



Learn to Love, Love to Learn

St. Mary's on the Hill Information

December



Welcome to December's Information Sway. We are now in full flow with preparations for Christmas and there are plenty of opportunities in school for the children to participate in the build up. Our P1's and P2's are preparing for their prayer service and concert performance respectively. P3 - P7 are practising carols to support our P5 children in their Carol Service. The choir is preparing to visit nursing homes in our community and I'm sure there may be a special visitor in school at some point too. It is indeed an exciting time.

As the children enjoy the excitement can I ask that you take some time with your child to remind them of the importance of making good choices. We as a school community still have high expectations for good behaviour during the upcoming weeks.

It is important to remember at this time of the year those who need extra support. A Christmas Jumper Day will take place on 9th December for St. Vincent de Paul, it is £1 per child and anything you can give will be greatly appreciated, this can be paid through school money.

I hope, as we prepare for Christmas through the season of Advent, that Hope, Love, Joy and Peace comes to each of your families and I wish you all a very happy and joyful Christmas. God Bless.

If you have any queries please send a message to the school email address given below.

info@stmarys.newtownabbey.ni.sch.uk

Kind regards

Mr. Matthew O'Brien

Principal

Open Day 2022



Learn to Love, Love to Learn

**OPEN
DAY!**
FRIDAY 2ND
DECEMBER



Prospective P1 parents/carers we are delighted to invite you, to our Open Day on Friday 2nd December.

Come and experience, first hand, life in St. Mary's on the Hill Primary School, including our

- *Centre of pastoral excellence*
 - *Child centred learning and provision*
 - *Amazing school choir*
 - *Engaging interactive activities*
 - *Informative and approachable Early Years team*
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Mr Matthew O'Brien (Principal) will host an information session at 9:30am in the school's assembly hall

We look forward to meeting you all

Open Enrolment Timetable - September 2023



Tuesday 13th December 2022 EA publishes information on website about the primary one admissions procedure and admissions criteria for schools.

Tuesday 10 January 2023 Primary One application procedure opens with online portal available

*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.*

Friday 27th January 2023 at 12 noon

*Note: Online Portal will not be accessible **after** this date/time to apply.*

Date/time by which parents submit an application and documents in support of their application **(treated as punctual)**.*

*An application received after **12 noon on 27th January 2023 will be treated as late**.*

Applicants will be guided after the Online Portal closes on how to complete a late application.

School Council



On the 30th November, the Mayor of Antrim and Newtownabbey Alderman Stephen Ross, congratulated the new class and school councillors on their wonderful achievement at being elected to office and we wish them well for the year ahead. The councillors allow the pupils' voices to be heard and they play a very important role in the school. A special thank you to Mrs Dempsey for organising this. She schedules meetings and visits for pupils and is a great role model for the children. A huge thank you must also go to all the children who participate. While not everyone gets elected we really appreciate the effort the children make in applying for these positions.

Pupils of the Month November



Congratulations to all our wonderful Pupils of the Month. They have worked so hard and we are very proud of them all.

Class	Name of child and reason for award	Name of child and reason for award
P1a	Jude Briers	Annie Prendergast
P1b	Jack Dowie	Corrin Elliott
P2a	Alfie Bodkin	Casper Knox
P2b	Aodhan Nellis	Cara Mullin
P3a	Sonny Briers	Pearse McMullan
P3b	Ciaran Boyle Cathal Magee	Rosa McMullan
P4a	Amy Hall	Matthew Kelly
P4b	Nainsi Mc Mullan	Clíodhna Neill
P5a	Olivia Black	Mya McKay
P5b	Noah Leonard	Nikola Lesniak
P6a	Leo Cairns	Zach Lawrence
P6b	Adam Grzona	Aimee McCoy
P7a	Marcus Gilvary	Kacie McMahon
P7b	DJ Doran	Conor O'Kane

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. In the month of December we are focusing on '**Showing Respect and Care for each other**'. I will talk to the children at each of our assemblies regarding this and staff will reinforce the message in school. Can we ask parents and carers to do the same at home? This is to ensure that pupils know the correct way to interact with each other.*

P2 Nativity Play



P2 pupils have been tirelessly rehearsing for their concert, The Sleepy Shepherd. Two performances will take place in the assembly hall: P2A on Wednesday 14th December at 9.30am and P2B on Thursday 15th December at 9.30am. Tickets are available from the school office.

