



St. Mary's on the Hill January Information 2024



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

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. The New Year is always an opportunity for us to begin again and look forward to a fresh start. We hope that we can continue to work together in partnership for the benefit of all the children.

As we move through the winter months more ailments such as flus, colds and even COVID can become more prevalent. Please look for these in your child and if your child is unwell please do not send them into school.

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 2024



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

Tuesday 9 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 26 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 26 January 2024 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>

Promoting Internet Safety



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 WhatsApp/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.

Pupils of the Month December 2023



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	Grace McArdle	Jack Kennedy
P1KR	Chloe Copeland	Ben McClean
P2PMI	Sophia O'Neill	Una Turley
P2MMC AL	Corrin Elliott	Oscair Milne
P3MM	Logan Kelly	Chara Murphy
P3SR	Anais Leonard	Conlin Doherty
P4AW	Finn Rolston-McVeigh	Cadhla O'Hanlon
P4RT	Niamh Morelli	Frankie Magill
P5MD	Michael Mulholland	Lauryn O'Kane
P5NN/E W	Rebecca Clarke	Julia Borkowska
P6SMCC	Cali Mc Manus	Alicja Tarnowska
P6JK	John Paul McMullan	Lexi Kemp
P7MOB	Joseph Feeney	Madison Russell
P7KC	Caelan Russell	Niamh O'Reilly

Principal's Award Term 1



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. As well as having an excellent attitude towards school. We are extremely proud of all pupils who have received this award.

Class	Name of child
P1KR	Maria Lesniak
P1MMC	Katie McFarland
P2PMI	Maya Dunlop
P2MMA	Aidan McAvinney
P3MM	Grace Moran
P3SR	Cara Mullin
P4RT	Charlotte Brady
P4AW	Aoife Captain
P5MD	Iona McMahon
P5NW	Krish Adhikari
P6JK	Ellis Cheadle
P6SMC	Molly Neill
P7MOB	Chloe Wilkinson
P7KC	Matthew Connolly
Mr McEvoy's	Isabelle Havlin

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 2024



This year St Mary's on the Hill PS will celebrate Catholic Schools' Week beginning Sunday 21st January 2024. This year's theme is Communities of Service. 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.

Charity Donation



Thank you all for your generosity in contributing to our charities which were nominated in our first term. We have donated the following:

St. Vincent de Paul - £1,357. This amount was raised in lieu of staff presents and our Christmas Jumper Day.

A huge thank you to everyone.

After School Activities



The After School Activities for term 2 will start week beginning 8th 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.

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.

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 have over 900 followers for our page and we would really love to reach the milestone of 1000, if you have not already done so please give our page a like or a follow.

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

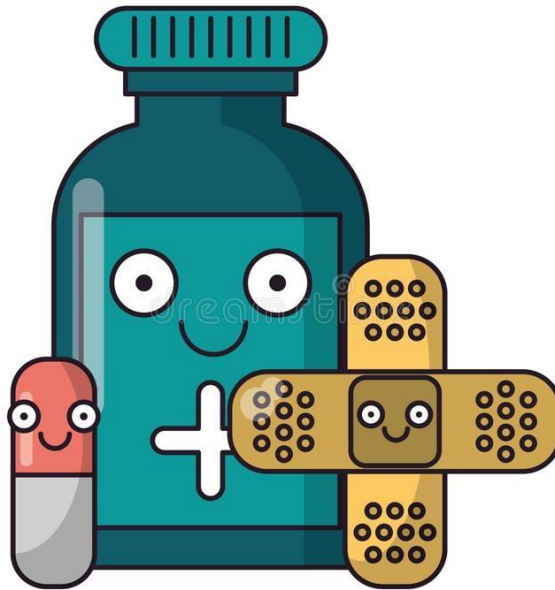


We have a number of children who suffer from allergies, which can result in potentially serious consequences. I would therefore ask that these children are not exposed to danger and that you are mindful of any children in your child's class who may have an allergy. We continue to be a Nut Free School,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



