are very welcome to join in. A text reminder will be sent out closer to the time.

Daily Mile 'Santa Run'

On **Friday 1st December** we will be participating in the Daily Mile 'Santa Run' where the children will wear something festive along with their PE uniform, we will meet at the Church Car Park at 8.30am to walk together as a whole school. Children will also walk/run the daily mile with their class in school.

FIVEMILETOWN NETBALL AND SOCCER TOURNAMENT

Congratulations to both our Girls' and Boys' Teams who competed in the recent competition. The competition is run on a league basis, boys are unbeaten and the girls are doing well also. We look forward to the final day of competition in Spring.

FLU VACCINE

The school Nurse will be in school on Tuesday the 14th of November to administer the seasonal flu vaccine. The vaccine will only be given to pupils whose parents have given written permission which has already been distributed.

CHRISTMAS DINNER

We will have Christmas Dinner on **Wednesday 6th December**, this is available to all pupils at a cost of £2:60. Please let the school office know by **Monday the 5th of December** if your child is taking dinners that day.

LISNASKEA FEIS

Well done to all the children who took part in the recent Lisnaskea Feis. The children did brilliantly, achieving many medals and certificates across English Verse Speaking, Art, Handwriting and Own Poetry.

We also received the wonderful news that the school received the Paddy and Josie Mc Gorman Perpetual Cup for Best School Overall in Verse and the Quinn Perpetual Cup for Best Overall School in Handwriting.

Thanks to all the parents who took the time to take their children to the Feis and represent the school in a local competition and St. Mary's staff to help prepare the children. A word of thanks to all the volunteers who organised the Lisnaskea Feis which the children greatly enjoy participating in every year.