

Principal:  
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## **OCTOBER 2023**

### **School Closures**

The school will be closed to pupils for 1 week from **Monday 30<sup>th</sup> October to Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> November inclusive**. School will re-open for pupils on Monday the 6<sup>th</sup> November.

### **Roots of Empathy**

During this year, Mrs O Hanlon will be leading an exciting new initiative in St. Mary's called Roots of Empathy. "Roots of Empathy is an internationally recognised programme. The programme centres on a baby visiting the classroom with her parent throughout a school year. The class ( P.6) follow the baby's milestones and development over the year during which a trained instructor (Mrs O'Hanlon) encourages pupils to observe the connected relationship between the baby and their parent. The pupils learn and understand empathy from this process as they reflect on their own feelings and those of others. This 'emotional literacy' lays the foundations for more safe and caring classrooms as it enables pupils to become more socially and emotionally aware." The P.6 class will be participating in the programme this year. We would sincerely like to thank Stephanie Rice and baby Zara for participating.

### **Parent Governor**

Our Parent Governor position is currently vacant on our School Board of Governors, visit our website to download the nomination form. Submissions to be emailed or returned to school by Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> October.

### **SCHOOL CHRISTMAS PRODUCTION**

An important date for the Diary. Our school Christmas Production will return on **Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> December at 7.30pm**. **The venue will be confirmed closer to the time**. P.3-P.7 children will participate in the Christmas Production. P.1 & P.2 children will have their own Nativity in St. Mary's Church on Tuesday the 5<sup>th</sup> of December at 7pm. More details will follow in subsequent Newsletters.

### **Parent Teacher Meetings**

Your class teacher will be in touch with you during the month to arrange your PT meeting. We would ask that you try and make the appointment given as it is very challenging to rearrange appointments.

### **P.3 & P.4 Testing**

Children in P.3 and P.4 will be doing online CAT tests during the start of October. These tests assess the children's all round ability and cannot be prepared for. We are doing them now in October to reduce the demand for devices in May when all classes are doing summative testing in Literacy and Numeracy.

### **School Photographer**

The School Photographer will visit the school on Monday the 9<sup>th</sup> of October. This is the only visit the photographer will make this academic year. P.1, P.4 & P.7 classes will get individual photographs all other classes let the teacher/office know if you wish an individual pic of your child. Let the office know if you want a family.

### **Children's Mass**

Canon Jimmy has invited us to participate in our first monthly Children's Mass of the new school year on Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> October at 6pm in St. Mary's Church Maguiresbridge. The P.7 children will lead the liturgy, P.5 & 6 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.

### **Sacramental Preparation**

We are waiting dates for key Sacramental Dates this year, when these are known, parents will be informed immediately.

As part of their Sacramental preparations the P.4 class will visit St. Mary's Church each month to sit in quiet prayerfulness with God as well as recognising key features of the church.

**P.7 Transfer Club** - P.7's transfer Club continues on Tuesdays and Thursdays 3pm - 4.30pm in Mr Prunty's room.

### **School Trips**

P.7's will be going to Enniskillen Castle on Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> October as part of their WW2 topic.

P.7's will be going to Share Holiday Village on Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> October for an Eco Convention.

### **Dogs Trust**

We will welcome Paula Mulgrew (Dogs Trust) to school on Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> and Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> October to present to each class age appropriate advice and guidance in how best to care for their pet dogs and advice and guidance when near strange dogs.

### **Fivemiletown College Soccer and Netball Competition**

The P.6-7 boys' Soccer and P.5-7 Girls' Netball teams will be travelling to Fivemiletown College to compete in their respective tournaments on Thursday the 19<sup>th</sup> of October. Good Luck!

### **Shared Education**

We are delighted to report that the Shared Education Programme, linking with our neighbouring school Maguiresbridge Primary School is back this year. Despite massive funding cuts to the programme both schools recognise the value to the local community of maintaining close links between schools. All the pupils in our school will be involved again this year.

The key difference this year to affected by funding cuts is that children will walk between schools, there is no funding for transport also any trips the children go on will need to be funded by parents.

### **Violin Lessons**

Lessons continues this year with Miss Brenda Mc Aleer on **Thursdays**.

**Pantomime Trip** - The P.3 - P7 children will be travelling to the Opera House in Belfast to see 'Snow White' in Pantomime on **Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> December**. On the same day P.1 & P.2 children will go to the

cinema in Enniskillen. The cost of the panto trip per pupil is £20, to be paid in the office by the second week in November.

**Lisnaskea Feis-** Lisnaskea Feis returns again this year. This is an excellent opportunity to promote the performing arts and allow our children to shine in a public setting. The Verse Section of the Lisnaskea Feis will take place in **St Ronan's Parish Centre, Lisnaskea**, on **Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> October**. P1- P3 at 9am and P4 - P7 at 1:30pm. Visit [www.lisnaskeafeis.org](http://www.lisnaskeafeis.org) for more information.

**Closing Date for entries and money Friday 6<sup>th</sup> October**

### **Halloween Dress Up**

To celebrate Hallowe'en, the children are encouraged to dress up in **Hallowe'en costume** on Friday the 27<sup>th</sup> of October. We ask parents to be conscious of the younger children in our school community so costumes should not be too scary. **All clown Costumes are not permitted.**

### **Mandarin Classes**

Mandarin classes will begin again for P.5-P.7 on Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> October. The classes are delivered by an exchange student from China, facilitated through the South West College. The teacher will spend 30-40mins in each class.

### **Foundation Fun (from 2pm -3pm) P1 - P2**

The cost is **£2 per child per day**. Any profit made from this after school provision will be used to for school resources.

### **Breakfast Club**

There is a Breakfast Club available daily in the school dining hall from 8am-8.45am, cost **£2 per child per day**.

### **School Council**

We would like to congratulate the following pupils on being elected to our School Council.

P.7 - Jude Mc Coy & Colum Mc Guigan P.6 - Thomas Curry P.5 - Ayman Valley P.4 - Ellie Mc Manus  
P.3 - Emily Owens

### **Eco-Council**

We would like to congratulate the following pupils on being elected to our Eco-Council.

P.7 - Joe Bannon & Finn Mc Evoy P.6 - Barry Og Mc Manus & Fionn Collins P.5 - Evie O Reilly & Fintan Leonard P.4 - Saorlaith Mc Manus & Orla Green P.3 - Alice Creevy & Daisy Murphy

### **Gaelic Football**

Gaelic Football for P.4 - P.7 continues on Thursdays with Keith Reilly through Fermanagh County Board. Thank you Keith.

Gaelic Football for P.1 - P.3 is running during the month of October facilitated by St. Mary's GFC. We would like to thank David Gavin and Barry Rice for giving their time freely to coach in the school.

### **Maths Week**

We will be marking Maths Week 2023 during the week of 13<sup>th</sup> Oct - 21<sup>st</sup> Oct with lots of fun Numeracy activities in class and outside. Keep an eye on the school website for pics.