



St. Mary's on the Hill March Information 2024



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

Kind regards

Mr. Matthew O'Brien

Principal

Pupils of the Month February



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	Ethan Hall	Hollie Caskey
P1KR	Aoife Corry	Lola Gribben
P2PM	Liam Hughes & Cara Quinn	Bobby Magill
P2MMCAL	Grace Cassidy	Logan Monk
P3MM	Aidan Pollock	Isla Ross
P3SR	Aoife Downey	Aleph Jimenez-Dorta
P4AW	Oran Cassidy	Khadine Masterson
P4RT	Jacob Sharp	Sophia Jones
P5MD	Nainsi Mc Mullan	Conall Roe
P5NN/EW	Cara Douglas	Charlie Maxwell
P6SMCC	Molly Neill	Oliver Toney
P6JK	Evie Wagstaff	Molly Bradley-Clayton
P7MOB	Cillian McCabe	Manon Parker
P7KC	Jacob Collins	Erin Brownlie

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 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.

Peace Proms 2024



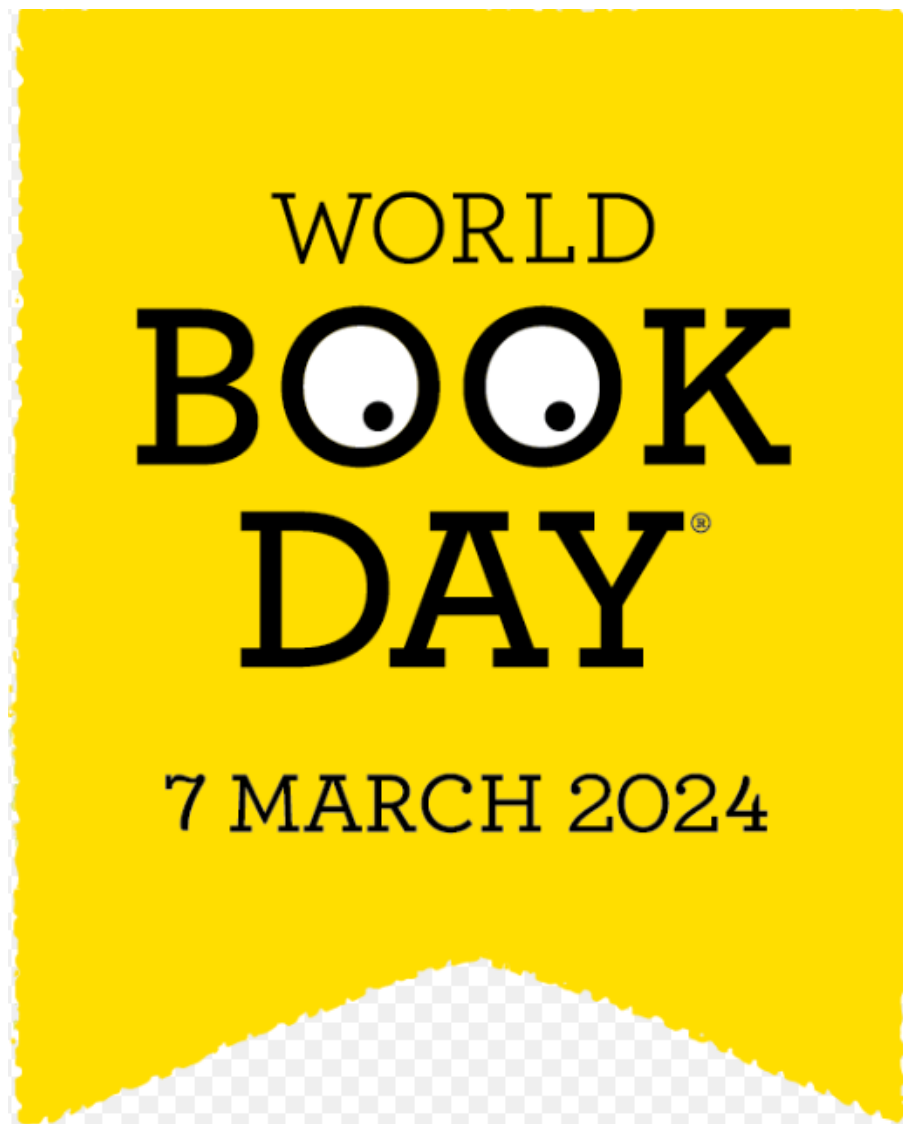
What a night it was! Thank you to all the staff and parents who supported the children in attending the Peace Proms. This is an evening that will live long in the children's memories. The excitement and enthusiasm for the event was obvious. It was a great night and well worth the organisation and effort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

Whole School Day of Culture



A concert will be held in the hall with the pupils on Friday 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.

World Book Day 2024



World Book Day will take place on Thursday 7th 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.

