



St. Mary's on the Hill Information

January



Welcome to January's Information Sway. I would like to begin by wishing everyone a very happy and prosperous new year.

As we begin our second term there are still issues with infections and viruses affecting our school community including flu, strep and COVID. I would like to assure you that we are still working at keeping our school as safe as possible including regular handwashing and keeping the rooms as ventilated as possible. If your child is unwell please do not send them to school, this will also help to keep our whole community safe. Thank you.

As we move into the new year there will be a variety of opportunities for our children to participate in and we are confident they will continue to engage in these with enthusiasm.

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 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.

Please use the following link to access the Education Authority website.

<https://www.eani.org.uk/parents/admissions>

Pupils of the Month December



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	Name of child
P1a	Fintan Beattie	Ava Rose McFarlane
P1b	Aidan McAvinney	Erin Devlin
P2a	Nellie Collins	Sanjit Sapkota
P2b	Anais Leonard	Ella-Jud Campbell. Marcel McCullough
P3a	Sienna Smyth	Caleb Callow
P3b	Jay McKay	Tara McPhillips
P4a	Gaolan McLaughin	Kyla Logue
P4b	Michael Mulholland	Roise Mc Stravick
P5a	Isla Mc Garvey	Hanna Szymanska
P5b	Sean Loye	Cali McManus
P6a	Matthew Connolly	Erin Brownlie
P6b	Mela McManus	Dara McDonald
P7a	Lenny Dempsey	Oliwia Czyz
P7b	Gaolan Dunlop	Dana Doyle.

Principal's Award



This term St. Mary's on the Hill P.S. has introduced the Principal's Award. This Award is given to those pupils who have displayed hard work, very good behaviour and qualities such as kindness, care and compassion throughout the entire first term. We are extremely proud of all pupils who have received this award.

Class	Name of child
P1a	Ben Maxwell
P1b	Logan Monk
P2a	Ashton Lynch
P2b	Orlaith Finnerty
P3a	Charlotte Brady
P3b	Isla Deery
P4a	Michael Molloy
P4b	Ella Hale
P5a	Mya McKay
P5b	Grace McQuillan
P6a	Cara Hale
P6b	Lucy Erwin
P7a	Maisie Hamill
P7b	Rory McAlister

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 January we are focusing on '**Being a Good Team Member**'. I will talk to the children at each of our assemblies regarding this and staff will reinforce the message in school. This will include speaking appropriately, sharing ideas, listening to others, showing empathy for others who have a different point of view and looking for opportunities to help other members of our team. 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.*

Catholic Schools Week 2023



This year St Mary's on the Hill PS will celebrate Catholic Schools' Week beginning Sunday 29th January 2023. This year's theme is Walking Together in Faith and Love. During this week there will be a variety of activities planned that will allow our pupils to explore their faith more fully. This is a week when we celebrate our Catholic school.



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.

After 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 you have access to their phone and you check this 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, the Religion Programme and various other avenues. Despite this we find that many of the issues and difficulties which children face emanate from these 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.

After School Activities



The After School Activities for term 2 will start week beginning 16th January. Along with Activity NI and Playsport, after school clubs of Gaelic Football and Hurling will be offered for our P5, P6 and P7 children. Please look out for more information on these through your email.

Activity **ST. MARYS ON THE HILL**

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Friday
DODGEBALL 2PM - 3PM Primary 2 3PM - 4PM Primary 3-7	LEGO 2PM - 3PM Primary 2 3PM - 4PM Primary 3-7	SCIENCE 2PM - 3PM Primary 2 3PM - 4PM Primary 3-7	CODING CLUB 1:45PM - 3PM Primary 2-7 STAGE SCHOOL 1:45PM - 3PM Primary 2-7

£4 PER SESSION

1 Visit www.ActivityNI.co.uk or Google Activity NI.

2 Select 'After School Clubs', pick your child's school, then click 'Register Now'.

3 Complete the Short Registration form and make Payment if required.

50% DISCOUNT THROUGHOUT THE TERM
Allows 50% payments at Week 1, remaining 50% will be added at Week 6.

Road Safety Quiz 2023



We wish our P7 Road Safety Quiz team the best of luck on their first round outing on the 17th January. Mr Carter has worked hard to prepare them for this, which is taking place in Mossley Mill.

Gaelic Football Tournaments

GAELIC FOOTBALL



After successful outings for our hurling teams before Christmas, the boys' and girls' football teams will be playing at the end of January and beginning of February, dates to be confirmed. We wish them all good luck.

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.

Facebook



Please visit, like and share our Facebook page. It continues to be used to promote the school in the wider community. We will celebrate and mark events throughout the school year. We are very close to 700 likes for our page and we would really love to reach this milestone, if you have not already done so please give our page a like.

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 would 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/>

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 secured a delivery of fruit, for all children in the school, from Tesco Northcott. This will take place on one Friday each month. This month it will be Friday 13th January. We would like to thank the PTA for their continued support of the school in the promotion of healthy eating.

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 like to encourage parents who fall into this category to **please make an application** as soon as possible. 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 Loins 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 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.

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.
