

St. Mary's Primary School Cabragh

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

Telephone: (028) 8776 7356

Principal: Mrs Louise Quinn



31st January 2024

Please see below for important dates and key events in February.

St Brigid's Day- Thursday 1st February

Traditionally each year, we welcome parents and grandparents to St. Mary's to help the children to make St. Brigid's crosses. Keeping up our traditions is so important to everyone in our school community, and we would like to invite parents and grandparents, who are free, to join us in the school assembly hall, **9:15-11:15 on Thursday 1st February**. We would be grateful if you could bring along some rushes.

Primary 4 Mass

As part of their preparation for First Confessions and First Holy Communion, the Primary 4 children and their parents are warmly invited to attend mass in St Joseph's Church Ackinduff on **Saturday 3rd February at 7:00 pm**. Some of the children will take part in the Prayers of the Faithful and the Offertory Procession.

Primary 7 Mass

As part of their preparation for Confirmation, the Primary 7 children and their parents are warmly invited to attend mass in St Joseph's Church Ackinduff on **Saturday 10th February at 7:00 pm**. Some of the children will take part in the Prayers of the Faithful and the Offertory Procession.

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 7th February 2024** in the School Assembly Hall. Parents of our P6 children are warmly invited to the P6 Chocolate Sale which begins at 9:30 am. All children in the school may bring **£1** to buy something at the chocolate sale on Wednesday 7th February.

Mid-Term Break

School will be closed for the mid-term break **12th February – 16th February inclusive**.

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Non-Uniform Day

We are hosting a St Valentine's themed non-uniform day on **Friday 9th February 2024**. The children are encouraged to wear an item of red or pink clothing to school for a voluntary donation of **£2.00**, payable via the School Money App. All proceeds will go towards school funds.

Post Primary Application Process

Parents/Guardians can now apply for Year 8 Post Primary places online via EA Connect. EA Connect opened on 30 January 2024 at 12 noon and will **close on 22 February 2024 at 12 noon** for Year 8 Post Primary applications. Applications are not considered on a first come, first served basis. **It is important to submit your applications by 12 noon on 22 February 2024** as an application received after this time will be treated as 'late' by the school and this may affect the chance of being offered a place in the school.

Please click on the following link to make an online application.

<https://connect.eani.org.uk/parent/>

Please see the EA website for more information, including the Post Primary Admissions 2024 Information Video.

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

The Admissions Criteria for each of the Post Primary Schools is now available to view on the EA website. <https://www.eani.org.uk/parents/admissions/search-admissions-criteria>

Safer Internet Day- Tuesday 6th February 2024

Safer Internet Day 2024 will take place on the 6th of February 2024, with celebrations and learning based around the theme '**Inspiring change? Making a difference, managing influence and navigating change online**'. This year Safer Internet Day will be focusing on change online, this includes covering:

- Young people's perspective on new and emerging technology
- Using the internet to make change for the better
- The changes young people want to see online
- The things that can influence and change the way young people think, feel and act online and offline

Each year Safer Internet Day aims to raise awareness of emerging online issues and current concerns. As a parent or carer, you play a key role in helping your child to stay safe online. You don't need to be an expert on the internet to help keep your child stay safe online. Please see our school website for guidance and resources to support you as you support your child to use the internet safely, responsibly, and positively. <https://www.stmaryscabragh.com/parent-area/e-safety-126/>

World Book Day

World Book Day is on **Thursday 7th March** and aims to encourage a love of reading in children. The day is a celebration of everything books, including the authors, illustrators and the children who read them. To celebrate World Book Day, we encourage the children to either come to school dressed up as their favourite book character (or dressed in their pyjamas) and bring along their favourite book!

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Book Fair

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

Children's Mental Health Week

St Mary's will be taking part in Children's Mental Health Week 2024 which takes place from **5th -11th February 2024**. This year's theme is 'My Voice Matters'. **My Voice Matters** is about empowering children and young people by providing them with the tools they need to express themselves. When we feel empowered, there's a positive impact on our wellbeing. Children who feel that their voices are heard and can make a difference have a greater sense of community and self-esteem. This year, we want children of all ages, backgrounds and abilities to be empowered to work together to create a positive change for their mental health and wellbeing. During Children's Mental Health Week, we want all children and young people to be able to say – and believe - "My Voice Matters." As parents and carers, you play an important role in your child's mental health. Click on the link below to access a range of free resources.

<https://www.childrensmentalhealthweek.org.uk/families/>

Please also see the Parent Area (Wellbeing) on the school website for some useful support links for dealing with difficult situations and looking after yourselves as parents and carers.

The Transfer Process to Post Primary School - Advice for Parents of Children in Primary Six

The Department of Education has produced a document providing advice to parents of children in P6 on the post-primary transfer process. The purpose of this document is to ensure that parents receive timely information about the range of issues they need to take into account when making important decisions about the next stage in their child's education. The document is available to view on the school website.

<https://www.stmaryscabragh.com/news/the-transfer-process-to-post-primary-school--advice--for-parents-of-children-in-primary-6/?p=2&>

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 26th 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/>

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.

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Primary One Trip to Parkanaur

The Primary One children will visit Parkanaur for "The Gruffalo Trail" on **Tuesday 6th February 2024**.

