



# FEBRUARY'S EVENTS

Dear Parents/Carers

Should your child be absent from school, it is important that we are aware of the reason. Our digital attendance records are monitored monthly and we must input the correct code to explain each absence. **Please write a note to the class teacher, or contact the school office explaining an absence so that records can be updated promptly.**

Similarly, we have to record information about punctuality. Children are marked 'Late' if they arrive between 9.00am and 9.05am. After this time, registration has closed and the code used in the attendance record marks the child absent for the full morning session. We are very proud of the children's attendance in St. Mary's on the Hill. Excellent attendance and punctuality at school is important to allow your child to fulfil their potential. Thank you for your support.

## **P3 Service of Enrolment**

Parents are invited to attend a Service of Enrolment on Wednesday 12th February at 2pm in the school assembly hall. This is in preparation for the Sacrament of Reconciliation which will take place on Thursday 19th March at 11am in the Church.

## **Confirmation:**

Primary 7 pupils will be confirmed on Monday 9th March at 11am in St Bernard's Church.

## **Confirmation Practices:**

There will be a number of Confirmation practices in advance of the Sacrament: 25th, 27th February and 4th March. These practices will take place in St. Bernard's Church.

## **Internet Safety**

Safer Internet Day 2020 will be celebrated globally on Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> February with the slogan 'Together for a Better Internet'. Mrs Jenny Burke from C2k will give a presentation on Internet Safety at 9.15am in the **Assembly Hall to which all parents are invited**. The presentation highlights the dangers that your child may face when using the internet and social media websites. She will provide strategies to help keep your child safe while using the internet, social media and all associated apps. This is an extremely valuable presentation and one that I would urge you to attend. Following this there will be a presentation for P5 – P7 children. For further advice on keeping your child safe online go to [www.thinkuknow.co.uk](http://www.thinkuknow.co.uk)

## **Road Safety Quiz**

We wish our Road Safety Team the best of luck in the Northern Ireland finals on 2nd March.

**PLEASE NOTE: School closes at 12 noon on Friday 14th February**

## **Primary One Admissions—September 2020**

Parents should provide documentation to their first preference primary school in support of their application (e.g. birth certificate and two other forms of proof of address) as per the admissions criteria, no later than 12 noon on Friday 7 February 2020.

## **Autism Week in St Mary's on the Hill**

Autism is a lifelong disability which affects the social and communication centre of the brain. Autism affects the way an individual relates to people, situations and the immediate environment. Many individuals with Autism have difficulty processing everyday sensory information like sight, smells, touch, tastes and sounds. The two main areas of difficulty which all people with autism share are:

- (i) Social Communication and reciprocal Social Interactions;
- (ii) Restricted, Repetitive and Inflexible Patterns of Behaviour (including sensory processing differences)

As Autism is a spectrum condition, it will affect people in different ways depending on the individual. It is important to understand how each individual is impacted in these areas, to enable us to support them in an individualised way that works best for them. If you would like additional resources and information to help you support someone with Autism, please contact the Autism NI Helpline on 02890 401 729 option 1.

## **Superhero Week - 3rd-7th February 2020**

The school will take part in Super Hero week to help raise awareness of Autism in school and at home. An assembly will be held on the 31st January presented by Autism NI. To take part each pupil will be given five Superhero Tasks to do at home, then on day five (**Friday 7th February**) we will hold a Superhero Dress-Up Day, for those pupils who wish to participate, with each pupil coming to school dressed as their favourite Superhero. Each child will receive a Superhero pack to take home with a Superhero Tasks Wall Chart, Sponsor Form, Stars for completed tasks and a place for a Super Parent/Carer to sign to say the child has completed their Superhero tasks. More details to follow.