P5 Carol Service



We are delighted the Carol Service will take place in St. Mary's on the Hill Church on Tuesday 20th December at 11:00am. Our P5 children will lead the Carol Service for pupils with readings and prayers and will be accompanied by P3 - P7 pupils. It promises to be a special event. Parents are welcome to attend.

P1 Prayer Service



The P1 Prayer Service will take place on Monday 12th December at 1.15pm in St Mary's on the Hill Church. We know this will be a very special event for the children.

Christmas Jumper Day/Pupil Christmas Dinner



Will be held on Friday 9th December. We are asking parents to donate £1 per child towards St. Vincent de Paul. This can be paid via School Money.

This year children will get a Christmas lunch box which will be delivered to classrooms. The cost of the lunch is £2.60 per child and can be ordered via School Money.

Christmas Gifts for Teachers

YouWall.com



The charity chosen this year, in lieu of gifts for staff, is Children in Crossfire. Children in Crossfire works to bring positive and sustainable change to the lives of children who are caught up in the Crossfire of Poverty. They work in Tanzania, Ethiopia, Ireland and the UK. They have a global outlook and look to challenge stereotypes and hope to support those children who are in the most vulnerable of situations. If parents would like to donate to this charity rather than buying Christmas gifts for staff please do so via School Money.

Promoting Healthy Eating



*Here at St. Mary's on the Hill Primary School we promote Healthy Eating across the school. We encourage children to choose a healthy snack for their break as well as making healthy choices in what they eat and drink. Our PTA have been able to secure fruit for all children in the school from Tesco Northcott. In our previous Sway, it stated that this would be each Friday, in fact it will happen on one Friday in each month. **Fruit Friday this month will take place on 9th December.** We would like to thank the PTA for their continued support of the school in the promotion of healthy eating.*

St Vincent de Paul 2022



Society of St. Vincent de Paul

This year, instead of hampers we will support St Vincent de Paul by donating money which will be used to purchase vouchers for Smyths and Tesco's for those in need in our community. We will be offering our support through a Christmas Jumper day which will be held on Friday 9th December, all donations will be gratefully accepted.

Christmas Cards



*In order to manage Christmas cards for classmates this year we are asking parents to send them on **Friday 16th December only**. This will cause less disruption for the school day.*

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 028 2566 1350. Forms are also available from the school. Should you have any further queries regarding this, please contact the school office.

Car Parking



CHURCH CAR PARK: *I would like to gently remind everyone of the difficulties and dangers around drop-off and collection of your child/ren. I am asking that all parents exercise extreme caution. To alleviate the difficulty of congestion we are asking all parents to make a **LEFT TURN** when exiting the car park. **Please use the designated parking spaces or drop off zone.***

WAITING AT THE GATE: Thank you all for your support and cooperation in the mornings whilst leaving your children to school. **We would ask parents not to wait at the gate once they have left their child to school.** By leaving your child off and moving off-site you are freeing up limited parking spaces. It can be difficult for children to enter through the gate when parents are gathered there. As the gate is in close proximity to the entrance of the car park we want to make every effort to ensure no accidents occur. We would appreciate your cooperation in this matter as the safety of our children is our primary concern. Please pass this information on to anyone who will be responsible for leaving or collecting your child.

