



*Learn to Love, Love to Learn*

## St. Mary's on the Hill March Information



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*Welcome to March's Information Sway. As we move through the second term we have a number of events which will take place. Could I encourage you to read through the sway so you are aware of what is upcoming.*

*I would like to thank you all for the support and cooperation shown to myself and the staff over the course of this year. During the last number of months we have run numerous events e.g. concerts, workshops, information days, carol services all of which have been greatly attended. Your kind words of encouragement, whether it be through email, our social media or indeed in person are very much appreciated. We are fortunate to have such supportive parents working with us to ensure that our children get the best possible education we can offer.*

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

*[info@stmarys.newtownabbey.ni.sch.uk](mailto:info@stmarys.newtownabbey.ni.sch.uk)*

*Kind regards*

*Mr. Matthew O'Brien*

*Principal*

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## Pupils of the Month February



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

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Class	Name of child	Name of child
P1a	Maya Dunlop	Tess Ward
P1b	Avianna Sands	Aoife Lewis
P2a	Grace Moran	Ivy O'Neill Olivia Simpson
P2b	Jake McMillan	Orlaith Finnerty
P3a	Fiadh Turley	Jakub Tarnowski
P3b	Anmol Chhetri	Orlaith Galloway
P4a	Caelan Baxter	Erin Corry
P4b	Iona Mc Mahon	Conall Roe
P5a	Kamil Wysocki	Jayda Rose Cassidy
P5b	Alicja Tarnowska	Adam Krol
P6a	Jacob Collins	Sophie Cranston
P6b	Manon Parker	Marissa Burke
P7a	Orlaith Clayton	Caoimhin Hayes
P7b	Rory McAlister	Paige Stewart

## Behaviour Targets



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*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 March we are focusing on 'Self-Control'. 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.*

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## Peace Proms 2023

CROSS BORDER ORCHESTRA OF IRELAND PRESENTS

# PEACE PROMS 2023

DUBLIN  
BELFAST  
LIMERICK  
WATERFORD  
NEW YORK

CHOIR REGISTRATIONS NOW OPEN  
APPLY ONLINE AT [WWW.PEACEPROMS.COM](http://WWW.PEACEPROMS.COM)

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*What a night it was! Thank you to all the staff and parents who supported the children in attending the Peace Proms. This is an evening that will live long in the children's memories. The excitement and enthusiasm for the event was obvious. It was a great night and well worth the organisation and effort that was put into bringing it all together. A special thank you to Mr McEvoy who worked to prepare the children with all the singing and dancing as well as the organisation of the children on the night.*

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## Whole School Day of Culture

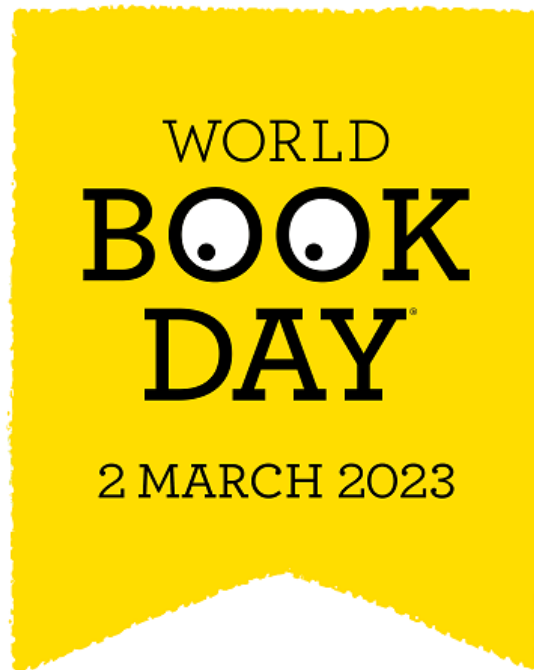


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*A concert will be held in the hall for all the pupils on Wednesday 15th March to celebrate the Feast of St Patrick. Children are asked to wear something green eg. hat/badge/ green baubles / socks. No football/sports tops should be worn.*

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World Book Day 2023



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*World Book Day will take place on Thursday 2nd March. To celebrate the reading achievements of the children in our school, we invite all pupils to dress up as their favourite book character on this date. There will be lots of fun-filled activities, Accelerated Reader Quizzes and Storytelling sessions for the children to take part in.*

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## School Trips



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*Our classes have had some exciting excursions lately. Last month P5 pupils very much enjoyed a trip to W5 Belfast. We have a few more trips for the children in our school to enjoy this month. Primary 7 will be going to Mossley Mill for a Bee Safe event and also attending the QFT to watch Matilda the Musical. Both P6 and P7 will be looking forward to a trip to the Ulster Museum this month also.*

*Exciting times ahead.*

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## Primary 3 First Confessions



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*The children in Primary 3 will be celebrating their First Confession this month.*

***P3A on 20th March 2023***

***P3B on 21st March 2023***

*Both ceremonies will take place in St. Bernard's church. We will keep the boys and girls in P3 in our prayers during this special time.*

***P3 children will leave school at 12:00pm on the day of their first confession.***

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## School Closures



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*The school will be closed on the following dates*

***St. Patrick's Day** - Thursday 16th March and Friday 17th March*

***Easter Break** - School will close at 12 noon on Thursday 6th April and will re-open for the third term on Monday 17th April.*

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## After School Activities



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				
<b>DODGEBALL</b>	<b>LEGO</b>	<b>SCIENCE</b>	<b>CODING CLUB</b>	<b>STAGE SCHOOL</b>			
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](http://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.

