



SEPTEMBER'S EVENTS

Welcome Back Everyone

A special welcome back to everyone including our new pupils joining St. Mary's on the Hill in Primary one and all other classes. We hope you have a great year.

Free School Meals

"The application process for free school meals/uniform has commenced. Parents who are currently eligible to apply for free meals/uniform should now complete their application. **Please note that entitlement to free school meals will attract funding to the school's budget.** Whether your child wishes to partake of a meal or not is down to individual choice. We would really encourage parents who fall into this category to **please make an application** as soon as possible for the incoming academic year. Application forms may be obtained via the Education Authority website – www.eani.org.uk or alternatively by contacting Free School Meals Section on 02825661350. Forms are also available from the school. Should you have any further queries regarding this, please contact the school office.

Breakfast Club

The Breakfast Club is available from 7.45am – 8.45am. The children can have their breakfast - cereal, toast, pancakes, and fruit. There are a variety of games available for them to play and range of movies to watch. As a result of a generous donation by St Vincent de Paul Association the cost of the club will be reduced from £2.50 to £1.50 per child. If you wish to avail of this opportunity, please contact the school office.

AFTER SCHOOL CLUBS: After School Clubs will commence week beginning Monday 10th September 2018. You can enrol your child and pay for the after school activity of your choice, through our website, using Paypal. Simply follow the instructions on the screen. This facility will be available on our school website, www.stmarysonthehill.co.uk, from 7.00am on Friday 31st August 2018 and will close on Thursday 6th September at 12 noon. Further timetables are available on the school website.

Phone Calls and Messages to the School Office

Office Hours 8.30am to 4.30pm Monday–Friday

If parents need to inform teachers of a change in collection, please notify the teacher or office directly in person or by letter that morning. The info email account is not appropriate for urgent messages as the office staff have many other duties to attend to throughout the day. Emails will be checked in the morning and only as time permits throughout the school day. We have recently installed a new telephone system which allows parents to leave voicemails.

Please use the designated parking spaces or drop off zone. Children may be left in the playground from **8.45am** when supervision commences. No child should be left before this time. Parents who need to drop their child off earlier should register with the Breakfast Club. Teaching will begin at 9am.

Waiting Club

The Waiting Club operates from 2pm–3pm each day. It costs £2.00 per day per child or £3.00 per family and is available for P1–P3 pupils.

Attendance

We, in St Mary's on the Hill pride ourselves in the high attendance rate of our pupils, the average attendance last year being 95.5%. It would be great to see this exceeded this year. All absences should be explained by a phone call to the office or note to the teacher. You will find the Holiday List posted on the school website. I would urge you to organise family holidays during these periods only. As far as possible, medical appointments should be made outside school hours. Please inform the school if you wish to withdraw your child from class before the end of the school day. On arrival please call at the school office and Mrs Mason will send for your child.

Up to date information about the life of the school including holiday lists, canteen menu and parent letters can be accessed on our school website www.stmarysonthehill.co.uk

CURRICULUM INFORMATION MEETINGS FOR PARENTS

P2 and P3	Mon 17 th September 2018	9.00am
P4	Tues 18 th September 2018	9.00am
P7	Wed 19 th September 2018	9.00am
P5	Thurs 20 th September 2018	9.00am
P6	Fri 21 st September 2018	9.00am
P1	Thurs 27 th September 2018	9.00am

MASSES

P7: Tuesday 4th September
 P4: Tuesday 11th September
 P5: Tuesday 18th September
 P6: Tuesday 25th September

**New School Year Mass for all P4-P7
 Thursday 27th September @ 11am**

Administration of Medication

Please speak to your child's teacher if you require medication administered to your child whilst at school. Parents need to sign and complete an 'Administration of Medication' form (available from the school office) before the school will administer the medicine. All medication needs to be prescribed should have the child's name on it and the dosage clearly labelled. Teachers will not administer medication that is not labelled as such. Please do not send in any medication with your child – it must be handed into the school office by an adult. Thank You.

Healthy Eating/Nut allergies

Please continue to support our 'Healthy Eating Policy' and provide your child with a piece of fruit and water or milk for break. We have a number of children who suffer from peanut allergies, which can result in potentially serious consequences. I would therefore ask that these children are not exposed to danger and that you do not give your child anything which contains nuts. From time to time parents send buns/cakes/sweets to mark their child's birthday. Please note these food items must be 'NUT FREE'. (Hard sweets or lollipops are not permitted). Parents of children with these diagnosed allergies are asked to provide the school with 2 Epipens (with valid dates) and any other necessary medication as soon as possible.

School Dinners

Money for dinners should be sent to school on a Monday. The correct amount should be put in an envelope detailing the day/s your child intends to avail of the service. The cost of a school dinner has increased to £2.60.

Sleepy Hollow: For those parents wishing to avail of child care provision, Monday to Friday until 6pm, please contact Bronagh on 07920 111417 or 028 9445 3976.

Contact details If your address, telephone number or email address change please inform Mrs Mason in the office to ensure we have up to date information should we have a need to contact you.

Reminder: Primary 7 parents, the closing date for application for AQE in the 7th September and the closing date for application to PPTC is the 21st of September.

Dates for your Diary:

Friday 18th January 2019

Parent Teacher Interviews



Friday 30th November 2018

St Mary's on the Hill Primary School Open Morning – 9.30 – 11.00am. Mr Conway will address parents at 9.30am in the School Assembly Hall.

Uniform

All pupils are expected to wear full uniform to school each day. Boots and trainers are NOT acceptable. In the event of inclement weather, pupils may wear boots but are expected to bring school shoes for indoor use. In the interest of safety no jewellery, apart from a watch or stud earrings only, may be worn to school. No pupil should wear makeup. On PE days pupils may wear their PE uniform to school - navy shorts and a plain white polo shirt and trainers/plimsolls. Notification of PE days will follow shortly.

PLEASE LABEL ALL ITEMS OF CLOTHING.

Childcare Vouchers due to close in October - parents need to act now!

The Childcare Voucher scheme is due to close to new entrants on 4 October 2018. This means working parents who wish to join the scheme need to do so as soon as possible, in order to have their application registered and processed via their company's payroll before the closure date. Further information is available by telephoning 028 9267 8200.

P4/P5 Parents:

May I request that in the interest of the children's safety you do not approach the mobiles to leave in forgotten books, lunches, musical instruments etc. If you need to get a message to your child you must, as requested by the signage at the gate, report to reception. Please treat the mobiles as an extension of the school. The safety of the pupils is our first priority and certainly no-one other than those authorised to do so, can enter that area. Thank you for your cooperation in this matter.

The lunch menu for 2018/2019 is available on the school website.