Allergy Awareness

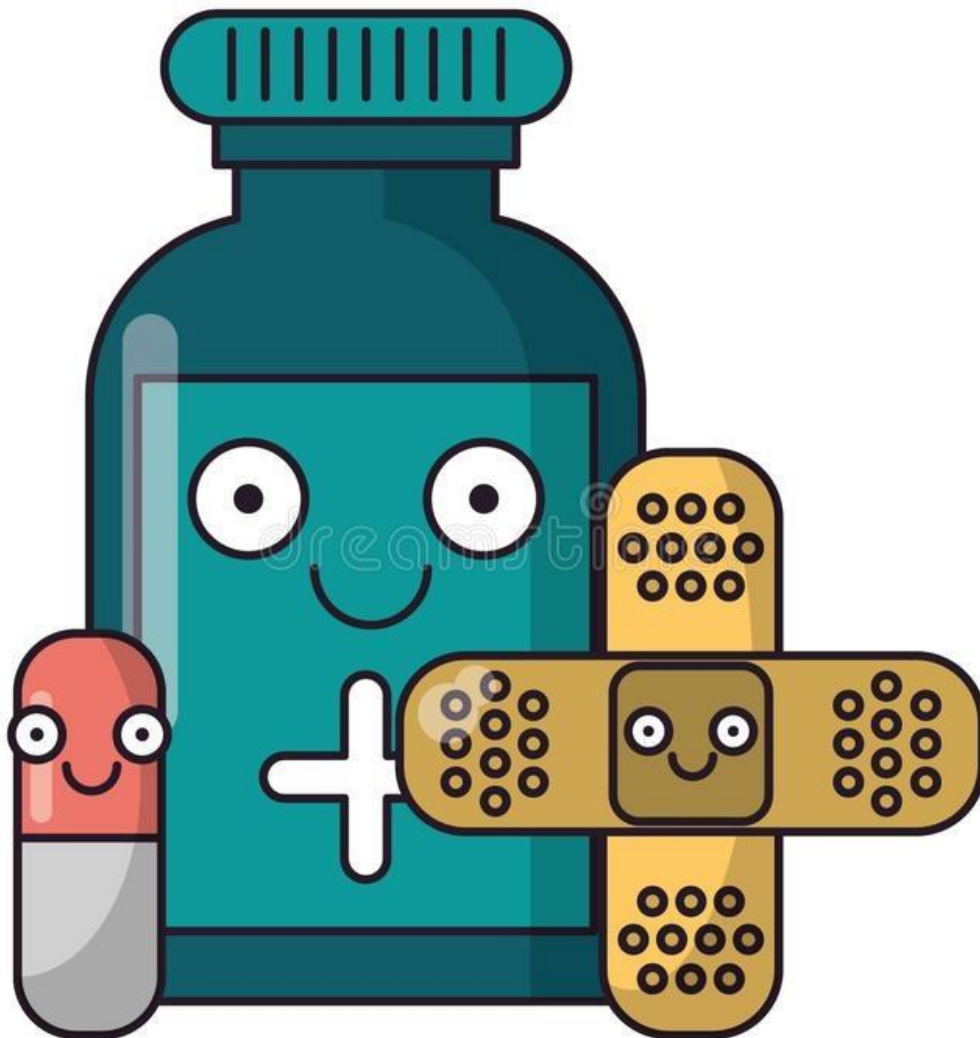


We have a number of children who suffer from allergies, which can result in potentially serious consequences. I would therefore ask that these children are not exposed to danger and that you are mindful of any children in your child's class who may have an allergy. We continue to be a Nut Free School, please do not send in anything which contains nuts.

Parents of children with diagnosed allergies are asked to provide the school with 2 Epipens (with valid dates) and any other necessary medication as soon as possible.

Please continue to support our 'Healthy Eating Policy' and provide your child with a piece of fruit and water or milk for break.

Administration of Medicine



Please visit the school office if your child requires medication to be administered whilst at school. 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 should have the child's name on it and the dosage clearly labelled. Please do not send any medication with your child – it must be handed into the school office by an adult. Thank You.

