



OCTOBER'S EVENTS

SAFETY NOTICE

CHURCH CAR PARK: It is at this time every year that I need to highlight the difficulties and dangers around drop-off and collection of your child/ren. Can I ask you to do the following:

- Please exercise extreme caution;
- Please reverse park into parking spaces;
- Please turn left when exiting the car park;
- Please use the designated parking spaces or drop-off zone.

For those not using the car park, can we encourage you to please use the adjoining streets etc.

HEALTHY EATING/NUTALLERGIES: 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. Parents of children with diagnosed allergies are asked to provide the school with 2 Adrenaline pens (eg EpiPens), with valid dates and any other necessary medication as soon as possible.

P4 First Confessions

Good luck to all our boys and girls who will be making their First Confessions in St Bernard's Church. P4A on Monday 18th October, and P4B Tuesday 19th October. Please keep them in your prayers.

5 EASY STEPS TO CONFESSION:

1. The child makes the sign of the cross.
"In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit."
2. **Child:** "Bless me Father
this is my first confession.
I did not show love when..."
3. Talk with the priest about things you are sorry for.
4. Say the **ACT OF SORROW**
Child: O my God I thank you for loving me.
I am sorry for all my sins, for not loving others
and not loving You.
Help me to live like Jesus and not sin again.
5. The Priest says the prayer of forgiveness and says
Priest: Go in peace to live like Jesus.
Child: Thanks be to God.

Forest School Project: St Mary's on the Hill is delighted to be selected to take part in the Forest School Project delivered by the Northern Ireland Forest School Association as part of the 'learning without walls' initiative. Forest School is based on the Scandinavian idea that considers children's contact with nature to be extremely important from an early age. This is an exciting and innovative educational experience that has been hugely beneficial to all those taking part. Primary 2 will be involved in this project for 5 weeks starting in October and it will be led by Mrs Ross.

School Council: Good luck to all the boys and girls who are currently writing their manifesto for election to the school council. The pupil voice has made a big difference to what goes on within the school. We look forward to seeing who will be elected and what they will do for the pupil body this year. As with every year, we hope to have an investiture ceremony with the mayor - Details to follow.

Mid-term Break:

The school will close at 11.45am for P1,2,3 and at 12 noon for P4,5,6,7 on Friday 22nd October for one week from Monday 25th October until Friday 31st October and reopens Monday 1st November.

CONGRATULATIONS - PUPIL OF THE MONTH

P1A	Lucy Wilkinson Jack Conway	P1B	Marie McCleery Conlin Doherty
P2A	Anna Oliver Jacob Sharpe	P2B	Grace Downey Christian McAtamney
P3A	Krish Adhikari Sophie McGuigan	P3B	Nainsi McMullan Ciara McCleave
P4A	Louisa Smyth John Paul McMullan	P4B	Cali McManus Dillon Conlan
P5A	Cara Hale Lorcan McGarvey	P5B	Marissa Burke Conor Healy
P6A	Kacie McMahan Lorcan Smyth	P6B	Cruz O'Neill Emily Nugent
P7A	Rory Cheadle Sophia McKay	P7B	Aimee Larkin Caolan McCready

Pupil of the Month children will be congratulated by everyone at our virtual assembly.

Mental Health and Wellbeing

At St. Mary's on the Hill, we aim to equip the children with skills of resilience and help them manage their emotional, psychological and social wellbeing. We were delighted to welcome the children back to school in August and they have adapted so quickly to new routines. We are incredibly proud of them all. Throughout term one, all children from Primary 1 to Primary 7 will take part in the Neuronimo programme, a child and young person's mental and physical health programme. It is being delivered by a children's charity called Reverse the Trend Foundation in partnership with the Education Authority in Northern Ireland. This builds upon the skills and techniques we use through our Fresh Little Minds Relax and Regulate Programme, which promotes self-regulation and emotional resilience.

Our Primary 5 children have completed interactive workshops with Rachel from Action Mental Health and discussed their unique qualities, ways to relax and focusing on 'the good things'. Primary 3 and Primary 4 will take part in the programme this month also. Finally, Primary seven pupils will take part in Mindfulness sessions with Katie McCabe throughout the month of November, with opportunities to focus on relaxation and breathing techniques.

