

St. Mary's Primary School Cabragh

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

Telephone: (028) 8776 7356

Principal: Mrs Louise Quinn



Dear Parent/Guardian,

Please find below some key information and events coming up in March.

Dungannon Feis

A reminder that Dungannon Feis will be taking place in March. If your child is entered for the Solo-Singing /Speech and Drama/Irish Poems competition you should ensure that they know the words of the song/poem. Miss Wallace/Mrs Mc Cann will help with some preparation for the solo-singing competitions. Miss Cush, our Speech and Drama teacher, will help with some preparation for the Speech and Drama event. Please see the Parent Area/Dungannon Feis on the school website for the Solo Singing music and poems.

<https://www.stmaryscabragh.com/parent-area/dungannon-feis/singing/> and for the dates/times of each of the events. Please note that parents must provide transport to and from the Feis. This year's competition will be held in **The Des Fox Pavilion, Edendork GFC**. Your child must wear their full school uniform to the Feis. (Not PE uniform) Your child should be seated in the hall 10 minutes before their competition is due to begin.

Family Fortunes

The committee of Friends of Cabragh have been working hard to prepare for our upcoming fundraiser 'Family Fortunes' in Killeeshil Community Centre on **Saturday 6th April 2024**. Doors open at 7:30 pm and the show starts at 8:00 pm. We now need YOU our parents and pupils to help us to sell tickets for this event. It will be a fabulous night of entertainment and laughs and you don't want to miss it! So that Friends of Cabragh can effectively lay out the hall for optimum enjoyment and comfort, we would like to have an estimate on how many people plan to attend our event. Therefore, our tickets have a perforated edge, which needs to be ticked appropriately and returned to school with payment for tickets sold. Tickets are priced at £20 and will be sent home with your child. If you can buy a ticket and **you can attend the event, please tick the box 'attending the event'**. If you or a family member *cannot* attend the event but would still like to buy a ticket to support our school, please tick 'donating to the event.' Unsold tickets, ticket stubs and payment should be returned in the envelope, provided to school office. Extra tickets are available on request from the school office or any committee member.

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The class who sell the most number of tickets will be awarded a prize. There will be a Raffle on the night with LOTS OF PRIZES up for grabs! Tickets will be available on the night. **This is an over 18s only event.** There will be a bar onsite and music after 'Family Fortunes'. Karen Skeffington will be available for taxis home on the night. A massive thank you to all our sponsors who have donated so far, we have been blown away by the support from our local businesses. There is still time to get in touch if you have a business that would like to support our event. Please make sure to follow and like the 'Friends of Cabragh' Facebook page as the Parent Support Group will be announcing all the sponsors and families. The 12 teams are finalised and ready to compete to win the title of 'Family Fortunes' Champions.

A special word of thanks to the Friends of Cabragh for organising this fantastic Fundraiser and for working so hard behind the scenes to secure sponsorship for the Family Fortunes Fund-raising event!

Green Day

On **Friday 15th March** we will hold a "Green Day" in St. Mary's to celebrate St. Patrick's Day. The children may come to school dressed in green. The children will take part in a range of St. Patrick's Day music, art/craft activities and learn all about the life of St Patrick.

School Holiday

School will be closed on **Monday 18th March** for St Patrick's Day.

Easter Holidays

St. Mary's will be closed for the **Easter holidays (27th March – 7th April inclusive)**. School closes at 11:00 am on **Tuesday 26th March**. School buses will be available for those children who travel home on the bus. Children should be collected at 11:00 am sharp. School will re-open on Monday 8th April.

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. The children should bring a healthy snack for morning break and a packed lunch. The school kitchen will prepare a lunch for those children in receipt of free school meals. Your child should wear their **full school uniform** (NOT PE uniform)

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

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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.

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 (payable via the School Money App)** for those who wish to attend.

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.**

P7- Thursday 7th March

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

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World Book Day

We will celebrate World Book Day on **Thursday 7th March**. World Book Day 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!

Swimming Lessons- Primary 7

The dates for swimming lessons for **P7** in March are **Friday 8th March, Friday 15th March, Friday 22nd March**. 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.

Primary 4 commence their swimming lessons on Friday 12th April (5 weekly sessions)

P7 Multi-Sport/Basketball Afterschool Club

Multi-Sport/Basketball Afterschool Dates for **Primary 7**.

- Monday 4th March
- Monday 11th March
- 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**.

P5 Multi-Sport/Basketball Afterschool Club

Primary 5 children will commence the Multi-Sport/Basketball Afterschool Club on Monday **8th April 2024**. P5 children should bring their PE gear to school in a bag on the dates below. The children will be permitted to change at home-time.

The children should be **collected at 3:45 pm sharp**.

Multi-Sport/Basketball Afterschool Dates for **Primary 5**.

- Monday 8th April
- Monday 15th April
- Monday 22nd April
- Monday 29th April

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

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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.

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.

Ceremony of Light- Primary 7

The Ceremony of Light for P7, will take place on **Tuesday 16th April 2024 at 7:30 pm** in Church of the Assumption, Tullyallen.

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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