The cost of the trip is **£12**. Payment should be paid in full via School Money before Friday 2nd February 2024.

Eat Them To Defeat Them – Monday 19th February 2024

St Mary's will be taking part in the 'Eat Them To Defeat Them' campaign which begins on Monday 19th February 2024. 'Eat Them To Defeat Them' is a campaign to encourage children to eat more veg. It is award winning and proven to make eating vegetables more fun. The programme encourages children to try new vegetables in school and at home. Sadly, 80% of our children are not eating enough vegetables. We hope to turn this around by taking part in this campaign and with the support of our parents we hope to promote veggie loving habits that the children will keep for life!

P1 & P2 Art Afterschool

We are delighted to announce that we are running a 4 week after-school **Art Club** for our P1 and P2 children. An artist 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 between 1:30 pm -2:30 pm. There are places available for all the children in the class to participate. The dates of the after school are:

P1- 17th January, 24th January, 31st January, 7th February

P2- 21st February, 28th February, 6th March, 13th March

All children must be collected promptly at 2:30 pm from the after school or you can request that your child travels home on the school bus if they are entitled to bus transport.

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. Group 2 commence their Afterschool on Tuesday 6th February. Please see dates below.

Group 2: (6th February, 20th February, 27th February 5th March). **All children must be collected promptly at 3:45pm from the school.**

Relax Kids (P1 – P4)

We are happy to let you know that P1-P4 will have the opportunity to continue their Relax Kids sessions in February. (1st February ,8th February, 22nd February & 29th February) We have secured funding through the Extended Schools Programme, so there will be no charge.

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Paired Reading Programme- P3

This term we hope that all children in Primary 3 will participate in a Paired Reading Programme, which we believe will encourage not only a wider interest in reading, but will also improve their reading skills in general. The project will last 10 weeks beginning Monday 19th February and provides a perfect opportunity for parental participation in the learning process. A short **meeting** will take place at 3pm on **Wednesday 7th February 2024** for P.3 parents to find out information about the programme. I trust that you will recognise the value of this reading programme and avail of the opportunity to participate in the project, which has received very positive feedback from both parents and children in previous years.

Gaelic Coaching

We are delighted to announce that we will be running a Key Stage 2 Gaelic Afterschool led by Liam Slater (Tyrone GAA, Games Promotion Officer). This Afterschool Club is free of charge and will take place 2:45 pm – 3:45 pm. Please see below for the dates your child should attend. **Please note that your child must be collected at 3:45 pm sharp.**

P5- Thursday 25th January, 1st February, 8th February.

P7- Thursday 22nd February, 29th February, March 7th.

P6- Thursday March 14th, March 21st, April 11th.

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. Group 2 commence their Afterschool on Tuesday 6th February. Please see dates below.

Group 2: (6th February, 20th February, 27th February & 5th March). **All children must be collected promptly at 3:45pm from the school.**

Swimming (P7)

Primary 7 will commence their lessons in February. The cost of swimming lessons is **£15**. This can be paid either in one instalment or two instalments of £7.50 via the School Money app. The dates for swimming lessons for P7 are **Friday 23rd February, 1st March, 8th March, 15th March and 22nd 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).

P7 Trip- American Folk Park "Flight From Famine"

As part of their WAU topic "Hunger", Primary 7 will travel to the American Folk Park on **Wednesday 6th March** to take part in the "Flight from Famine" workshop. The cost of the trip is **£12** and can be paid for via the School Money app. Children should wear their full school uniform.

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Multi-sport/Basketball After School Club (P7)

***P6 have their final session on Monday 5th February*.**

Funding has been secured through the Extended Schools Programme for an Afterschool Multi-sports/ Basketball programme for **Primary 7 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 7 pupils for 5 weeks on the dates below from 2:45pm-3:45pm on a Monday Afternoon. **Monday 19th February, Monday 26th February, Monday 4th March, Monday 11th March and Monday 25th March.** P7 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.**

Woodland Well-Being Day (P3)- *No Charge*

The Primary 3 children will be travelling to Parkanaur on **Tuesday 5th 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) *No Charge*

The Primary 6 children will be travelling to Parkanaur on **Tuesday 12th 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.

International Maths Day

St Mary's will take part in the International Day of Maths on the **14th of March**. Each year the worldwide event focuses on a particular theme. The aim of the themes is to connect mathematics to all sorts of subjects, fields and ideas, spark creativity and provide focus to the event. This year the theme is 'Playing with Maths'. It focuses on how mathematics can be a gateway to exploration, experimentation, and discovery, as well as a source of fun. All classes will participate in lots of fun maths activities on Thursday 14th March.

Mathletics (P3-P7)

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.

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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.

Accelerated Reader

Congratulations to all those children who reached their AR target in Term 1! Your child was 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 22nd March 2024**. Please encourage your child to keep reading and **taking AR quizzes (independently)** to ensure he/she reaches 100% by **Friday 22nd March 2024**. Prizes will be awarded to those children who 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.

First Confession- Primary 4

First Confession will take place on **Tuesday 5th 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 16th April 2024** in Killeeshil Community Centre.

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.

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

Kind regards,

Louise Quinn