School Lunch Menu – September 2023

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
WEEK 1 - 1st-6th	Seedy Mince 26.09.23 26.09.23 26.09.23 27.09.23 28.09.23 29.09.23 30.09.23 01.10.23	Mangheta Piro Salad/Coleslaw Chips 26.09.23 27.09.23 28.09.23 29.09.23 30.09.23 01.10.23	Roast Gammon with Stuffing & Gravy Mush/Onion Roast Potatoes Swiss Cheddar/Cornish & Parma 26.09.23 27.09.23 28.09.23 29.09.23 30.09.23 01.10.23	Homemade Chicken Curry & Naan Bread Boiled Rice Peas/Onion Chocolate Sponge & Custard 26.09.23 27.09.23 28.09.23 29.09.23 30.09.23 01.10.23	Veget Chips & Salsalad Fresh Fruit Pot & Biscuit 26.09.23 27.09.23 28.09.23 29.09.23 30.09.23 01.10.23
WEEK 2 - 1st-6th	Sausage Roll 26.09.23 26.09.23 26.09.23 26.09.23 26.09.23 26.09.23 26.09.23 26.09.23	Paella Bolognese/Garlic Bread Sweetcorn 26.09.23 27.09.23 28.09.23 29.09.23 30.09.23 01.10.23	Roast Chicken with Stuffing & Gravy Mush/Onion Roast Potatoes Broccoli/Cauliflower/ Cornish Blueberry Muffin 26.09.23 27.09.23 28.09.23 29.09.23 30.09.23 01.10.23	Homemade Chicken Curry & Naan Bread Boiled Rice/Garden Peas Fresh Fruit Salad & Yoghurt Fakemal Bread & Fruit 26.09.23 27.09.23 28.09.23 29.09.23 30.09.23 01.10.23	Beef Burger/Bag Chips/Onion/Homemade Chilli Noodles Fakemal Bread & Fruit 26.09.23 27.09.23 28.09.23 29.09.23 30.09.23 01.10.23
WEEK 3 - 1st-6th	Golden Crumb/Fish Fingers 26.09.23 26.09.23 26.09.23 26.09.23 26.09.23 26.09.23 26.09.23 26.09.23	Kebab Beef with Crusty Roll Garden Peas 26.09.23 27.09.23 28.09.23 29.09.23 30.09.23 01.10.23	Roast Gammon with Stuffing & Gravy Mush/Onion Roast Potatoes Cauliflower/ Cauliflower-Cheese Melon Wedge 26.09.23 27.09.23 28.09.23 29.09.23 30.09.23 01.10.23	Homemade Chicken Curry & Naan Bread Boiled Rice Mini Corn on the Cob Lemon Drizzle Cake & Custard 26.09.23 27.09.23 28.09.23 29.09.23 30.09.23 01.10.23	Tasty Pork Sausages Gravy Chips/Mush Peas/Spaghetti/Onion Decorated Fairy Cake 26.09.23 27.09.23 28.09.23 29.09.23 30.09.23 01.10.23
WEEK 4 - 1st-6th	Beef Bolognese/Pasta Garlic Bread 26.09.23 26.09.23 26.09.23 26.09.23 26.09.23 26.09.23 26.09.23 26.09.23	Ham & Cheese/Pizza or Pepperson with Garlic Dip Sweetcorn & Red Pepper Coleslaw Chips/Boiled Potatoes 26.09.23 27.09.23 28.09.23 29.09.23 30.09.23 01.10.23	Roast Chicken with Stuffing & Gravy Mush & Onion Roast Potatoes Broccoli/Turnip Ice Cream/Pears & Chocolate Sauce 26.09.23 27.09.23 28.09.23 29.09.23 30.09.23 01.10.23	Homemade Chicken Curry & Naan Bread Green Beans / Boiled Rice Caramelized Art & Cucumber 26.09.23 27.09.23 28.09.23 29.09.23 30.09.23 01.10.23	Golden Crumb/Fish Fingers Chips/Mashed Potatoes Baked Beans/Custard Homemade Ginger Biscuit & Fruit 26.09.23 27.09.23 28.09.23 29.09.23 30.09.23 01.10.23

Break,
Milk, Water
A Choice of Fresh
Fruit/Onion
Available Daily

If you require any
additional
information on
Allergies 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 25th March 2024, 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.
