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Principal:

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FEBRUARY 2024 NEWSLETTER

School Closures:

The school will be closed on **Monday 12th to Friday 16th February inclusive** for Midterm Break.

Children's Mass

Our Children's Mass will return this year on Saturday 3rd February at 6pm in St. Mary's Church Maguiresbridge. The P.4 children will lead the liturgy, P.5 - P.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.

Catholic School's Week:

We hope all our Grandparents enjoyed the many gifts, letters and momentos of love they received during the week. The P.1 & P.2 children greatly enjoyed the "Stay and Play" time with their grandparents and the P.6 & P.7 children loved making St. Brigid's crosses with their Grandparents.

Indoor Soccer

Congratulations to the P.6 & 7 boys who participated in the County Indoor Soccer Finals, conceding only one goal in the whole tournament and beating Jones Memorial in the final.

Netball

Congratulations to our P.6 & 7 Netball team who participated in a recently held Netball NI netball competition in St. Fanchea's secondary school. The girls performed brilliantly, losing only one match the whole day by the slenderest of margins.

Cumann na mBunscol

Congratulations to the boys and girls who participated in the Indoor Finals in January. Both girls' and boys' teams were unbeaten the whole tournament and now progress to the County Finals in the Lakeland Forum on the 6th March.

Quiz Good luck to the Finn, Jude, Colum and Joe who are representing St. Mary's in the Ulster Final of the Cumann na mBunscol quiz in the Cavan Crystal Hotel on Tuesday the 5th of March.

Sacramental Dates

P.4 Class

Holy Communion Enrolment Ceremony: St. Mary's Church on **Saturday 2nd March 6pm**

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

P.7 Class

Service of Light: Holy Cross Church **Wednesday 20th March 7pm**

Chrism Mass: St. Macartan's Cathedral Monaghan **Thursday 28th March** - school trip.

Holy Thursday Mass

The Confirmation Class will be attending the special Chrism Mass in Monaghan Cathedral on Holy Thursday the 28th of March. Bishop Larry Duffy will be celebrating the mass. We will leave school at 9.45am and return at 3pm approximately, the children will get treated to Mc Donald's for their lunch on the way home.

P.7 Parents - Post Primary Admission Process

Online applications opened at 12noon on Tuesday 30th January 2024 and will close at 12pm Thursday 22nd February 2024.

World Book Day:

We will celebrate World Book Day on Friday 8th March. We would like your child to dress up as a character from a Book to mark the occasion. We expect this to be a fun day for all, using clothes they have at home. Teachers will provide the children with ideas in class. Prizes (book vouchers) will be given for the best dressed in each class.

Safer Internet Day

All of the classes will be recognising the importance of safe use of the Internet on Tuesday the 6th of February, through practical lessons and workshops in class.

Primary 6 Parents:

Mr Prunty will be running a Primary 6 Homework club beginning on Monday the 19th of February. Children should be picked up from school at 4.30pm. If parents have any questions please don't hesitate to contact Mr. Prunty.

Shared Education Programme

The Shared Education Programme continues this term with all classes involved in Shared Lessons with our partner school Maguiresbridge.

St. Mary's University College Student

We would like to welcome Miss Ciara Wilson (P.1) and Miss Aoife Mulligan (P.6) who will be completing their Teaching Practice in St. Mary's over the next number of months.

Fruity Fridays in February funded by Fermanagh and Omagh District Council.

On the next three Fridays - 2nd February, 9th February and 23rd February we will be serving fresh fruit at break time to all pupils for FREE. This is to encourage children to have a healthy snack at breaktime. This project is funded by Fermanagh and Omagh District Council as part of their initiative to help alleviate food insecurity for pupils.

Ramp Up The Red Day

On Friday 23rd February we will hold a Ramp Up the Red Day in aid of our Eco-School funds. We ask that your child wears something red to school that day and donates £1. The Eco-Committee and staff will be organising various healthy 'red' activities for the children on the day, including healthy red smoothies, skipathon etc.

Bring and Buy Sale

Our school Eco Committee have suggested running a Bring and Buy sale on Thursday 8th 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.

Autism NI Superhero Week

As a school we will be participating in Autism NI Superheroes week from the 5th Feb - 9th Feb. The aim of the initiative is to help raise awareness of autism in schools and homes across Northern Ireland. To mark the event, children will be doing various activities/tasks throughout the week to raise awareness and increase their understanding of Autism. The week will culminate on Friday 9th of Feb where the children can come into school dressed as a superhero or instead the children can wear bright colours to mark the occasion and show diversity.

Children's Mental Health Week

This year Children's Mental Health Week is on 5th-9th February. The theme is **My Voice Matters**, we're encouraging children to connect with others in healthy, rewarding and meaningful ways. In class children will be doing various activities/tasks throughout the week to raise awareness of what it means to 'be connected'.