



St. Mary's on the Hill

December Information



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 P2's are preparing for their prayer service and concert performance respectively. P1 - 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 8th 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

We are delighted to invite you and your child to our Open Day on Friday 15th December.

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

- Centre of pastoral excellence
- Child centred learning and provision
- Our amazing school choir and orchestra
- Engaging interactive activities
- Enthusiastic and approachable staff



Learn to Love, Love to Learn

OPEN DAY!

FRIDAY 15th
DECEMBER



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!

142 Carnmoney Road,
Co. Antrim, BT36 6JU
(028) 9083 6284

Find us on 



Prospective P1 parents/carers we are delighted to invite you, to our Open Day on Friday 15th 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 and orchestra*
 - *Engaging interactive activities*
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-

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Key Dates for Enrolment to P1



Key Dates

September 2024 to
June 2025 school year

12 December 2023

Admissions Criteria published

9 January 2024

Applications open at 12noon

26 January 2024

Applications close at 12noon



www.eani.org.uk



Tuesday 12th December 2023 EA publishes information on website about the primary one admissions procedure and admissions criteria for schools.

Tuesday 9th January 2024 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 26th January 2024 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 26th January 2024** 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 Deputy Mayor of Antrim and Newtownabbey Mrs Rosie Kinnear, 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	Name
P1MMCM	Adam Graham	Krystal Chhetri
P1KR	Cillian Mooney	Aine Smyth
P2PM	Max McMenamy	Ben Maxwell
P2MMC AL	Louis McCullough	Charli Quinn
P3MM	Alfie Quinn Keenan	Jack Conway Ivy O'Neill
P3SR	Eoin Nellis Jake McMillan	Eimear Donaghy
P4AW	Nancy Corey	Noah Monk
P4RT	Luighseach McDade	Oisin Kim and Eimear McDermott
P5MD	Roise McStravick	Enda Welsh
P5NN/E W	Cailean Mc Mahon	Anna Makin
P6SMCC	Cara Dunlop	Konstanty <u>Bulowski</u>
P6JK	Aidan Hayes	Olivia Black
P7MOB	Iona Welsh	Dara McDonald
P7KC	Cara Hale	Annie Corey

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 all**'. 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: Wednesday 6th December at 9.30am and on Thursday 7th 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 Wednesday 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.

Christmas Jumper Day Dander



This can be paid via School Money. 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 8th December, all donations will be gratefully accepted.

Christmas Dinner Day 2023



This year children will get a Christmas lunch box which will contain a variety of treats. 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 St. Vincent de Paul. The St. Vincent de Paul appeal this year is 'Be More Than Kind this Christmas'. This year, the cost of living crisis has increased the pressure on people's lives, leading to a rise in people seeking our help. You can give practical support and the hand of friendship to someone enduring hardship this Christmas. We would like to help St. Vincent de Paul as they support many of the families in our local community.

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. Thank you for your support

Christmas Cards



*In order to manage Christmas cards for classmates this year we are asking parents to send them on **Thursday 14th 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

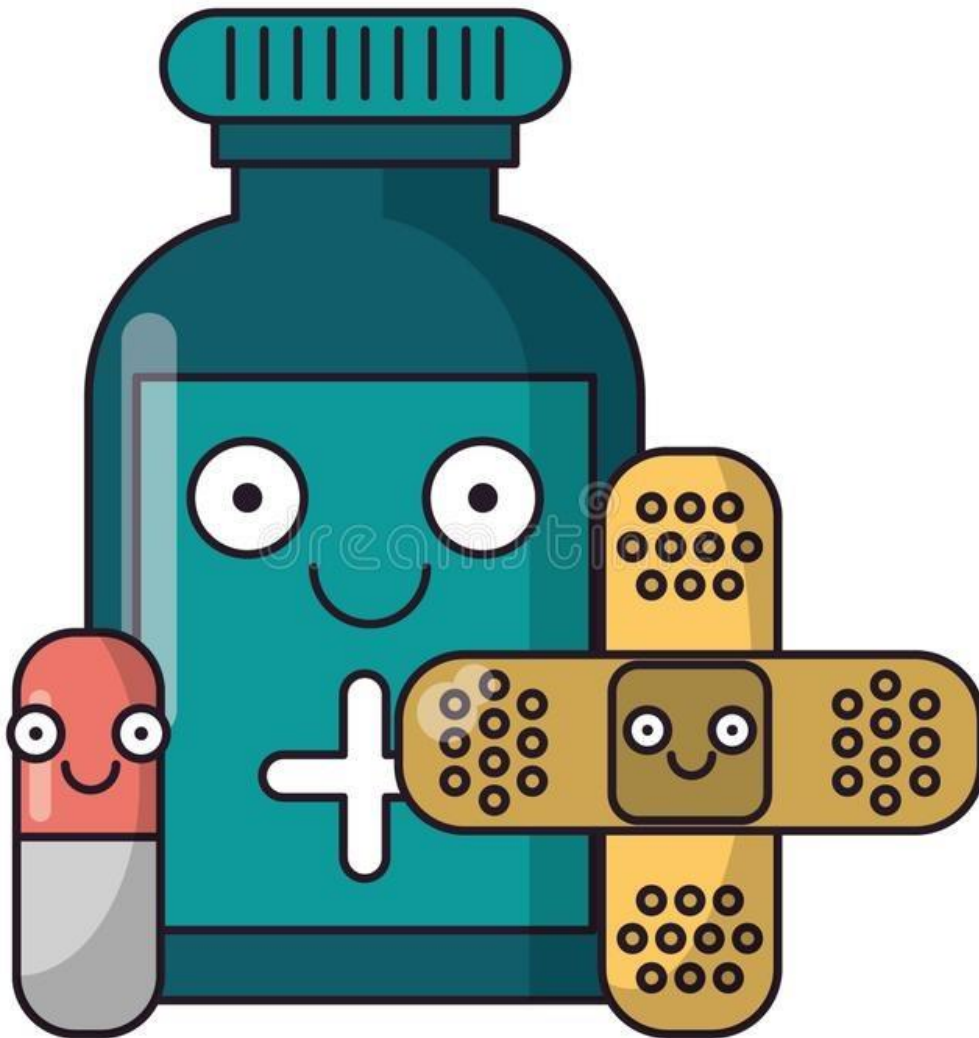


We have a number of children who suffer from allergies, which can result in potentially serious consequences. I would therefore ask that these children are not exposed to danger and that you are mindful of any children in your child's class who may have an allergy. We continue to be a Nut Free School,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



	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 02.10.23 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 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 Wednesday 13th December is the Christmas Dinner Day for pupils.

Dates for Diary



6th December P2 Christmas Performance 9:30am Ticketed event

7th December P2 Christmas Performance 9:30am Ticketed event

8th December Feast of the Immaculate Conception

8th December Christmas Jumper Day Dander £1 per child donation to SVP

9th December Breakfast with Santa - PTA Event

13th December Christmas Dinner Day for Pupils (Christmas jumpers can be worn this day too)

14th December Christmas Cards to be distributed

15th December Open Day Prospective P1 parents for September 2023

16th December Christmas Fair

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

05 January School Reopens for Pupils

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.
