



St. Mary's on the Hill November Information 2023



Welcome to this month's information Sway. It is hard to believe that we are already in November. This month traditionally is a time when we remember those who have passed away, whether they are part of our own families or of our St. Mary's on the Hill community. During this month, at our assemblies, we will be praying for all those in our families who have died.

This month also sees a very important week, that of anti-bullying week. I will discuss in more detail what this involves, in this issue of sway.

I hope you continue to find this means of communication easier to navigate and more user friendly, particularly if you are viewing it through your phone. If there is anything you would like more information about, which could be included in future Sways, please let me know by contacting the school through email on info@stmarys.newtownabbey.ni.sch.uk

Kind regards

Mr. Matthew O'Brien

Principal

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- *Enthusiastic and approachable staff*
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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

Anti Bullying Week 2023 - Make a Noise about Bullying



Over the course of the year, in St Mary's on the Hill, we have had a very proactive curriculum which helps us to reduce the number of bullying episodes recorded in the school. Through the pupils' PDMU programme, circle time activities, religion programme and ICT lessons, we limit the amount of relationship issues that can develop into bullying. We also encourage and seek the help of outside agencies such as the NSPCC helping to deliver assemblies to support the pupils in our school. During Anti-Bullying week, the children will participate in a range of activities on the topic of Anti-Bullying. The week will begin with Odd Socks day on Monday 13th November.

More information on Anti-Bullying Week can be found for Parents/Carers in the link below

<https://anti-bullyingalliance.org.uk/sites/default/files/uploads/attachments/Anti-Bullying%20Week%202023%20-%20Parent%20Pack%20FINAL.pdf>

Winter Fair 2023



St. Mary's on the Hill P.S. will be hosting a Winter Fair again this year. There will be a range of stalls and of course the first opportunity to meet Santa. The Fair will take place on Saturday 16th December. For further details or if you wish to have a stall, please contact the St. Mary's on the Hill PTA. Please contact the PTA through email smoth-pta@outlook.com or facebook - www.facebook.com/stmarysonthehillpta

Promoting Healthy Eating November 2023



Here at St. Mary's on the Hill we promote Healthy Eating across the school. We encourage children to make healthy choices in what they eat and drink. During Breaktime we ask the pupils to make a healthy choice in regard to the type of snack they have mid-morning, this might include fruit, vegetables, crackers etc. Your support to help your child make a healthy choice for breaktime snack is much appreciated.

St Vincent de Paul 2023



Society of St. Vincent de Paul

This year, instead of hampers we will be supporting the charity by collecting money so that vouchers for Smyths and Tesco's can be purchased for those in need in our community. We will be offering our support through a Christmas Jumper day that will be held on Friday 8th December, all donations will be gratefully accepted.

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 02825661350. Should you have any further queries regarding this, please contact the school office.

Road Safety Week 2023

Road Safety Week



*The theme of Road Safety Week 2023 is **Lets Talk about SPEED**, bringing together communities and professionals to shout out for everyone's right to make safe and healthy journeys on safe roads.*

The children from P1-P7 will take part in this year's event making use of valuable resources provided by 'Brake.'

Joshua Harris, director of campaigns for Brake, the road safety charity, states: "Road Safety Week provides a unique opportunity, every year, to focus attention on how the safety of our roads impacts all our daily lives." Speed plays a part in every crash and just 1mph can mean the difference between life and death on the roads.

Road Safety Week will run from 19th November - 25th November.

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.

Pupils of the Month October



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

Class	Name	Name
P1MMCM	Olivia McCoey	Faolan Knocker
P1KR	Esmé Gilmore	Matthew Oliver
P2PM	Tess Ward	Cillian Campbell
P2MMC AL	Caiden Cairns	Avianna Sands
P3MM	Alfie Bodkin	Ruby Kirk Begley
P3SR	Conal Kelly	Orlaith Finnerty
P4AW	Isla Deery	Kyoko Fitzpatrick
P4RT	Sienna Smyth	Jakub Tarnowski
P5MD	James McMullan	Clara Divine
P5NN/E W	Daniel McAleer	Maggie Corey
P6SMCC	Nikola Lesniak	Adam Krol
P6JK	Louisa Smyth	Hanna Szymanska
P7MOB	Lucy Erwin	Eli McFarlane
P7KC	Eva Rankin	Theo Murray

