

Principal:

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## **JANUARY 2024**

*Welcome back everyone and wishing you all a very Happy and Healthy New Year.*

### **Possible Strike Action**

Due to the ongoing funding crisis in Education in Northern Ireland with cuts to staff pay, and lack of funding for schools causing a crisis in education, teaching unions and non-teaching staff unions are taking strike action on **Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> of January**. If this strike goes ahead, school will be closed for pupils on this day. Further details will be communicated when these are known.

### **PTA street collection**

A huge thanks to all the people who supported our first PTA fundraiser during our street collection in Lisnaskea on probably the stormiest day of the year. Thank you to all those brave souls who stood out in the wind and rain. Coupled with the collection at the door at our School Nativity we raised in total £2266 and €293. Which is fantastic. A great start to our efforts in raising enough money to replace our outdoor play equipment.

### **Christmas Raffle**

Our Christmas Raffle was a great success too. Thank you all so much for your generosity. £600 was raised for our chosen charity this year, Cancer Charity. We hope to build on this £600 with another Charity fundraiser at Easter.

### **SCHOOL SWIMMING PROGRAMME**

The School Swimming program begins this year for P.6 & 7 on Tuesday the 9<sup>th</sup> of January. We have been able to secure half of the hall for netball and half for soccer which we will use before we go swimming. The cost per pupil is £4 each Tuesday. Pupils wear PE gear into school and bring their swimming gear to change into. P.6 & P.7 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.

### **P1 ADMISSION SEPTEMBER 2024**

Details for next year's P.1 enrolment will be available on the Education Authority Website [www.eani.org.uk/parents/admissions](http://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 9<sup>th</sup> January at 12pm** and closes **on Friday the 26<sup>th</sup> 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.

### **School Trip**

P.4 children will be travelling to the Armagh Planetarium on Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> January as part of their topic on 'Space'.

P.6 children will be travelling to Enniskillen to participate in a Pollinators and Diversity workshop as part of the Ecosystems topic work

### **P.7 Parents - Post Primary Admission Process**

All Post Primary Admissions Criteria will be available online on Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> January 2024. We will text an electronic link to all P.7 Parents/Guardians in the coming weeks which will include key information applying for a place in Post Primary.

Online applications will open at **12noon on Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> January 2024** and will close at **12pm Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> February 2024**.

### **Primary 6 Parents**

There will be a meeting on **Tuesday the 16<sup>th</sup> of January** in the dining hall at 5pm for parents of Primary 6 children who are considering doing the Transfer Test in November 2024. The purpose of this meeting will be for Mr. Prunty to answer questions and discuss the plans we will have in place to support the children. The meeting is expected to last no longer than 1 hour.

### **Coaching Arrangements for Term 2 starting from week beginning 11<sup>th</sup> January**

Keith Reilly will coach P.7 children Hurling for the first 5 weeks of this term on Thursday mornings. Children come to school in their PE uniform on these days and always bring a coat.

P.5 & P.6 classes will have PE with their teacher on Thursdays so will need to wear in PE gear.

### **Cumann na mBunscol**

#### **P.6 & P.7 Boys & Girls Indoor Hurling/Camogie Blitz and Gaelic Blitz**

Good luck to all the boys and Girls who will compete in the Hurling and Camogie Blitz on Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> January in the Castle Park Centre at 10am and the Gaelic Football Blitz on Wednesday the 31<sup>st</sup> of January.

### **Netball Blitz**

Good luck to all the P.6 & 7 girls participating in a Netball blitz in St. Fanchea's College on Friday 19<sup>th</sup> of January.

### **Catholic School's Week**

**21<sup>st</sup> to 28<sup>th</sup> of January** is Catholic School's Week 2024. The theme this year is, "Catholic Schools, communities of service." The children will be engaged in a variety of lessons and activities throughout the week to mark the occasion.

### **Sacramental Dates**

#### **P.4 Class**

**First Confession**: St. Mary's Church on **Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> March 7pm**

**First Communion**: St. Mary's Church, on **Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> May 11:00am**.

#### **P.7 Class**

**Confirmation Enrolment**: Holy Cross Church **Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> January 11am**

**Service of Light**: Holy Cross Church **Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> March 7pm**

**Pledge Sunday**: St. Mary's Church **Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> May 6pm**

**Confirmation**: Holy Cross Church **Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> April 3pm**.

### **Children's Mass**

Canon Jimmy has invited us to participate in our first Children's Mass of 2024 on Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> Feb. at 6pm in St. Mary's Church Maguiresbridge. The P.4 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.

### **Staffing Matters**

We would like to welcome Miss Enya Maguire who will be in the P.4 class every Wednesday to allow Ms Gordon complete SENCo work, the P.6 & P.7 class on Mondays and Thursdays for Principal release and P.1 class on Fridays to cover Mrs O Hanlon.

We would like to welcome student teachers Miss Ciara Wilson (P.1) and Miss Aoife Mulligan (P.6) to St. Mary's this month and wish them well on their Teaching Practice here.

### **P.7 - P.2 Book Buddies**

We will be continuing with the Book Buddies programme again this year with the P.7's and 2's. The programme involves P.7's pairing with P.2 pupils and reading to them one to one on Friday afternoons. The key aims of the programme are to develop a love of books, model good reading habits and further encourage reliability and responsibility among the older children.

### **Bring and Buy Sale**

Our school Eco Committee have suggested running a Bring and Buy sale on Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> of February in aid of School Funds. Items which could be donated are:

- Football Jerseys
- Books
- Magazines
- Unwanted Gifts – Games/Puzzles/Toys
- Jewellery

All items donated must be in good working order and in good condition. Items can be left in the school foyer at any time until the day of the sale.

### **Language Classes**

Mandarin Classes will continue this term for P.5-P.7 on Wednesday mornings.

Irish class, in collaboration with St. Mary's GAC we have secured 6 weeks of Irish Language classes for P.6 & 7 beginning on Monday the 29<sup>th</sup> January.

### **Musical Pathways P1-P4 £10 per term, per child**

### **Money**

Any money being paid into the school must be placed in an envelope with the name of the child/ren on the envelope and an explanation for what the money is for. All Money should be sent into school at the beginning of each week please.