



FEBRUARY'S EVENTS

Dear Parents/Carers, we begin February with renewed optimism, hopeful that things will be less disruptive and that we can begin to plan further ahead for the upcoming year. There are many exciting things for our school moving forward; the new modular build which I give a brief update on in these events. A very useful new single mobile that will be used for a variety of activities will be put in place. It is an exciting time for all of us. I would like to thank you all for the co-operation and support you have given the staff over the month of January in keeping our school safe, we continue to need that help and support as we come to the end of the winter and again with hope we look forward to brighter and better days. As we begin February, I pray to St. Brigid to help and bless us all.

Internet Safety Day

Safer Internet Day 2022 will be celebrated globally on Tuesday 8th February with the slogan 'All Fun and Games: Exploring Respect and Relationships Online'. On this day, the children will be engaging in a range of activities that will explore how respect and relationships online are fostered and developed. This month Mrs Carey's P6 class will also lead the school in an assembly exploring this theme and finding out what are the best ways to remain respectful and have positive relationship with and on the internet. For further advice on keeping your child safe online go to www.thinkuknow.co.uk

Road Safety

In St. Mary's on the Hill we take Road Safety very seriously and we are always reminding our pupils of the best and safest practices when they are going to and from school. This is especially important for the pupils as they become older and more independent and are perhaps walking to and from school with their friends. We are constantly reminding the children of their responsibilities and making good choices.

Road Safety Quiz

Mr Carter our lollipop man and biggest advocate for Road Safety will be hosting quizzes this year for our year 7's on Road Safety. This will be a fun and engaging ways for the children to pick up some top road safety tips.

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

Children's Mental Health Week 2022

7th February marks the beginning of Children's Mental Health Week, and the well-being of our children is always at the forefront of our practice in St. Mary's on the Hill. The theme is 'Growing Together'; growing emotionally and finding ways to help each other grow in our friendships and peer relationships. Challenges and setbacks can help us to grow and adapt, developing resilience. We will think about our safe spaces which give us the confidence to fulfil our potential, while engaging with the techniques and activities delivered through the Neuronimo programme.

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.

St. Mary's on the Hill PTA

Over the next number of weeks, the PTA will be raising money for the school by way of a variety of activities, including a Coin Challenge starting on Monday 7th February and a 'Wear Something Red' day Thursday 10th March. More details to follow. The PTA do a massive amount of work in raising much-needed funds for the school. If you are interested in becoming a member of the PTA please either contact the school office or Mrs Maria McDyer, Chairperson of the PTA.



CONGRATULATIONS : JANUARY PUPIL OF THE MONTH

P1A	Isla Ross Aidan Pollock	P1B	Cormac Foy Orlaith Finnerty
P2A	Eimear McDermott Jakub Tarnowski	P2B	Oran Cassidy Maria McQuillan
P3A	Seth Wright Cara Douglas	P3B	Clara Divine Jude McGlone
P4A	Hannah Syzmanska Oisin McLaughlin	P4B	Erin Carr Noah Jiminez Dorta
P5A	Sophie Cranston Noah Devlin	P5B	Elijah McFarlane Chloe Wilkinson
P6A	Cora Cassidy Caoimhin Hayes	P6B	Grace Doyle Dana Doyle
P7A	Preston Lynch Holly McCusker	P7B	Joe Eager Bronagh Hegney

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

P1A:	Jack Conway Ashton Lynch
P1B:	Luca Barnes, Ella Jud Campbell
P2A:	Sophia Jones, Oisin Kim, Frankie Magill, Olivia McAvoy
P2B:	Isla Deery, Kyoko Fitzpatrick, Orlaith Galloway, Christian McAtamney
P3A:	Amy Hall, James Corrigan
P3B:	Talya Sarikaya, Lauryn O’Kane, Max Hanlon, Eoin Gillen
P4A:	Lexi Kemp, Isla McGarvey, Daniel Kornacki
P4B:	Cara Dunlop, Noah Leonard, Cali McManus
P5A:	Kayden Whyte, Erin Brownlie, Eva Rankin
P5B:	Elsie Marley, Cillian McCabe, Aimee McCoy
P6A:	Aidan McAllister, Maisie Hamill, James Rafferty, Paige Charters
P6B:	Paige Stewart, Cruz O’Neill,, Evie Wilson, Aodhan Sergeant
P7A:	Rory Cheadle, Preston Lynch, Faith Owens, Holly McCusker
P7B:	James McDonald, Neva Yildiz, Joseph O’Kane

PLEASE NOTE:

**School closes at 11:45 am for P 1 – 3
and 12 noon for P4 – P7 on Friday 11th
February 2022**

Valentine’s Dinner

Throughout the year the Catering Manager, Mrs Butler, organises a number of special dinners. On Thursday 10th February we will have our Valentine’s Dinner. All pupils are welcome to avail of the school dinners. Cost is £2.60 and dinners can be ordered via School Money.

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 – 21st-25th February 2022

The school will take part in Super Hero week to help raise awareness of Autism in school and at home. To take part each pupil will be given five Superhero Tasks to do at home, then on day five (Friday 25th 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.

Modular Build Update

Work has been ongoing since the start of 2022 on preparing the area where the new modular build will be placed. It is hopeful that the classrooms will be lifted into position over the midterm break and will be completed before the Easter break. This is dependent on weather and no unforeseen delays.

School Closures:

Mid-term Break – Mon 14th to Fri 18th February (inclusive)

St Patrick’s Day – School will be closed Thursday 17th March and Friday 18th March.

Easter Break – School will close at 12 noon on Thurs 14th April and will re-open for the third term on Mon 25th April.