



Learn to Love, Love to Learn

St. Mary's on the Hill February Information



Welcome to February's Information Sway. There have been a variety of events which have taken place in school and also some upcoming news and activities which we would like to share with you in this month's Sway.

At this point of the year it is important to highlight pupil attendance. It is extremely important we are informed of the reason your child is absent. School records are monitored monthly and we must input a code to explain absences. Please contact the school so that these records can be updated promptly. Excellent attendance and punctuality at school is important to allow your child to fulfil their potential.

During this month the school will be closed for mid-term break. I hope the children enjoy the time they have off from school and can enjoy a variety of activities.

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

Pupils of the Month January



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	Shea McCabe	Una Turley
P1b	Liam Hamill	Mia (Emilia) Cassidy
P2a	Aidan Pollock	Iris McLaughlin
P2b	Anthony McAlorum	Eoin Nellis
P3a	Malachi Hegney	Isabella McFarlane Jacob Sharp
P3b	Finn Rolston-McVeigh	Bonnie McKenna-Amos
P4a	Leo McDonnell	Anna Thompson
P4b	Ayla Ylidiz	Ciara Mc Cleave
P5a	Molly Bradley-Clayton	Yousif Almoh
P5b	Erin Carr	Riley Callaghan
P6a	Tomás Magee	Euan Madden
P6b	Elsie Marley	Jenna Bodkin
P7a	Noel Black	Paige Charters
P7b	Joe Brennan	Caitlin Donnelly

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 'Honesty'. 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.

Spirit of Catholic Education Award 2023



We were delighted to receive our award for Spirit of Catholic Education on Monday 30th January 2023. We were one of only 14 schools across our diocese to achieve this award. Thank you to everyone who contributed to this magnificent achievement, in particular Mrs Magee our RE coordinator, who was responsible for submitting our application.



Internet Safety Safer Internet Day 2023 will be celebrated globally on Tuesday 7th February with the slogan 'Together for a Better Internet'. On this day the children will be engaging in a range of activities which will explore how respect and relationships online are fostered and developed. This month the digital leaders will also lead the school in an assembly exploring this theme and finding out how best to remain respectful and have positive relationships with and on the internet. For further advice on keeping your child safe online go to www.thinkuknow.co.uk

Children's Mental Health Week 2023



Children's Mental Health Week 2022

Monday 6th 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 P.S. The theme is 'Let's Connect'; 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 lessons provided in school.

Autism Awareness in St. Mary's on the Hill P.S.



Autism Awareness in St Mary's on the Hill P.S

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.

After School Activities



The After School Activities continue for term 2 in February. Payment of the second instalment for clubs is due by Monday 20th February. Please login to School Money to make payment.

Activity				ST. MARYS ON THE HILL			
Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Friday				
DODGEBALL	LEGO	SCIENCE	CODING CLUB	STAGE SCHOOL			
2PM - 3PM Primary 2	2PM - 3PM Primary 2	2PM - 3PM Primary 2	1:45PM - 3PM Primary 2-7	1:45PM - 3PM Primary 2-7			
3PM - 4PM Primary 3-7	3PM - 4PM Primary 3-7	3PM - 4PM Primary 3-7					

£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.

USE DEBIT/CREDIT "DIRECT DEBIT"
Allows 50% payments at Week 1, remaining 50% will be added at Week 6.

Mid Term Camp at St. Mary's on the Hill Primary School by Activity NI

A vibrant blue and green poster for a half-term camp. At the top, the 'Activity NORTHERN IRELAND' logo is displayed. The main title 'HALF TERM CAMP' is written in large, white, hand-painted letters on a dark blue cloud-like background. To the right, a starburst graphic contains the text '£16 Day Rate'. Below the title, the dates '13TH - 17TH FEB' and times '9AM - 3PM' are listed. The poster is decorated with illustrations of a soccer ball, a basketball, a tennis racket, a baseball bat, and a paint palette. A dark blue speech bubble with white text says 'REGISTER ONLINE SPACE IS LIMITED'. A list of activities is provided on the left, and two photos show children participating in activities. At the bottom, a dark blue banner contains the website address.

Activity
NORTHERN IRELAND

HALF TERM CAMP

£16
Day Rate

13TH - 17TH FEB
9AM - 3PM

**REGISTER
ONLINE**
SPACE IS LIMITED

Activities:

- Fun Games
- Sports
- Arts & Crafts
- Music & Dance
- Nerf Wars
- Face Paints
- Many more....

