



Learn to Love, Love to Learn

St. Mary's on the Hill P.S. February Information 2024



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

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 February we are focusing on '**Taking Responsibility**'.*

This message comes as we come to the half way mark of our school year. I will speak to the children about how they take responsibility for their work, behaviour and effort in school. Another important aspect is the following of school rules including wearing the full school uniform and abiding by our healthy break policy. We are teaching our children the importance of making good choices in our school.

Can I ask parents and carers to support this message at home? This is to ensure that pupils know that we are all working together.



Internet Safety Safer Internet Day 2024 will be celebrated globally on Tuesday 6th 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 2024



Children's Mental Health Week 2024

Monday 5th 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 'My Voice Matters'; Empowering children and young people can have a positive impact on their health and wellbeing. For example, children and young people who feel that their voices are heard - and that what they say makes a difference - have higher levels of self-efficacy and self-esteem. They also have a greater sense of community – and as people become empowered, they can work together to create positive changes for themselves and for others.

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 19th February. Please login to School Money to make payment.

- *Monday: Nerf Wars*
 - *Tuesday: Tech Club*
 - *Wednesday: Art & Crafts Club*
 - *Friday: Task Masters / Gymnastics*
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Mid Term Camp at St. Mary's on the Hill Primary School by Activity NI



**Multi activity Half term
camp**

**12TH - 16TH FEBRUARY
9AM-3PM**

Wallace High School
St Mary's On The Hill Primary school
Moira Primary School
Antrim Primary School
Templepatrick Primary School

Activities include:
Football, basketball, volleyball, tennis,
tag rugby, badminton
and much more...

**REGISTER NOW AT
WWW.ACTIVITYNI.CO.UK**

Activity
NORTHERN IRELAND

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.pembee.app/activity/65a5af130500a9beb9b5424f>

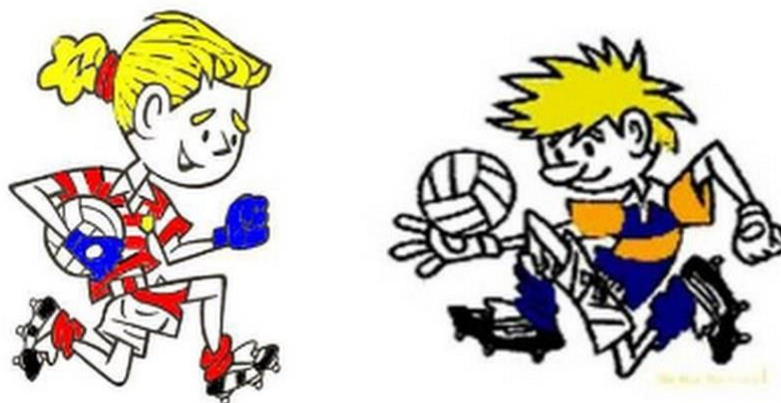
Road Safety Quiz 2024



Well done to our road safety quiz team who came second last month. Congratulations to Conor, Iona, Lorcan and Clodagh! The team will now go on to represent the school at the finals being held on Monday 4th March.

Gaelic Football Tournaments

GAELIC FOOTBALL



Well done to both our boys and girls Gaelic Football teams. The boys and girls played extremely well in their tournaments and did our school and themselves proud. Well done everyone.

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

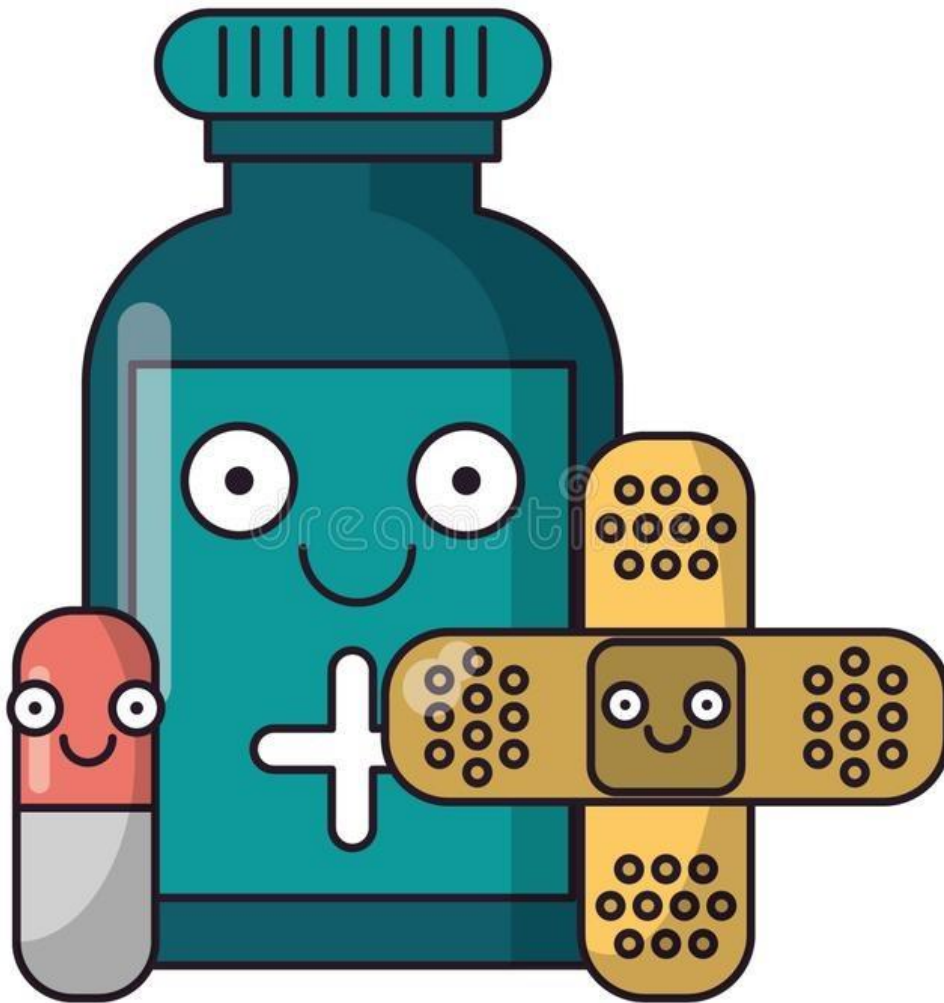


We have a number of children who suffer from allergies, which can result in potentially serious consequences. I would therefore ask that these children are not exposed to danger and that you are mindful of any children in your child's class who may have an allergy. We continue to be a Nut Free School,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



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.

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 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

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.