

# St. Mary's Primary School Cabragh

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

Telephone: (028) 8776 7356

Principal: Mrs Louise Quinn



4<sup>th</sup> January 2024

## January Newsletter

Dear Parent/Guardian,

I hope you all had a lovely Christmas. It is hard to believe that we are now into Term 2. I would like to take this opportunity to thank all our parents for working so closely alongside the staff of St. Mary's during Term 1. It is with sincere gratitude and appreciation that I thank you for your fantastic support and commitment to supporting your child's learning.

The emotional health and wellbeing of all our pupils is a key priority in St. Mary's. With this in mind, we will be offering a wide range of fun activities in Term 2 to support the children's physical and mental health, both during school and after school.

Please see below for important dates in January and details of the wide range of fun activities planned for this term.

### **REIM Coding Workshops- P6 & P7**

St Mary's has secured funding for Coding workshops in P6 and P7. These workshops will be delivered by REIM on the following dates. Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> January, Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> January, Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> January and Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> January. This initiative is funded by Extended Schools, so there will be **no charge**

### **St Ciaran's College Afterschool Clubs (P7)**

We have partnered with St Ciaran's College, Ballygawley, to provide a Technology Club, Art Club and Gymnastics Club on Tuesday evenings for our Primary 7 pupils. The children will be taken to St Ciaran's by bus after school finishes and will be returned back to school at 4.45pm, when they can be picked up by their parents at school. The Club will run for 4 weeks for the Primary 7 children.

**(Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> January, Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> January, Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> January and Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> January 2024).**

This initiative is funded by Extended Schools, so there will be **no charge**.

### **Key Stage 1 Lego Club (P4)**

We are delighted to announce that we will be running a Lego Afterschool Club for our **P4 children**. Miss Canavan will run the sessions and we are delighted to be able to offer this club **free of charge** through the Extended Schools Programme. The aim of the club is to complete a range of exciting challenges, the children will have the chance to work both individually and to work in teams and have lots of FUN! The club will take place after school in the P5 classroom between 2:45-3:45pm. There are places available for all the children in the class and to facilitate this, the children will be allocated a four-week placement in either group 1 or group 2. (See dates below).

**Group 1** (9<sup>th</sup> January, 16<sup>th</sup> January, 23<sup>rd</sup> January 30<sup>th</sup> January).

**Group 2:** (6<sup>th</sup> February, 20<sup>th</sup> February, 27<sup>th</sup> February 5<sup>th</sup> March).

Please ensure that your child's permission slip is returned back to Mrs Quinn P4 on 5<sup>th</sup> January. You will receive notification of which group your child will be attending on Monday 8<sup>th</sup> January. **All children must be collected promptly at 3:45pm from the school.**

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## **Key Stage 1 Table-Top Toys Afterschool (P3)**

We are delighted to announce that we will be running a Table-Top Toys Afterschool for our **P3 children**. Mrs Mc Cann (P6) will run the sessions and we are delighted to be able to offer this club **free of charge** through the Extended Schools Programme. The aim of the club is to promote well-being, self-esteem and of course have lots of FUN. The club will take place after school on a Tuesday at 2:45-3:45pm. All children must be collected promptly at 3:45pm from the school.

There are places available for all the children in the class and to facilitate this the children will be allocated a four-week placement in either group 1 or group 2 (see dates below).

**Group 1:** (9th January, 16th January, 23rd January & 30th January).

**Group 2:** (6th February, 20th February, 27th February & 5th March).

Please ensure that the permission slip is returned back to Mrs Poacher on 5th January. You will receive notification of which group your child will be attending on Monday 8<sup>th</sup> January. **All children must be collected promptly at 3:45pm from the school.**

## **Key Stage 2 Quiz Club (P7)**

We are delighted to announce that we will be running a Quiz Club for our P7 children for 4 weeks. Mr Morrow (P7) will run the sessions and we are delighted to be able to offer this club *free of charge* through the Extended Schools Programme. Our after-school quiz club will help with concentration, identify gaps in knowledge, build confidence and help our children retain information. It will also be great fun! The club will take place after school on a Monday from 2:45-3:45pm. The dates for P7 club are listed below. **All children must be collected promptly at 3:45pm from the school.**

P7 Quiz Club dates:- 8th January, 15th January, 22nd January, 29th January.

## **Swimming (P7)**

Swimming lessons for Primary 5 has concluded. **Primary 7** will commence their lessons in February. The dates for swimming lessons for P7 are **Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> February, 1<sup>st</sup> March, 8<sup>th</sup> March, 15<sup>th</sup> March and 22<sup>nd</sup> March 2024**. 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 After School Club (P6)**

Funding has been secured through the Extended Schools Programme for an Afterschool Multi-sports/Basketball programme for **Primary 6 pupils**. At St Mary's, we feel all our pupils should have the opportunity to live healthy and active lives. A positive experience of sport and physical activity at a young age can build a lifetime habit of participation. Physical activity has numerous benefits for children and young people's physical health, as well as their mental wellbeing (increasing self-esteem and emotional wellbeing and lowering anxiety and depression), and children who are physically active are happier and more resilient.

This Afterschool will be facilitated by a trained professional and will be offered to Primary 6 pupils for 5 weeks on the dates below from 2:45pm-3:45pm on a Monday Afternoon.