Free School Meals and Uniform Allowance

The application process for free school meals/uniform allowance has commenced. Parents who are currently eligible to apply for free meals/uniform allowance 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 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 present academic year. Applications may be made via the Education Authority website – <https://www.eani.org.uk/financial-help/free-school-meals-uniform-grants/apply-for-free-school-meals-uniform-grants>. Should you have any further queries regarding this, please contact the school office.

On-Line Mass & Prayer Services

Due to the current Covid-19 restrictions we have organised with Fr Pat a number of online Masses and Prayer Services.

The Opening of the New School Year Mass took place on Thursday, 30th September and was attended virtually by children in P4 -7. Further masses are scheduled below.

MASS IN THE CLASS

Praying for the Dead:

Thursday 10th November, 2021

Advent Mass:

Thursday 9th December, 2021

Mass for the Sick:

Thursday 10th February, 2022

Lenten Mass:

Thursday 10th March, 2022

Holy Week Mass:

Thursday 7th April, 2022

Mary, the Mother of God:

Thursday, 12th May, 2022

Children will watch these virtual masses from their classrooms and they can be watched at home from www.stmarysonthehill.online

Flu Immunisation Programme

The Flu Immunisation Programme will take place in the school on Monday 1st November. If you haven't already done so, please return your consent form to the school as soon as possible.



Maths Week

Maths Week Ireland is a celebration of maths which aims to promote positive attitudes towards maths whilst highlighting the importance of maths in our lives. In school, from 18th to 22nd October, we will be celebrating Maths Week. Each year group has planned different problem-solving activities will help develop the skills needed to solve problems and work in groups, all with the aim of encouraging a 'can-do' attitude towards Numeracy.

We will also be watching 'Maths TV' and taking part in the different online events organised on the Maths Week website. At home, on Saturday 16th October, you can join an online workshop with international educator Steve Sherman. He will introduce you to a range of tools and tips to help make maths more exciting for your child.

Further details can be found here: <https://www.mathsweek.ie/2021/events/>

Digital Leaders: A special thank you to all the digital leaders for helping out this term. They have been invaluable and have kept the computer suite in great order:

Rory Cheadle	Louise Donald
Rhys Hanna	Preston Lynch
Eva Cassidy	Dominik Szymanski
Alicia Wiczorek	Tiernan Fitzgerald
Annie Lowry	Aiden McCoy

Facebook

We will celebrate and mark events throughout the school year. The school will continue to communicate and update *parents via email and text*. Facebook will not be used to send messages to parents and we ask that parents do not use Facebook to contact the school.

Click on the link below and please share with anyone you think would be interested or has a connection to our school :

<https://www.facebook.com/StMarysOnTheHillPS/>

Halloween Fancy Dress:

Halloween fancy dress for those pupils who wish to participate—22nd October 2021

Cool for School Photography

The school photographer will visit the school on Thursday 14th October and Friday 15th October. If you wish your child to have his/her photograph taken you will need to register through Cool for School Photography, please click on the link below to bring you through to registration:

https://orders.coolforschoolphotography.com/register/?access_code=JRP536U

Only children who have been registered will have their photograph taken and please register your child's name not your own.

Cool for School Photography
"To have your child's photo taken you **must** register!"

Get ready for **PHOTODAY!**
Register now so you can view your photos for free on your phone, as soon as they are ready. Just follow these three simple steps.

We will be taking photos in your child's school on:
14th & 15th October
Individual & Siblings within school

Please register by **7pm** on the day before your Photoshoot

STEP 1
Grab your phone and go to orders.coolforschoolphotography.com

STEP 2
Enter your unique school code.
JRP536U

STEP 3
Choose **your child's** class from drop down menu. Fill in **Pupil's** name and complete the other email and mobile information.

That's it! You will receive an email and/or SMS with instructions when photos are ready to view.

Your contact details will be securely stored and kept private, due to strict GDPR compliance. Feel free to visit our webpage for further information. If you have any queries, please contact our friendly customer service team on ...02892683966

Behaviour Targets: One of the things we are proudest of in St. Mary's on the Hill is the children's behaviour. However, there is always room for improvement. Now that the children have settled back into school for the month of October we have identified *Showing Kindness* as our school behavioural target. Last month the target was *Following Instructions*. I will talk to the children at each of our remote assemblies regarding the target and staff, including classroom assistants and lunchtime Supervisors, will reinforce this message in school. Can we ask you, parents and carers, to do the same at home?