



SEPTEMBER'S EVENTS

Welcome Back Everyone

A special welcome back to everyone! As it says on our new school banner, 'We Missed You!' It's been nearly 6 months since our last Events and things have changed slightly. From staggered start and finish times to handwashing routines. From staying apart to virtual meetings. However, one thing hasn't changed and that's our amazing children. They are resilient, kind, caring and extremely adaptable. I can't express how proud I am of them. They have returned to school with a smile and a positive attitude that is inspirational.

A huge gratitude of thanks must also go to our staff for all the work they have done to make this happen in as safe a way as possible for everyone. I only have to walk around the school to see how well cared for our children are.

To you, parents, carers and grandparents, thank you for all your support and encouragement. Your kind words and messages of support for the school have helped to motivate and keep us going in these very different times. We know the road ahead will not be easy and there will most likely be further class shutdowns and children and staff isolating however, working together we will get there.

Finally, what a year to start P1. For those children the excitement is the same, whether it's during COVID-19 or not. We wish them every success as they start the journey with us for the next seven years and we are delighted that they have become part of the St Mary's on the Hill community.

Covid-19 Health & Safety

In the interests of everyone's Health & Safety, children, parents, grandparents and staff, wait with your child, away from the entry points until their allocated time. Keep 2m apart and, please if possible, wear a mask.

1. Please **do not wait at the entry points** as these become infection areas. If you have arrived early, please stay away from the entry points. No one should be standing waiting at the entry points.
2. If you are dropping your child/children off by car, **ONLY LET YOUR CHILD OUT OF THE CAR IF YOU SEE IT IS THEIR TIME TO ENTER THE SCHOOL GROUNDS** and not before.

School Meals

Currently we are able to offer packed lunches to all children. These are made in the canteen and delivered to the classrooms. There are a range of excellent choices available and we will consult with the children on how we can adapt the menu to get the best choices for them. I doubt if we can do sausage sandwiches every day, but we can ask!! At the minute we are trialling a hot take away style lunch on a Friday – such as chicken nuggets and chips and we will review how this works out over the coming weeks. For those who wish to order please book via school money.

Breakfast Club & Waiting Club At this time, given the Covid-19 restrictions, we are not in a position to offer these facilities however, we will keep this under review and will follow Department guidance around this.

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.

Urgent Phone Calls and Messages to the School Office

Office Hours 8.30am to 4.30pm Monday–Friday

If you need to inform the school urgently about a positive coronavirus result the info email will be closely monitored during out of office hours. We also have a telephone system which allows parents to leave voicemails for non-urgent messages. 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. Unfortunately parents will not be able to access the school.

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

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 and fish 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 or fish. 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.

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 9069 3419.

P4/P5 Parents

May I request that in the interest of the children's safety you do not approach the mobiles. If you need to get a message to your child you must, contact the school office via a phone call. 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.

Uniform and PE Uniform

All pupils are expected to wear full uniform to school each day. Boots and trainers are NOT acceptable. 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 – Please no branded leggings Nike/ Adidas etc!!!! PLAIN navy shorts or PLAIN navy Tracksuit bottoms and a plain white polo shirt and trainers/plimsolls. Notification of PE days will follow shortly.

While we welcome our new P1's we must say a very sad farewell to Mrs O'Neill, a member of the school cleaning staff. Mrs O'Neill has worked in the school for almost 30 years and will be very sadly missed. We would like to thank her for her huge contribution, she has worked tremendously hard, in what is an extremely difficult job. She has been accommodating, supportive and gone over and above to support us all in the school. We wish her well in her retirement.

Holiday List

Due to the children starting back to school earlier this year the holiday list for 2020 2021 will be amended and will be issued in the coming days.

Dates for your Diary:



Friday 25th September

European Day of Languages

Week Beginning Monday 5th October

Mindfulness Programme for P5, P6 & P7

Thursday 8th October @ 2pm

St Mary's on the Hill 'Start of Year' Mass will be broadcast to all classes via stmarysonthehill.online

Tuesday 6th October @ 4pm

P5A First Holy Communion – St Bernard's Church

Wednesday 7th October @ 4pm

P5B First Holy Communion – St Bernard's Church

Week Beginning Monday 12th October

Maths Week Ireland

Administration of Medication

Please speak to your child's teacher if you require medication administered to your child whilst at school. YOUR CHILD SHOULD NOT BE IN SCHOOL IF THEY HAVE A TEMPERATURE or any other COVID – 19 symptoms. 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.

If you are unsure whether to send your child into school, please follow the advice published by the Department of Education:

<https://stmarysonthehill.co.uk/news-and-events/department-of-education-parents-carers-information/71/>

URGENT—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, particularly now with COVID-19.