

St. Mary's Primary School Cabragh

10 Whites Road, Cabragh, Dungannon, Co. Tyrone, BT70 3AN

Telephone: (028) 8776 7356

Principal: Mrs Louise Quinn



30th November 2023

December Newsletter

Dear Parent/Guardian,

Please find below some important information for your attention.

Christmas Holidays

School will close **half day on Thursday 21st December 2023**. Children should be collected at **11:00 am sharp**. School will be closed 22nd December 2023 - January 3rd 2024 inclusive. School will re-open on Thursday 4th January 2024.

Open Afternoon - Primary One Admissions September 2024

The Primary One online admissions portal on the EA website will open at 12 noon on Tuesday 09 January 2024 and close at 12 noon on Friday 26 January 2024 for applications for the academic year commencing September 2024.

PLEASE NOTE- The process for admissions to a primary school in Northern Ireland has changed and parents must now apply online via the Education Authority website www.eani.org.uk/admissions. Further information is available on the EA website.

<https://www.eani.org.uk/parents/admissions/primary-admissions-guide>

We would like to invite our prospective parents and children to our Open Afternoon on **Wednesday 6th December 2023 from 3pm - 4pm in St Mary's Primary School**.

The Principal's address is at 3:00pm in the Assembly Hall. Parents and children will have the opportunity to listen to our school choir perform, meet our school staff, and view our wonderful school.

Christmas Dinner & Christmas Jumper Day

The children will have their Christmas Dinner on **Wednesday 6th December 2023**. Dinner can be booked as normal on School Money. The children may wear their Christmas jumpers to school on this day.

Primary 4

All P4 children and their parents are warmly invited to **7.00 pm Mass in St Joseph's Church, Ackinduff on Saturday 9th December** in preparation for Christmas. Some of the children will be involved in the Offertory Procession and Prayers of the Faithful.

Christmas Concert

The St Mary's Christmas Concert will take place on **Wednesday 13th December at 7:00 pm sharp in the Community Centre**.

- (1) The Primary 1 & 2 children will perform some Christmas songs.
- (2) P3 & P4 will perform the play "Prickly Hay"
- (3) P5,6 & 7 will perform "No One Wraps Like An Elf"

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Primary 2 Trip to St Ciaran's College, Ballygawley

The P2 children will travel to St Ciaran's College, Ballygawley on **Friday 8th December** to take part in some fundamental Christmas themed activities. The children should wear their PE uniform on Friday 8th December. The children will be back in school for dinner time.

P1 & P2 Christmas Trip

P1 and P2 will visit the Navan Centre on **Tuesday 12th December 2023** for 'The Snowman who refused to melt' performance. **The cost is £18** and should be paid via School Money. The children may wear their own clothes. The children will be back in school for 12:30pm and will go to the second dinner sitting.

P3 & P4 Christmas Trip

P3 and P4 will visit the Market Place Theatre on **Tuesday 19th December 2023** for the 'Aladdin' performance. **The cost is £15** and should be paid via School Money. The children may wear their own clothes. The children will be back in school for 1.45 pm and will get their lunch back in school. All children in P3 & P4 should **bring a packed lunch** to school on **Tuesday 19th December 2023** as they will not be back in time for school dinners.

P5, P6 & P7 Christmas Trip

P5, P6 & P7 will visit the Grand Opera House, Belfast on **Tuesday 5th December 2023** for the 'Snow White' performance. **The cost is £21.00** and should be paid via School Money. The children may wear their own clothes. The children will leave school at 11:45 and will get their lunch/dinner in school before departure. The children will be back to the Community Centre at approximately 5:00 pm. Parents will need to pick up their children at the Community Centre at 5:00 pm. (This arrangement is to avoid traffic congestion on the Whites Road.)

P5 Afterschool Art Club

The P5 Afterschool Art Club for Primary 5 will continue for 2 more weeks in December (**Tuesday 12th December and Tuesday 19th December, 2:45 – 3:45 pm**). We successfully applied for funding from the Extended School's initiative for this club so there will be no charge. The Art Afterschool will be led by a specialist Art teacher, Mrs Karina Avena (Aveka Art).