**Monday 8<sup>th</sup> January, Monday 15<sup>th</sup> January, Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> January, Monday 29<sup>th</sup> January and Monday 5<sup>th</sup> February.** P6 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.**

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## **Relax Kids (P1 – P4)**

We look forward to welcoming Paula McGilligan from Relax Kids back to St Mary's on **Thursday 11th January 2024**. We are happy to let you know that P1-P4 will have the opportunity to take part in the 6 week Relax Kids programme. (11<sup>th</sup> January, 25<sup>th</sup> January, 1<sup>st</sup> February, 8<sup>th</sup> February, 22<sup>nd</sup> February & 29<sup>th</sup> February) We have secured funding through the Extended Schools Programme, so there will be no charge.

## **SEAG Transfer Test Results (P7)**

SEAG provides and administers the Entrance Assessment used by all 63 academically selective schools in N. Ireland. **Results will be issued on Saturday 27th January 2024.**

## **First Confession- Primary 4**

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

## **Confirmation Retreat- Primary 7**

Primary 7 pupils will attend a retreat on **Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> April 2024** in Killeeshil Community Centre.

## **Confirmation- Primary 7**

Confirmation will take place on **Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> 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 18<sup>th</sup> May 2024** at 11.00 am in Church of the Assumption, Tullyallen.

## **Make £5 Grow- Chocolate Sale (P6)**

"Make £5 Grow" is a fantastic experience which introduces the children to skills they will need in later life. It teaches them about teamwork, organisation, responsibility and using their initiative. The "Make £5 Grow" initiative provides the children with an insight to the world of business and manages to generate amazing and unique ideas, which the pupils use to become outstanding entrepreneurs! As part of the "Make £5 Grow" project the Primary 6 children will hold a Chocolate Sale on **Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> February 2024** in the School Assembly Hall. (More information to follow!)

## **Primary 6 Parent Information Session**

Current Primary 6 children will be beginning Primary 7 in September 2024 and will then be transferring to Post-Primary School in September 2025.

I would like to invite all Primary 6 parents to a meeting in the school Assembly Hall on **Monday 26<sup>th</sup> February 2024 at 6:00 pm** to explain the system for transferring children to post-primary school.

The dates planned for the SEAG 2024 Entrance Assessment are **Saturday 16th November 2024** and **Saturday 23rd November 2024**. Please see the SEAG website for more information.

<https://seagni.co.uk/>

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## **P6 Maths & English Afterschool**

Mrs Michelle Mc Cann will be taking an After-School Maths and English club for Primary 6 children starting on **Tuesday 12th March 2024**. The club will run on Tuesdays from 2:45 pm -3:45 pm and will cover the content that will be assessed in the new SEAG Transfer Test.

This club is optional and will cover work which is at the upper level of the children's ability. Any child who does not attend will still cover the full National Curriculum during the normal school day.

Due to the nature of the work, quite an amount of photocopying is required, and paper used, therefore, there will be a **charge of £30 per child** for those who wish to attend.

## **Woodland Well-Being Day (P3)**

The Primary 3 children will be travelling to Parkanaur on **Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> March 2024** for a Woodland Well- being day. The children should wear their own clothes, a warm waterproof coat, and appropriate outdoor footwear/wellies. The children should bring a snack and a packed lunch. Children in receipt of Free School Meals will be provided with a lunch from the school kitchen.

## **Woodland Well-Being Day (P6)**

The Primary 6 children will be travelling to Parkanaur on **Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> March 2024** for a Woodland Well- being day. The children should wear their own clothes, a warm waterproof coat, and appropriate outdoor footwear/wellies. The children should bring a snack and a packed lunch. Children in receipt of Free School Meals will be provided with a lunch from the school kitchen.

## **Library Van (P4-P7)**

The Library Van will return to school on **Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> January 2024** and will visit the school on a fortnightly basis.

## **Book Fair**

Scholastic will bring their book fair to St Mary's **26<sup>th</sup> February – 1<sup>st</sup> March**. This is a fun event and encourages the children to read more. More information to follow next month.

## **Accelerated Reader**

Congratulations to all those children who reached their AR target in Term 1! Your child will be set a new individual AR (Accelerated Reader) target in January. 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 Term Two's target is **Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> March 2024**.

Please encourage your child to keep reading and **taking AR quizzes (independently)** to ensure he/she reaches 100% by **Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> March 2024**. Prizes will be awarded to those children who



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reach their target. 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](http://www.arbookfind.co.uk) to ensure that your child is reading at the correct ZPD.**

## **Mathletics (P3-7)**

St Mary's has invested a lot of money in Mathletics. We encourage **all** the children to continue working hard on Mathletics in Term 2. Unfortunately, some children have not used Mathletics in Term 1. 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.

## **Nessy Programme for P2 and P3 Pupils**

St Mary's has invested in the 'Nessy' programme for all our P2 and P3 pupils. Nessy Reading & Spelling is an internet-based literacy program that provides structured and personalised learning plans to support the children. It is very important that you encourage your child to continue using Nessy in Term 2 and allow your child to work through the programme **independently**.

## **St Brigid's Day- Cross Making- 1<sup>st</sup> February 2024**

St. Mary's celebrates St. Brigid's day, Lá Fhéile Bríde, every February first, and with it comes a lovely tradition: The making of the St. Brigid crosses. The St. Brigid's Cross is made out of rushes and is traditionally hung in our homes to gain Brigid's protection and healing for the family over the coming year. Traditionally each year we welcome parents and grandparents to St. Mary's to help the children to make St. Brigid's crosses. We warmly invite parents and/or grandparents to St Mary's on Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> February (9:15 am – 11:15 am School Assembly Hall)

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

Kind regards,

*Louise Quinn*