St. Patrick's Day Dinner



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*Mrs Butler our school cook will serve a St. Patrick's day dinner on Wednesday 15th March. All pupils are welcome to come and enjoy this dinner in the school canteen. Please book through School Money.*

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## Trócaire Week 2023

**TRÓCAIRE**  
Working for a Just World

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*As in previous years the charity we are supporting this term is Trócaire. Last year we raised a magnificent £2,557. Again this year we will have Trócaire Week which will commence Monday 27th March. The children will be involved in a range of challenges and fundraising activities throughout the week. Details will follow.*

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## School Dinners



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*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.*

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## Inclement Weather



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*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.*

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## Facebook



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*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/>*

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## Promoting Healthy Eating



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*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.*

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## Free School Meals



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*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](http://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.

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## Car Parking



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**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.

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## Allergy Awareness



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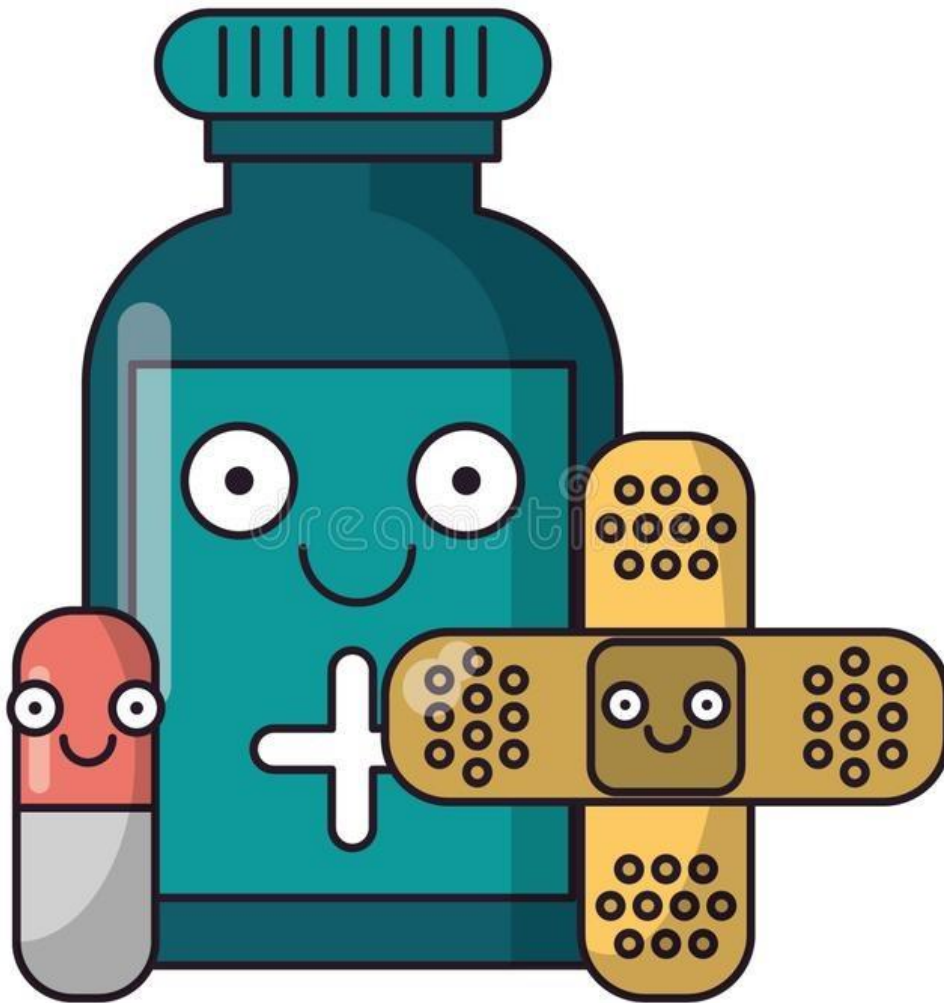
*We have a number of children who suffer from allergies, which can result in potentially serious consequences. I would therefore ask that these children are not exposed to danger and that you are mindful of any children in your child's class who may have an allergy. We continue to be a Nut Free School,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

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## Administration of Medicine



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*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.*

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## Contact Details



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*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.*

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