For more info visit: www.ActivityNI.co.uk

During mid term break Activity NI will be running a camp each day filled with a range of activities. To book into this camp please click on the link below.

<https://activityni.coordinate.cloud/project/39682>

Road Safety Quiz 2023



Well done to our road safety quiz team who came third out of 23 teams last month. Congratulations to Natalia, Caitlin, Luke and Marcus!

Gaelic Football Tournaments

GAELIC FOOTBALL



Well done to both our boys and girls Gaelic Football teams. The boys reached the final of their tournament and both teams represented the school extremely well.

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 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. **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. 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

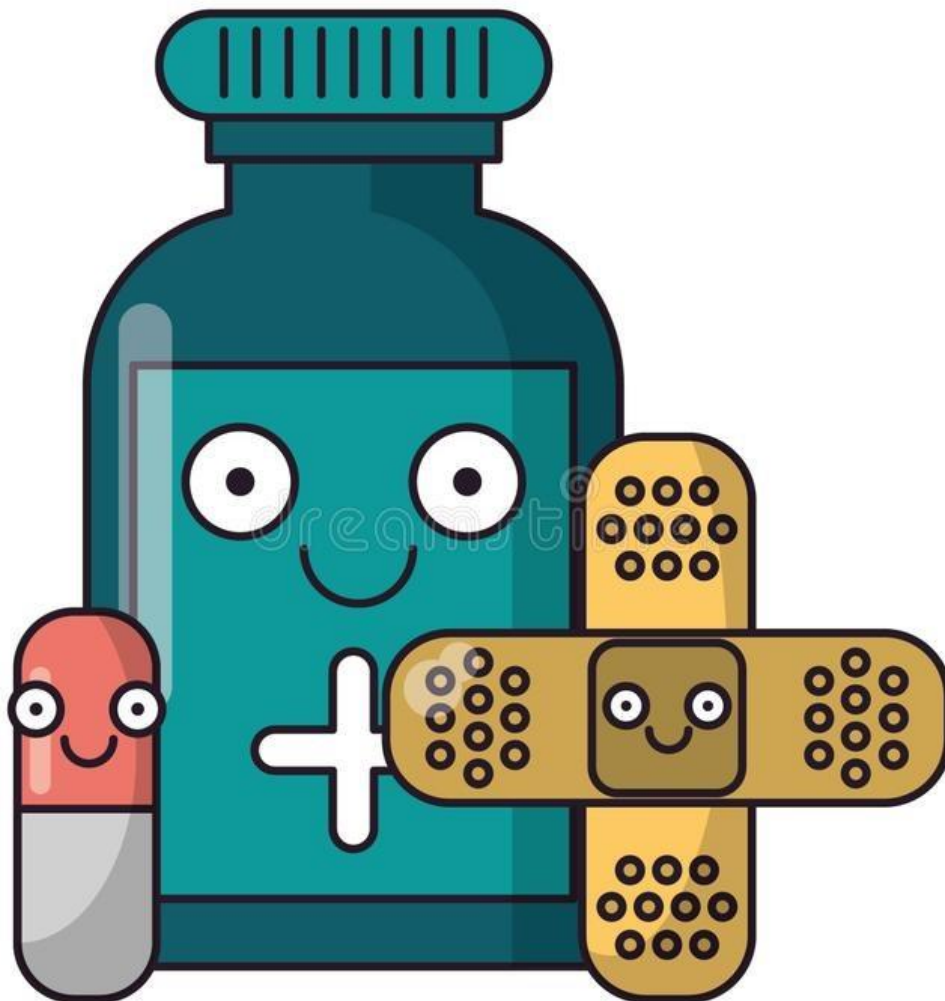


We have a number of children who suffer from allergies, which can result in potentially serious consequences. I would therefore ask that these children are not exposed to danger and that you are mindful of any children in your child's class who may have an allergy. We continue to be a Nut Free School,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



Lunch Menu - Please note that there is a slight amendment to Tuesday week 4

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 Bolognaise 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 Bolognaise Crusty Bread Honey Dew Melon Wedges and Ginger Cookie	Chicken Stew 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 a 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.