Marathon Relay Fundraiser for the Oscar Knox Fund



*The staff of St. Mary's on the Hill P.S. will be entering the relay and walking parts of the Belfast Marathon this year to raise money for a very worthy cause. This year we will be raising money for the **Oscar Knox Fund**. This is a charity very close to our hearts in St. Mary's on the Hill P.S. and we are delighted to be raising money to help solve the problem of cancer in children. If you would like to sponsor the staff please click on the link below which will take you to the **Oscar Knox Fund** JustGiving page .*

<https://www.justgiving.com/page/st-marys-on-the-hill-primary-school-oscarknoxfund>

School Trips



Our classes have had some exciting excursions lately. Already this month P5 pupils very much enjoyed a trip to Titanic Belfast. Our P4 pupils thoroughly enjoyed their trip to the Ulster Folk Museum at Cultra. Primary 7 will be going to Mossley Mill for a Bee Safe event. Exciting times ahead.

Primary 3 First Confessions



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

P3MM on Tuesday 12th March 2024

P3SR on Wednesday 13th March 2024

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.

School Closures



The school will be closed on the following dates

***St. Patrick's Day** - Monday 18th March 2024*

***Easter Break** - School will close at 12 noon on Thursday 28th March and will re-open for the third term on Monday 8th April 2024.*

Trócaire Week 2024

TRÓCAIRE
Working for a Just World

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.


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.

EAT SMART WITH THE LUNCH BUNCH



WEEKS SERVED	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
16 February 13 March 10 April 12 May 15 June 22 September	Beef Bourguignon Broccoli Pasta Sauce Chocolate & Orange Cookie	Breaded Fish & Lemon Mayo Custard Pudding Chopped Potato / Mashed Potato Raspberry Jelly & Two Fruits	Roast Chicken, stuffing & giblets Fresh vegetables in season Mashed / Oven Roast Potato Pineapple delight	Chicken Curry & Naan Bread Diced Carrots Baked Rice Fruit Sponge & Custard	Hot Dog with Sweet Potato Soylent House / Sweetcorn Chopped Potatoes / Baked Potatoes Ice Cream & Malt Drink Oranges
26 February 23 March 22 April 19 May 11 June 9 September	Golden Crumbed Fish Fingers Baked Beans & Garden Peas Chopped / Mashed Potato Homemade Flaminé Sauce	Beef Riggs Balls Sausages Wedges / Salad Mandarin Orange Sausage & Custard	Roast Beef / Gravy Fresh Vegetables in season Mashed / Oven Roast Potato Golden Kruppie Squares	Chicken Curry & Naan Bread Baked Carrots Baked Rice Artis, Nut and Peaches	Chicken Cordon & Sweet Corn Dip Sweet Corn Chopped Baby Beets Fruit Muffs / Orange Juice
4 March 1 April 29 April 27 May 24 June 21 September	Golden Crumbed Fish Fingers Sausages & Mashed Potatoes Baked Potato / Chips / Colcannon Ice Cream, Pears & Chocolate Sauce	Homemade Cottage Pie Spring Greens / Baked Beans Summer Fruit Cheese Cake	Roast Chicken, Stuffing & Gravy Fresh Vegetables in Season Mashed / Oven Roast Potato Homemade Brownies & Orange Wedges	Beef Meatballs With Tomato & Beef Sauce Baked Carrots Sticky Date Pudding & Custard	School 'Chippy Day' Chicken Cordon Beans / Mashed Potato Chopped Baby Beets Frozen Fruit / Yogurt
11 March 8 April 5 May 3 June 1 August 23 September	Baked Pork Sausages & Gravy Baked Beans / Garden Peas Chopped / Mashed Potato Ice Cream & Two Fruits	BBQ Pulled Pork Pizza Wrap Sausages / Baked Beans Oven Roasted Carrots & Potatoes Wedges Jelly Cake Pots	Roast Pork, Stuffing & Gravy Fresh Vegetables in Season Mashed / Oven Roast Potato Fresh Fruit Salad & Yogurt	Breaded Fish & Lemon Mayo Garden Peas Mashed Potato Fruit Sponge & Custard	Beef Burger / Beef Burger with Sweet Potato Sweet Corn Chopped / Baby Beets Lemon Sherbet & Malt Drink

WATER, MILK, BREAD & FRESH FRUIT AVAILABLE DAILY

IF YOU NEED ANY INFORMATION ON ALLERGENS OR HAVE SPECIAL DIETARY REQUIREMENTS, PLEASE NOTIFY YOUR SCHOOL ACCORDINGLY

MENU SUBJECT TO PRODUCT AVAILABILITY

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

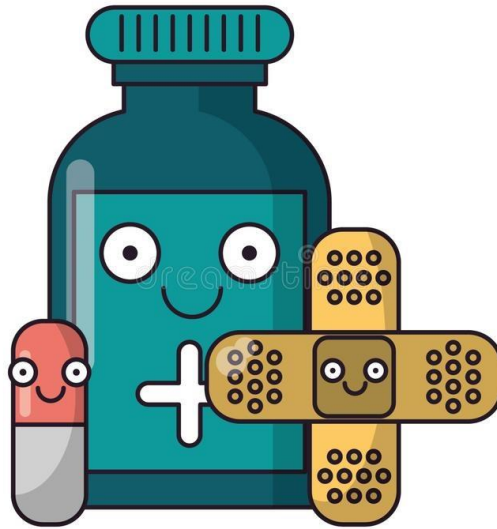


We have a number of children who suffer from allergies, which can result in potentially serious consequences. I would therefore ask that these children are not exposed to danger and that you are mindful of any children in your child's class who may have an allergy. We continue to be a Nut Free School,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

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.
