

St. Mary's Primary School Cabragh

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

Telephone: (028) 8776 7356

Principal: Mrs Louise Quinn



3rd March 2025

Dear Parent/Guardian,

Please see below for important dates and events in March.

School Holiday

School will be closed on **Monday 17th March** for St Patrick's Day.

Easter Holidays

St. Mary's will be closed for the **Easter holidays (18th April – 25th April inclusive)**.

School closes at 12:00 noon on Thursday 17th April 2025. School buses will **NOT** be available for those children who normally travel home on the bus. Children should be collected at 12 noon sharp. School will re-open on Monday 28th April 2025.

Dungannon Feis

A reminder that Dungannon Feis will be taking place **21st March – 12th April 2025**. 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. 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/>.

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. The dates and times of each event are posted on the school website. <https://www.stmaryscabragh.com/news/dungannon-feis-2025/>The **Feis Programme** is also available to purchase in **Newell Stores** Dungannon.

Non-Uniform Day

We are hosting a St Patrick's themed non-uniform day on **Friday 14th March 2025**. The children are encouraged to wear an item of green clothing to school for a voluntary donation of **£2.00**, payable via the School Money App. All proceeds will go towards the St Ciaran's Peregrini. The term Peregrini derives from our Celtic history, and was a term used for Saints who were 'travellers for Christ'. St Ciaran's have chosen to adopt this term as it reflects the nature of the work they undertake in Zambia. The St Ciaran's volunteers will travel to Zambia in April 2025 to complete missionary work. Thank you for supporting the amazing work St Ciaran's Peregrini undertake in Zambia!

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World Book Day

We will celebrate World Book Day on **Monday 3rd 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!

Time-Steps- Primary 7

On **Tuesday 8th April 2025** we look forward to welcoming Stephanie from 'Time Steps' to St Mary's Cabragh. As part of their WAU studies, Stephanie will deliver an interactive and engaging 'Famine / Workhouse' workshop to our Primary 7 pupils.

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 **Friday 7th 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)

Quiz Club- Primary 7

St Mary's has secured funding through the Extended School Programme for a Quiz Club for P7. The Quiz Club will be facilitated by Mr Morrow on the following dates (2:45 pm – 3:45 pm) **We kindly request that the children are picked up at 3:45 pm sharp.**

- Monday 3rd March
- Monday 10th March
- Monday 24th March
- Monday 31st March

P6 Maths & English Afterschool

Miss Canavan and Mr Morrow will be taking an After-School Maths and English club for Primary 6 children starting on **Tuesday 11th March 2025**. 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. Please return the reply slip and payment on or before Thursday 6th March 2025.

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Confirmation- Primary 7

Confirmation will take place on **Thursday 27th March 2025** at **5.00 pm** in **Church of the Assumption**, Tullyallen. A photographer has been booked and families will have the opportunity to have photographs taken after the ceremony by a professional photographer.

Primary 7 Retreat

The Primary 7 children will attend a Retreat in preparation for Confirmation. The Retreat will take place in the Community Centre on **Thursday 20th March 2025**. If you normally take your P7 child to school by car, we kindly request that you drop your child off at the Community Centre at 8:30 am on Thursday 20th March. If your child travels on the school bus, we will arrange for the bus driver to drop your child off at the Community Centre en-route to school. Your child should be collected at 3:00 pm sharp at the Community Centre.

P7 Ceremony of Light

The Ceremony of Light for P7 Pupils will take place at 7:00 pm in the Church of the Assumption Tullyallen, on **Thursday 20th March 2025**. We ask that the children are seated at 6:50 pm sharp. The children may wear their own clothes. Father Hannigan has asked that each family bring with them a blessed candle for part of the Ceremony of Light on Thursday 20th March 2025.

First Holy Communion- Primary 4

First Holy Communion will take place on **Saturday 17th May 2025** at 11.00 am in Church of the Assumption, Tullyallen.

First Confessions – Primary 4

Confessions for P4 Pupils will take place on **Thursday 3rd April** at **7:00 pm** in Church of the Assumption, Tullyallen.

Primary 3 Trip to Streamvale Farm.

As part of their WAU topic "The Farm / Food Glorious Food", Primary 3 will travel to Streamvale Farm on **Tuesday 18th March 2025**. The **cost of the trip is £24** and should be paid for via the School Money app. The children should wear their PE uniform and bring a warm coat and wellies. The children should also bring a healthy snack and a packed lunch. *The school kitchen will prepare a lunch for those children in receipt of free school meals.*

PLEASE NOTE that the children will **return to school at 4:00 pm** and will need to be collected by their parents.

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Primary 3 Forest School- Knockmany Forest

Primary 3 will travel to Knockmany Forest for their 'Forest School' on Wednesday 26th March 2025. **The cost of the trip is £6** and should be paid for via the School Money app. The children should wear their PE uniform, wellies, waterproof coat with hood and a hat. The children should also bring a healthy snack. The children will be home in time for school dinner.