Library Van

The Library Van will be in school on **Wednesday 13th December**. The children in P4-P7 should bring their library books to school on this day.

Pyjama Day & Hot Chocolate Day

We are holding a Pyjama & Hot Chocolate Day on **Monday 18th December 2023**. The children may wear their pyjamas to school to help raise money for **Mary's Meals**. The important work of this charity means that more than 2.4 million hungry children receive a nutritious meal every school day. It costs just £19.15 to feed a child with Mary's Meals every day for a full school year. So, your donations really can transform the lives of desperately hungry children, filling their empty stomachs and giving them the energy to learn. This fundraiser for Mary's Meals, will help to make a lasting difference to the lives of children in some of the world's poorest communities. The **£2** charity donation may be paid via the School Money App.

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Swimming

Swimming lessons for **Primary 5** continue in December. The dates for swimming lessons for P5 are, **1st December, 8th December and 15th December**. Swimming lessons are compulsory and part of our Physical Education Curriculum. Children with long hair **must** wear a **swimming cap**. All children must wear **goggles**. The children should wear their PE uniform into school on swimming days (Friday).

Multi-Sport/Basketball Afterschool Club

The Multi-Sport Afterschool continues for **Primary 5 pupils on 4th December, 11th December and 18th December**. P5 children should bring their PE gear to school in a bag on these dates. The children will be permitted to change at home-time. The children should be collected at 3:45 pm sharp.

Friends of Cabragh AGM

The 'Friends of Cabragh', Parent Support Group, held their AGM on **Monday 27th November** in St Mary's Primary School. We would like to extend a warm welcome to the new members. A huge thank you to The Friends of Cabragh who support the work of the school through the provision of fantastic resources and 'enriching opportunities' for all our pupils.

First Confessions- Primary 4

First Confession will take place on **Tuesday 5th March 2024** at 7.00 pm in Church of the Assumption, Tullyallen.

Confirmation- Primary 7

Confirmation will take place on **Thursday 2nd May 2024** at 5.00 pm in Church of the Assumption, Tullyallen.

First Holy Communion- Primary 4

First Holy Communion will take place on **Saturday 18th May 2024** at 11.00 am in Church of the Assumption, Tullyallen.

Accelerated Reader

As you are aware, your child was set an individual AR (Accelerated Reader) target in September. The targets that are set for each child depend on two factors, the result of a Star Reading Test that each child sits at the start of the term and the teacher's estimation of the amount of time the child is likely to read each day.

After the Star Reading Test is taken, the children are awarded particular levels for their reading books. This is called their ZPD. The Accelerated Reading Program has determined that the child should read and take quizzes within these levels. It is so important that your child uses this fantastic resource for reading, to improve fluency and comprehension skills. The end date for this term's target is **Friday 15th December 2023**.

Please encourage your child to keep reading and taking AR quizzes to ensure he/she reaches 100% by **15th December 2023**. Prizes will be awarded to those children who reach their target.

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As parents, you can ensure that your child gets the most out of the program by reading regularly and consistently and asking the children questions about the book they are reading. Make sure to ask your child about the scores they are achieving in the quizzes.

You can access books for Accelerated Reader via

- **Dungannon Library-** They have created a section for Accelerated Reader books.
- **The Libby App-** <https://www.librariesni.org.uk/browse-read/libby/>
- **Oxford Owl-** <https://www.oxfordowl.co.uk/for-home/find-a-book/library-page/>
If you buy books you can use the 'AR Bookfinder' www.arbookfind.co.uk to ensure that your child is reading at the correct ZPD.

Mathletics (P3-7)

We encourage all the children to continue working hard on Mathletics this month. Mathletics is an online learning platform that engages pupils through challenges and rewards. Linked to the National Curriculum, Mathletics supports children as they develop confidence in mathematics and allows them to practise key skills in a wide range of areas.

It is designed to provide pupils with a captivating and safe learning experience which combines targeted and adaptive curriculum content, structured and interactive support, with engaging games and rewards.

Please do not hesitate to contact the school if you have any questions regarding any of the above.

Kind regards,

Louise Quinn