## CONGRATULATIONS - PUPIL OF THE MONTH

P1A	Caelan Baxter Harry McDyer Erin Corry	P1B	Jacob Oliver Clíodhna Neill Molly Mulvenna
P2A	Isla McGarvey Kaiden McKernon	P2B	Oliver Toney Alicja Tarnowska
P3A	Caoimhe Moss Theo Murray	P3B	Dara Snoddy Manon Parker
P4A	Erin Savage Lenny Dempsey	P4B	Aodhan Sergeant Caitlin Donnelly
P5A	Mona McCleery Caoimhe Scullion	P5B	James Hall Aimee Larkin
P6A	Patrick Downey Lucia-Rose Gallagher	P6B	Ciaran McDyer Muireann Burke
P7A	Luca Duffy Erin Toal	P7B	Grace McMurray Lewis O'Hare

Photographs are displayed in the main foyer of the school.

## MASSSES/ASSEMBLIES

### **P7A Parental Assembly:**

Fri 7 February @ 9.20am

### **P7B Parental Assembly:**

Fri 28 February @ 9.20am

### **Class Masses:**

**P6** Tues 4 February

**P7** Tues 11 February

**Ash Wednesday**—26 February

**PTA School Disco:** The PTA school disco will take place on Thursday 13th of February at 1.00—1.50pm for Primary One to Primary Three and from 2.00-2.50pm for Primary Four to Primary Seven. **As this takes place on a Thursday, children will wear their school uniform.** The cost of the disco is £2.50 or £5.00 per family.

### **Valentine's Dinner**

Throughout the year the Catering Manager, Mrs Butler, organises a number of special dinners. On Thursday 13th February we will have our Valentine's Dinner. All pupils are welcome to attend. Cost is £2.60 and dinners can be ordered via School Money.

### **Peace Proms**

The Peace Proms 2020 takes place in the SSE Arena on **Sunday 1st March @ 7pm**. Tickets are available from the SSE box office or online at [www.ssearenaelfast.com](http://www.ssearenaelfast.com) but don't leave it too late – it's sure to be a sell-out. This is an amazing opportunity for our children to sing along with other children from schools throughout Northern Ireland.

Congratulations to our ECO warriors—with their help we can work together to reduce energy costs.

P1A: Daniel McAleer, Caolan McLaughlin  
P1B: Christopher McArdle, James McMullan, Ayla Yildiz  
P2A: Mya McKay, Reid O'Hare, Hanna Szymanska  
P2B: Odhran McMenamin, Grace McQuillan, Michael Murphy  
P3A: Jacob Collins, Matthew Connolly, Cara Hale  
P3B: Sinead Smyth, Mela McManus, Joseph Feeney  
P4A: Lorcan Smyth, Caragh Scott, Dylan Flaherty  
P4B: Chloe Malone, Erin Malone, Luke McAleer  
P5A: Kayla Clarke, Tabitha McAreyve, Sophia McKay  
P5B: Norah McLaughlin, James Snoddy, Aimee Larkin  
P6A: Olivia Dunn-Moran, Matthew Brennan, Jack Cranston  
P6B: Clodagh Smyth, Deaglan Davis-McAtamney, Megan Mooney  
P7A: Emma McAllister, Eliza McAreyve, Shae McAtamney  
P7B: Aoife Nugent, Niamh Ferguson, Abbie McKnight

### **Medics in Schools Programme**

In collaboration with Queen's University Belfast P7 pupils will be introduced to a series of Science lessons presented to them by trainee doctors. This is a great opportunity for the student doctors to work with our pupils and to give our pupils an insight into the world of Science.

### **Class Events:**

#### **Tuesday 4th February:**

P7 @ The Mac to see Under The Hawthorn Tree

#### **Wednesday 4th March:**

P6 & P7 Presentation from the Belfast Giants

#### **Thursday 5th March:**

World Book Day for the whole school. Details to follow.

#### **Friday 13th March:**

Whole School Day of Culture

#### **Monday 16th & Tuesday 17th March:**

School Closed

#### **Friday 20th March:**

P3 Armagh Planetarium

### **School Closures:**

**Mid-term Break** – Mon 17<sup>th</sup> to Fri 21<sup>st</sup> February (inclusive)

**Easter Break** – School will close at 12 noon on Thurs 9th April and will re-open for the third term on Mon 20th April.

