

St. Mary's Primary School Cabragh

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

Telephone: (028) 8776 7356

Principal: Mrs Louise Quinn



6th January 2025

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.

- 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 (P7)

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 7 weeks on the dates below from 2:45pm-3:45pm on a Monday Afternoon.

(6th January, 13th January, 20th January, 27th January, 3rd February, 17th February & 24th February.)

All P7 children must be collected promptly at 3:45pm from the school.

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Primary 7 Youth Engagement Programme

Our Primary 7 children will have the opportunity to take part in a fully funded Youth Engagement Programme. This programme will be facilitated by Speedwell Trust and the children will take part in a range of outdoor sporting activities with our Shared Education partner schools. Please see below for programme dates.

Teambuilding Parkanaur 30/01/25

Cultural Identity Churchill PS 06/02/25

Sports with Balls Cabragh PS 20/02/25

Sports with Sticks Cabragh PS 26/02/25

Celebration Parkanaur 13/03/25

P5 Art Afterschool

Art Club for Primary 5 will commence on Wednesday 15th January 2025. (2:45-3:45 pm) and will run for 4 weeks. (January 15th, 22nd, 29th, & February 5th 2025.) **Your child should be collected at 3:45 pm sharp.** 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 P5 children must be collected promptly at 3:45pm from the school.**

St Ciaran's College Afterschool Clubs (P7)

We have partnered with St Ciaran's College, Ballygawley, to provide a Coding Club, Art Club and Technology 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 7th January, Tuesday 14th January, Tuesday 21st January and Tuesday 4th February 2025). This initiative is funded by Extended Schools, so there will be **no charge**. Your child should be picked up at **4:45 pm sharp** at school.

Creative Music Lessons (P3)

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,

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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 on **Tuesday 21st January, 28th January, 4th February, 18th February, 25th February and 4th March 2025**. Other classes will have the opportunity to avail of creative music lessons later in Term 2 and in Term 3.

Relax Kids (P1-P4)

The children in P1, P2, P3 and P4 will continue with the Relax Kids programme this term. (Thursday 9th January, 16th January, 23rd January, 30th January, 6th February & 20th February. There will be **no charge** for the Relax Kids programme. Relax Kids supports your children's mental and emotional health and wellbeing with a range of tools and techniques to help calm their body and mind and build confidence and self-esteem. Relax Kids use a pioneering 7-step whole-brain holistic approach and fun, magical and creative techniques to help your children feel happier and healthier. Please also see the Parent Area/ Relax Kids for resources and information about Relax Kids or visit the Relax Kids website. <https://relaxkids.com>

P2 Art Afterschool

Art Club for Primary 2 will commence on Wednesday 15th January 2025. (1:30 - 2:30 pm) and will run for 5 weeks. (January 15th, 22nd, 29th, & February 5th and 19th 2025.) Primary Two children who are eligible for School Transport may go home on the bus on these days. **Please let Mrs Kelly know which bus your child should travel home on.** 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). Projects will include coloured sand painting, clay painting/application, Pictures made from natural materials including dried leaves, flowers etc, and watercolour painting. 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

Swimming (P7)

Swimming lessons for Primary 7 commence on **Friday 10th January 2025**. The dates for swimming lessons for P7 are, January 10th, 17th, 24th 31st and February 7th. 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).

Confirmation- Primary 7

Confirmation will take place on **Thursday 27th March 2025** at 5.00 pm in Church of the Assumption, Tullyallen.

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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.

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 25th January 2025.**

Primary 6 Parent Information Session

Current Primary 6 children will be beginning Primary 7 in September 2025 and will then be transferring to Post-Primary School in September 2026.

I would like to invite all Primary 6 parents to a meeting in the school Assembly Hall on **Monday 17th February 2025 at 6:00 pm** to explain the system for transferring children to post-primary school. The SEAG Entrance Assessments will take place in November 2025. Please see the SEAG website for more information. <https://seagni.co.uk/>

P6 Maths & English Afterschool

Mrs Mc Cann will be going off on Maternity Leave in March 2025. Miss Canavan 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.

St Brigid's Day- Cross Making- Friday 31st January 2025.

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 **Friday 31st January 2025.** (9:15 am – 11:15 am School Assembly Hall)

Book Fair

Scholastic will bring their book fair to St Mary's **24th February – 28th February 2025**. This is a fun event and encourages the children to read more. More information to follow next month. Last orders for books is 12 noon on Thursday 27th February 2025.

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

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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.

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)

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