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. The month of November is a great opportunity to look at how we interact with each other and look out for each other, therefore our target this month is **'Being a Good Friend'**. I will talk to the children at each of our assemblies regarding this and staff will reinforce this message in school. Can we ask you, parents and carers, to do the same at home? Please encourage your child with this target.*

Allergy Awareness

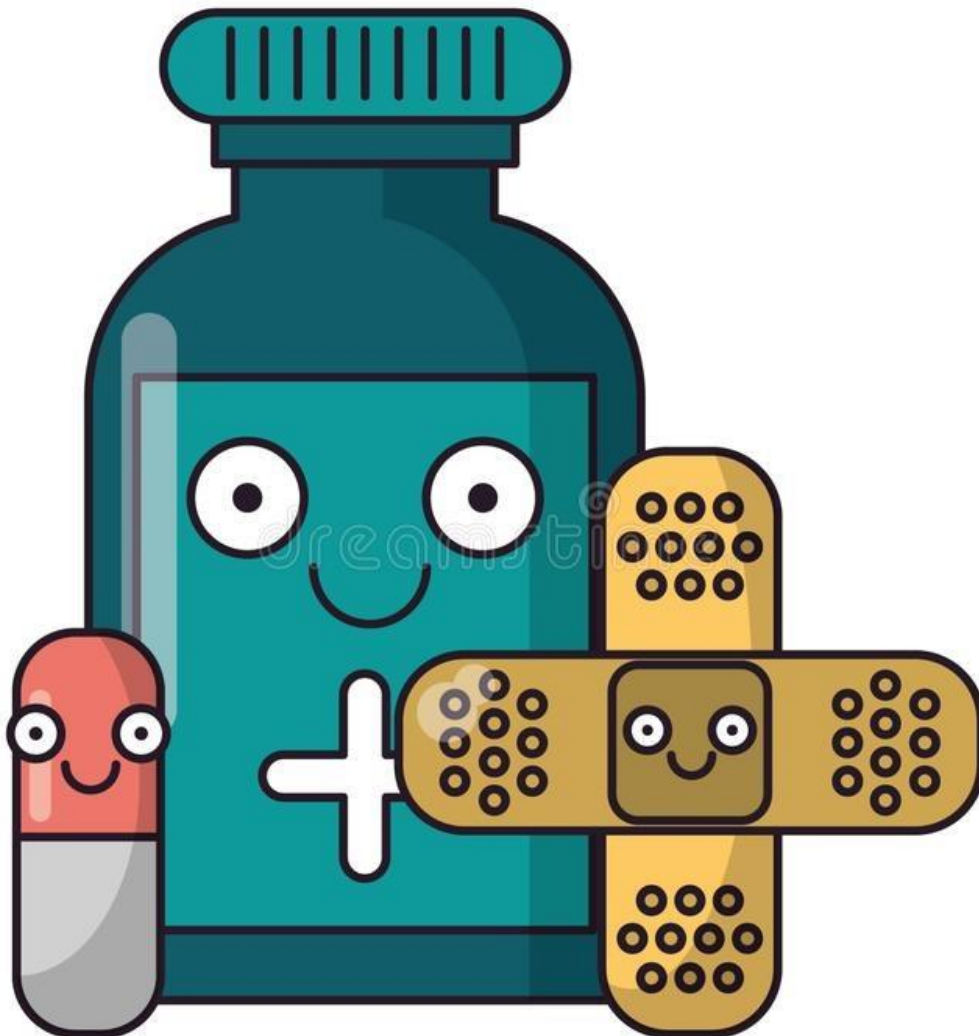


We have a number of children who suffer from allergies, which can result in potentially serious consequences. I would therefore ask that these children are not exposed to danger and that you are mindful of any children in your child's class who may have an allergy. We continue to be a Nut Free School, 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 in any medication with your child – it must be handed into the school office by an adult. Thank You.