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.

- Monday 3rd March
- Monday 10th March
- Monday 24th March
- Monday 31st March

This initiative is funded partly by 'Friends of Cabragh' and partly by Extended Schools, so there will be **no charge**.

REIM Coding Workshops- P5

St Mary's has also secured funding for a Coding workshop for Primary 5. This workshop will be delivered by REIM on **Wednesday 26th March**. This initiative is funded partly by 'Friends of Cabragh' and partly by Extended Schools, so there will be **no charge**.

Multi-sport/Basketball After School Club (P5)

Funding has been secured through the Extended Schools Programme for an Afterschool Multi-sports/Basketball programme for Primary 5 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 5 pupils for 6 weeks on the dates below from 2:45pm-3:45pm on a Monday Afternoon. (3rd March, 10th March, 24th March, 31st March, 7th April, 14th April,)

All P5 children must be collected promptly at 3:45pm from the school.

Primary 7 Youth Engagement Programme

Our Primary 7 children have had the opportunity to take part in a fully funded Youth Engagement Programme. This programme was facilitated by Speedwell Trust and the children took part in a range of outdoor sporting activities with our Shared Education partner schools. The programme concludes with a **Celebration Day at Parkanaur on 13/03/2025**.

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Primary 1 Health Appraisals

The school nurse will visit St Mary's on Monday 31st March, Tuesday 1st April, Wednesday 2nd April and Thursday 3rd April for the P1 Health Appraisals. Please see the nurse's letter for your child's date.

P3 Art Afterschool

Art Club for Primary 3 will run for 5 weeks. (February 19th, February 26th, **March 5th, March 12th March 19th 2025**). 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 Avene (Aveka Art). Art gives children a way to communicate and develop confidence and it also encourages creativity. It will also improve fine motor skills and hand-eye coordination and helps children to develop their communication and vocabulary skills. The benefits of art and craft activities stretch from academic and educational to personal and emotional. Taking part in Art will support your child's emotional wellbeing and help them to feel more confident, calmer and happier. **All P3 children must be collected promptly at 3:45pm from the school.**

Primary 4 Art Afterschool

P4 will commence Art Afterschool on **Wednesday 26th March 2025** (2:45 – 3:45 pm) The Art Afterschool will run for 5 weeks (26th March, 2nd April, 9th April, 16th April & 30th April) **We kindly request that the children are picked up at 3:45 pm sharp.**

Creative Music Lessons (P4, P5, P6 & P7)

We are delighted to announce that St Mary's has secured funding for Creative Music lessons in St Mary's. These lessons will be delivered by Mrs Shannon Hackett, a specialist music teacher and we are delighted to be able to offer this Music Club **free of charge** through the Extended Schools Programme. Music has numerous benefits for children including; activating both sides of the brain, improving listening, concentration and problem-solving, improving working memory, confidence building, promoting creativity and self-expression and promoting well-being - reducing anxiety and stress. The music lessons will take place during the school day. Creative Music lessons will commence for P4 & P5 on Tuesday 18th March and will commence for P6 & P7 on Wednesday 19th March.

*The final Music lesson for P3 is on **Tuesday 4th March 2025.***

Swimming (P4)

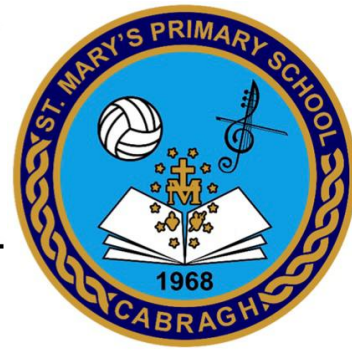
Swimming lessons for **Primary 4** commence on **Friday 28th February 2025**. (7 lessons) The dates for swimming lessons for P4 are, February 28th, March 7th, March 14th, March 21st, March 28th, April 4th, April 11th. `Swimming lessons are **compulsory** and part of our Physical Education Curriculum. 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

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(Friday). **The cost for swimming lessons is £26.00** and this can be paid for via the School Money App.

Cúchulainn Cup Camogie and Hurling (P6 & P7)

We are delighted to announce that St Mary's has been given the opportunity to further develop our pupils' Camogie / Hurling skills. Our school will be allocated 4 x one hour sessions with an Ulster GAA accredited coach, fully funded by Cúchulainn an Ghleanna Camogie and Hurling Club, with all required equipment provided. Coaching dates for Primary 6 and Primary 7 are outlined below:

Tuesday 25th February, Tuesday 4th March, Tuesday 11th March and Tuesday 18th March.

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 4th April 2025.**

Please encourage your child to keep reading and **taking AR quizzes (independently)** to ensure he/she reaches 100% by **Friday 4th April 2025.** 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. **PLEASE NOTE-** The children must read a combination of books and articles. **(NOT JUST ARTICLES)**. The class teachers are monitoring this AR school rule.

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.

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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.

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

Kind regards,

Louise Quinn