School Dinners



St Mary's on the Hill P S - Lunch Menu Single Choice – September 2022

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
WEEK 1 29 th Aug 26 th Sept 24 th Oct 28 th Nov 2 nd Jan 30 th Jan 6 th Mar 3 rd Apr 8 th May 5 th June	Spaghetti Bolognese Crusty bread Raspberry Ripple Ice Cream & Watermelon Chunks	Chicken Goujons Sweetcorn & Red Pepper Homemade Chilli Diced Potatoes Frozen Smoothies & Fresh Fruit	Roast Loin of Pork Traditional Stuffing/Gravy Carrot & Parsnip and Broccoli Florets Oven Dry Roast & Mashed Potato Popcorn Cookies with Pear Slices & Black Grapes	Breast of Chicken Curry with Boiled Rice & Naan Bread Chocolate & Pear Sponge with Custard	Fish Fingers Baked Beans Chips Fresh Fruit Salad & Yoghurts
WEEK 2 5 th Sept 3 rd Oct 7 th Nov 5 th Dec 9 th Jan 6 th Feb 13 th Mar 17 th Apr 15 th May 12 th June	Oven Baked Sausages Baked Beans Mashed Potatoes Arctic Roll with Sliced Peaches	Breaded Fish Fillets Sweetcorn & Peas Mashed Potato Frozen Yoghurt with Pineapple Chunks	Roast Breast of Chicken Traditional Stuffing/Gravy Savoy cabbage and Diced Carrots Oven Roast Dry & Mashed Potato Chocolate Brownie with Raspberry Milkshake	Chicken Tikka with Boiled Rice & Naan Bread Apple Sponge & Custard	Steak Burger Tossed Salad/Coleslaw Chips Flakemeal Biscuit & Fruit Chunks
WEEK 3 12 th Sept 10 th Oct 14 th Nov 12 th Dec 16 th Jan 20 th Feb 20 th Mar 24 th Apr 22 nd May 19 th June	Breaded Chicken Goujons with Garlic Dip Sweetcorn, Homemade Chilli Diced Potatoes Vanilla Ice Cream, Pears, & Chocolate Sauce	Fish Fingers Baked Beans/Sweetcorn Mashed Potato Swiss Roll filled with Yoghurt and Fruit	Roast Gammon Traditional Stuffing, Gravy Baton Carrots/Broccoli Oven Dry Roast & Mashed Potatoes Rice Pudding with Melody of fruit	Breast of Chicken Curry & Rice, Naan Bread Frozen Yoghurt & Fresh Fruit Selection	Steak Burger Tossed Salad/Coleslaw Chips Flakemeal Biscuits & Fresh Fruit Chunks
WEEK 4 19 th Sept 17 th Oct 21 st Nov 19 th Dec 23 rd Jan 27 th Feb 27 th Mar 1 st May 29 th May 26 th June	Spaghetti Bolognese Crusty Bread Honey Dew Melon Wedges and Ginger Cookie	BUFFET: Selection of Sandwiches (Chicken/Cheese/Tuna) Fish Bite Pizza Fingers Cocktail Sausages Carrot Sticks Fruit Muffin & Milkshake	Roast Beef Traditional Stuffing/Gravy Cauliflower Cheese Fresh Diced Carrots Oven Dry Roast & Mashed Potato Chocolate Brownie and Banana Chunk	Breast of Chicken Curry with Boiled Rice & Naan Bread Frozen Yoghurt & Fresh Fruit Selection Fruit Crumble & Custard	Breaded Chicken Bites Baked Beans Chips Jelly, Ice Cream & Fresh Fruit

Breads
Milk, Water
A Choice of Fresh Fruit & Yoghurt Available Daily

If you require any additional information on Allergens or Special Diets, please contact the School to complete a Special Diets Application Form

Menu choices subject to deliveries

Parents can now select and pay for dinners for the second term , up until w/b Monday 3rd April 2023, by logging on to School Money using your unique username and password. Your child's dinner should be ordered before midnight prior to the day it is required. Please contact the school if you have any problems. We require every parent to use this facility. A copy of the menu can be found on our website. **Also please be advised that Friday 9th December is the Christmas Dinner Day for pupils.**

Dates for Diary



2nd December Open Day Prospective P1 parents for September 2023

7th December P1 – P3 Pantomime at Courtyard Theatre

8th December Feast of the Immaculate Conception

9th December Christmas Dinner Day for Pupils

9th December Christmas Jumper Day £1 per child donation to SVP

12th December P1 Prayer service in St. Mary's on the Hill Church at 1.15pm

14th December P2 Christmas Performance 9:30am Ticketed event

15th December P2 Christmas Performance 9:30am Ticketed event

16th December Christmas Cards to be distributed

20th December P5 Carol Service in St. Mary's on the Hill church at 11am

21st December Movie Day in school for P4 – P7

22nd December School Closes 11:45am for P1 – P3 and 12:00pm for P4 – P7

Contact Details



There are some contacts in school which do not appear to be working, perhaps due to change of number or email address. If your address, telephone number or email address has changed please inform Mrs Mason in the office to ensure we have up to date information should we have a need to contact you.