School Dinners



School Lunch Menu – September 2023

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
WEEK 1 : Wk Beg: 28.08.23 25.09.23 23.10.23 27.11.23 01.01.24 29.01.24 04.03.24 08.04.24 06.05.24 03.06.24	Savoury Mince Mashed Potatoes Carrots Banana Yoghurt Pot	Margherita Pizza Salad/Coleslaw Chips Strawberry Mousse & Fruit	Roast Gammon with Stuffing & Gravy Mash/Oven Roast Potatoes Savoy Cabbage/Carrots & Parsnip Strawberry Jelly/Ice Cream & Fruit	Homemade Chicken Curry & Naan Bread Boiled Rice Peas/Sweetcorn Chocolate Sponge & Custard	Hotdog Chips & Side Salad Fresh Fruit Pot & Biscuit
WEEK 2 : Wk Beg: 04.09.23 22.10.23 06.11.23 04.12.23 08.01.24 05.02.24 11.03.24 15.04.24 13.05.24 10.06.24	Sausage Roll Chips/Jacket Potato Spaghetti Hoops/Peas Ice Cream/Chocolate Sauce & Sliced Pears	Pasta Bolognese/Garlic Bread Sweetcorn Zesty Orange Sponge & Custard	Roast Chicken with Stuffing & Gravy Mash/Roast Potatoes Broccoli/Cauliflower/ Carrots Blueberry Muffin	Homemade Chicken Curry & Naan Bread Boiled Rice/Garden Peas Fresh Fruit Salad & Yoghurt	Beef Burger/Bap Chips/Salad/Homemade Chilli Wedges Flakemeal Biscuit & Fruit
WEEK 3 : Wk Beg: 11.09.23 09.10.23 13.11.23 11.12.23 15.01.24 19.02.24 18.03.24 22.04.24 20.05.24 17.06.24	Golden Crumbed Fish Fingers Mashed Potatoes Baked Beans/Coleslaw Arctic Roll/Peaches & Pears	Italian Beef with Crusty Roll Garden Peas Fresh Fruit Pot	Roast Gammon with Stuffing & Gravy Mash/Oven Roast Potatoes Carrot/Parsnip/ Cauliflower Cheese Melon Wedge	Homemade Chicken Curry & Naan Bread Boiled Rice Mini Corn on the Cob Lemon Drizzle Cake & Custard	Tasty Pork Sausages Gravy Chips/Mash Peas/Spaghetti Hoops Decorated Fairy Cake
WEEK 4 : Wk Beg: 18.09.23 16.10.23 20.11.23 18.12.23 22.12.24 26.02.24 25.03.24 29.04.24 27.04.24 24.06.24	Beef Bolognese/Pasta Garlic Bread Peas Melon/Mandarin & Pineapple Pots with Yoghurt Dip	Ham & Cheese Pizza or Pepperoni with Garlic Dip Sweetcorn & Red Pepper Coleslaw Chips/Baked Potato Jelly & Mandarin Oranges	Roast Chicken with Stuffing & Gravy Mash & Oven Roast Potatoes Broccoli/Turnip Ice Cream/Pears & Chocolate Sauce	Homemade Chicken Curry & Naan Bread Green Beans / Boiled Rice Cornflake Tart & Custard	Golden Crumb Fish Fingers Chips/Mashed Potatoes Baked Beans/Salad Homemade Ginger Biscuit & Fruit

Breads
Milk, Water
A Choice of Fresh
Fruit require
Available Daily

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

Parents can now select and pay for dinners for the first term, up until w/b Monday 18th December 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.

Entrance Assessments



Good luck to our P7 pupils who are sitting entrance exams in November, please remember them in your prayers. The dates for assessments are:

SEAG 1 - Saturday 11th November

SEAG 2 - Saturday 25th November

Dates for Diary



Anti Bullying Week 2022- 13th November - 17th November

Road Safety Week 2022 - 19th November - 24th November

Mass in the Class /Prayers in the Class - Thursday 9th November @ 2pm - Mass for those who have Died

Thursday 7th December @ 2pm - Advent Mass

Parent Teacher Consultations - Week Beginning 27th November

*Parent Teacher Consultations - Friday 1st December- **Children are not in school***

Open Day - Friday 15th December

Winter Fair - Saturday 16th December

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.
