

Principal:
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Seasons Greetings



December 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**.

OUTDOOR PLAY EQUIPMENT

The outdoor play equipment will be dismantled and removed during the month of December as it is no longer safe for the children to play on. Some or all of the wood on each piece of equipment is rotting. We hope to raise enough funds through our recently formed PTA to replace the equipment soon.

ST. MARY'S P.S PTA

The PTA have organised a street collection in Lisnaskea and Maguiresbridge on Saturday the 9th of December. We are asking parents to please give an hour of their time on that day to help with the collection. Contact Shauna Nixon-King on 07746145031 to sign up.

ST. KEVIN'S COLLEGE PRESENTS 9- 5 THE MUSICAL

The P.5 - P.7 children have been invited to attend the matinee performance of St. Kevin's 9 - 5 the Musical on Tuesday the 5th December at 11am.

ST. MARY'S OPEN DAY FOR P.1 BY APPOINTMENT

Open Day for children who are due to commence Primary School in September 2024 will take place on Tuesday 19th December, call the school to make an appointment or to arrange an alternative time to visit. Open Day appointments are for those families who have not visited St. Mary's before and do not have children already in St. Mary's P.S

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 asap if your child is taking Christmas Dinner. Children are encouraged to wear no uniform but Christmas Jumpers or Christmas Colours on Christmas dinner day.

P.1 & P.2 CINEMA TRIP

The P.1 & 2 children will be travelling to the cinema on Thursday the 7th of December to see Film to be confirmed, cost £10. The children will be back in school for 12.30pm.

SCHOOL CHRISTMAS PRODUCTION

Our school Christmas Nativity 'Straw and Order' involving P.3 - P.7 children will take place on **Wednesday 13th December at 7.30pm in St. Mary's Parish Hall.**

Matinee will be on **11am** on Wednesday the 13th of December.

P.1 & P.2 children will have their own Nativity in St. Mary's Church on Tuesday the 5th of December at 7pm. **Tickets for each show are £10 per family and £5 each for extended family e.g. Uncles/Aunts/Grandparents. Tickets on sale 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.

The children now know what part they have in the School Nativities, we would ask parents to source their own child's costume as best they can.

There will **NOT** be an official recording of any of the school nativities this year.

REMINDER:

The children will be walking to the St. Mary's Church (P.1 & P.2) or St. Mary's Hall (P.3 - P.7) most days up to the day of the children's performance, it is very important that children have a coat with them to school every day during December.

Pantomime Trip

The P.3 - P7 children will be travelling to the Opera House in Belfast to see 'Snow White' in Pantomime on **Thursday 7th December.** The cost of the panto trip per pupil is £20.

Children's Mass

Canon Jimmy has invited us to participate in the monthly Children's Mass on Saturday 9th December at 6pm in St. Mary's Church Maguiresbridge. The P.5 children will lead the liturgy, P.6 & 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.

Sustrans Active Travel To School

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.

From **Monday 4th December to Fri 15th December** we will be participating in the 'Journey to Santa' challenge where pupils compete to see who can carry out the most school journeys actively, in the run-up to Christmas. This can be all or part of the journey (eg. Park and ride/stride where you drive some of the way and park up, then cycle/walk/scoot the rest into school - ideal for families who live far away from school). Pupils receive one stamp for a morning journey and one for an afternoon journey. If a parent walks or cycles with them, they receive an extra stamp. We understand cycling or walking to school is not possible for every family and there will still

be opportunities for your children to participate in other aspects of the Active Travel programme throughout the year.

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 and cost **40p each or £1:50 per strip of 5.**

P1 ADMISSION SEPTEMBER 2024

Details for next year's P.1 enrolment will be available on the Education Authority Website on the 12th of December. www.eani.org.uk/parents/admissions

Key dates to remember; applications are to be completed online via the admissions portal which goes live on **Tuesday the 9th January at 12pm** and closes **on Friday the 26th of January at 12pm**. Any admission request after this will be considered late and must be a paper application.

Take care to read our admissions criteria as we were over subscribed last year and it is important to address the admissions criteria when applying for a place in St. Mary's.

Please feel free to contact Mr. Prunty at school by phone or email before the closing date in January if you have any queries.

MRS LECKY MOVING ON

We would like to wish Mrs Lecky who has been teaching P.1, P.3 and P.7 all the best as she starts a new teaching post much closer to home on Monday the 11th of Dec. Miss Enya Maguire will be replacing Mrs Lecky.

SCHOOL SWIMMING PROGRAMME

The School Swimming program begins this year for P.6 & 7 on Tuesday the 9th of January. All of the P.7 class will go each week along with half of the P.6 class who will alternate each week. Similar to previous years we have booked the hall to play Netball and Soccer before the swim. The cost per pupil is £4 each Tuesday. Pupils wear PE gear into school and swimming gear to change into. P.6 & P7 will have their lunch/dinner earlier on these days as we will be leaving school at 12.30pm. Pupils are asked not to bring any money as they will not be permitted to use the vending machines.

*The Staff would like to wish you all
a very Happy and Peaceful Christmas and Prosperous New Year.*

