



JANUARY'S EVENTS

Monday 10th January 2022	Primary One application procedure opens with online portal available.
<p>*Note: When an application is submitted an applicant must provide supporting *documents if requested by ANY preference listed. (A parent must read the published admissions criteria of their listed preferences to find out if any documentation is requested by a school). *In addition to any documents required the applicant must also provide the CHILD'S BIRTH CERTIFICATE.</p>	
Friday 28th January 2022 at 12 noon	Date/time by which parents submit an application and documents* in support of their application (treated as punctual).
Note: Online Portal will not be accessible after this date/time to apply.	An application received after 12 noon on 28th January 2022 will be treated as late. Applications will be guided after the Online Portal closes on how to complete a late application.

Dear Parents/Carers, I would like to thank you all very much for the support you have given me as I begin the role of Acting Principal. It is a privilege and an honour to be able to serve the St. Mary's on the Hill community in this role and I will do my utmost to keep developing our school community. As we move into January, the outlook is somewhat uncertain and although we are trying to keep our school as safe as possible, some disruption will be likely for some of our classes. I would like to thank you in advance for your understanding during this time and we hope and pray that we will be able to move through this time safely.

Catholic Schools Week:

St Mary's on the Hill will celebrate Catholic Schools' Week beginning Sunday 23rd January 2022. The week will include Grandparents' Day on Wednesday 27th January. This year, more so than ever, it will be important to acknowledge how amazing our grandparents are, therefore we will be celebrating our amazing grandparents remotely. Further details will follow on how we intend to mark this occasion.

MASS IN THE CLASS

Broadcast from St Bernard's Church 2pm:

Mass for the Sick: Thursday 10th February 2022
Lenten Mass: Thursday 10th March
Holy Week Mass: Thursday 7th April
May Mass: Mary the Mother of God: Thurs 12th May
Leavers Mass date to be confirmed.

ICT Policy Reminder – Digital Devices incl. Smart Watches

After Christmas some children may have received gifts including mobile phones, smart watches and other electronic devices. As a reminder, there is no reason why these devices need to be in school and will not be allowed in class. If a child does bring a mobile device to school whether it be a phone or a smart watch they will be asked to place it in the class box until the end of the day when they can collect it and bring it home.

Inclement Weather

Unfortunately, this time of year always holds the possibility of a school closure due to inclement weather. The decision to close a school is not taken lightly. As with previous years we will do all in our power to keep the school open however, I do need to consider the Health and Safety implications for pupils, parents and staff. Following a risk assessment, if a decision to close the school is made, we will inform every one of **the closures by text message** between 7.30am—8.30am. It is vitally important that you inform the school office of any changes to contact numbers to ensure you receive this information. Closure information will also be displayed on the school's website.

THANKS:

Many thanks to all our parents for their very generous donations in support of All lives are Precious. A magnificent total of £1446.40 was raised!
Christmas Jumper Day raised £347 in aid of St. Vincent de Paul and £1014 was raised from our PJ and Cinema Day. The PTA Calendar also raised a fantastic sum of £583 for school funds. A huge thank you to all of you for your generosity and continued support.

CONGRATULATIONS : DECEMBER PUPILS OF THE MONTH

P1A	James Brownlie Meyah McCammond	P1B	Cara Mullin Adam Toney
P2A	Niamh Morelli Sonny Briers	P2B	Jay McKay Oran Cassidy
P3A	Caelan Baxter Rebecca Clarke	P3B	Conor O'Neill Molly Mulvenna
P4A	Lexi Kemp Aidan Hayes	P4B	Grace McQuillan Konstanty Bukowski
P5A	Clodagh Keenan Kayden Whyte	P5B	Tom Donnelly Tess Mullan
P6A	Anna Savage Dillon Foy	P6B	Adam Conway Maeve McMEnamin
P7A	Sofia Reilly Tabitha McAreyve	P7B	Sonika Sapkota Joseph O'Kane

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

P1A: Aidan Pollock, Grace Moran

P1B: Cara McLean, Robbie McGlone

P2A: Harry Cassidy, Caleb Callow, Lily Grzona, Malachi Hegney

P2B: Aoife Captain, Oran Cassidy, Anmol Chhetri, Nancy Corey

P3A: Caolan McLaughlin, Maggie Corey,

P3B: Cliodhna O'Neill, Cara Russell, Jude McGlone

P4A: Ellis Cheadle, Riona Gallagher, Aidan Hayes

P4B: Konstanty Bukowski, Grace McQuillan, Noah Jiminez Dorta

P5A: Zach Lawrence, Scarlett Lowry, Leo Cairns

P5B Beth Hanlon, Aaron Logue, Conor Healy

P6A: Orlaith Clayton, Erin Savage, Lenny Dempsey, Caragh Scott

P6B: Sophie Agnew, Joe Brennan, Dana Doyle

P7A: Naomi Adams, Annie Lowry, Aiden McCoy, Alicia Wiczorek

P7B: Mia Callaghan, Aimee Larkin, Aine Gavin

REMINDER: P1 Parent/Teacher Consultations:

P1A : Thursday 13th January 2022

P1B: Thursday 20th January 2022

Internet Safety

As part of our ongoing proactive approach to Internet Safety and the use of digital technologies we would like to draw your attention to the following.

Following Christmas, we usually have a greater number of pupils regularly accessing Snapchat/Social Media. Please be aware that these are AGE RESTRICTED and should NOT be used by primary school pupils. It is the responsibility of the parents/carers to be fully aware of what their child is doing 'online.'

In order to keep your child safe online and help protect them from online bullying we would suggest the following:

- Agree that you can have access to their phone and that you check regularly each week;
- Make sure you know what apps they are using (age appropriate);
- Monitor calls, messages, contacts, web-sites and pictures;
- No pupil in primary school needs their phone in their bedroom at night;
- At all times talk to your child regarding the dangers of social media.

In school we will continue to address the use of the internet and social media forums through ICT lessons, PDMU lessons, Assemblies and various other avenues. Despite this work we find that many of the issues and difficulties that the children face emanate from social media sources. The use of social media and the internet is certainly a huge challenge for our pupils to manage and they can only do so with parental support, guidance and advice.

Safer Internet Day 2022 will be celebrated globally on Tuesday 8th February 2022 with the theme: "All Fun and Games? Exploring relationships on-line."

Safer internet day inspires a national conversation about using technology responsibly, respectfully, critically and creatively. We will be working on all of these aspects during the course of the weeks ahead.

Mental Health and Wellbeing

The Department of Education has provided primary schools with funding for Therapeutic Services to promote 'Healthy, Happy Minds'. This money will be spent alongside our wellbeing fund to provide a variety of individual and whole-class workshops which will take place in term two and term three. We aim to promote outdoor play, drama and relationship-building, whilst also tackling the issues of transition and change for our primary seven pupils. We will continue to work through our Bursts of Brilliance with the Neuronimo programme and are looking forward to a busy and very active few months in St. Mary's on the Hill!