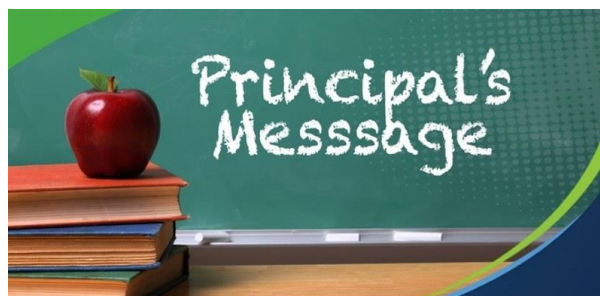




Learn to Love, Love to Learn

St. Mary's on the Hill Information September 2024



Welcome to September's Information update. I hope your family had a wonderful fun-filled summer break. The children have started the school year off very well and will be getting the support they need to settle into all the routines that come with being back to school.

We have had a busy summer making sure the school is ready for pupils and there are a few updates, including sensory paths, new playground markings and this year we will be introducing a new whole school house system. We are looking forward to developing all these things in the weeks and months ahead.

September is always an exciting month as the children start working with a new teacher in a new classroom. They will have the opportunity to reconnect with friends they may not have seen for two months and this may bring challenges. Please contact us if your child needs any support with this transition.

As always the contact email is given below,

info@stmarys.newtownabbey.ni.sch.uk

Kind regards,

Matthew O'Brien

Principal



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, please 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 at drop-off time.** 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 adults are gathered there. As the gate is in close proximity to the entrance of the car park, we must make every effort to ensure that 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.*

Behaviour Target September



*One of the things we are most proud of in St. Mary's on the Hill is the children's behaviour. However, there is always room for improvement. The month of September is the perfect opportunity to establish the correct attitudes and behaviours for learning, therefore our target this month is **'Actively Listening'**. This means that the children can show they are listening in school by sitting up in their seats, looking at the person who is speaking and following the instructions they are given or asking questions that are appropriate to what they have just heard. 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.*

After School Clubs



After School Clubs will commence week beginning Monday 9th September 2024. You can enrol your child and pay for the after school activity of your choice, through the Activity NI & Playsport NI websites. Hurling and Gaelic football can be booked through School Money. A timetable of activities with links to these websites will be forwarded to parents week beginning 2nd September.

Waiting Club



The Waiting Club operates from 2pm—3pm Monday - Thursday. It costs £2.00 per day per child and is available for P1 & P2 pupils. Payment for the Waiting Club can be made through School Money Online.

Attendance



We, in St Mary's on the Hill pride ourselves on the high attendance rate of our pupils; the average attendance last year being 94%. It would be great to see this exceeded this year. All absences should be explained by a phone call or email to the office, or note to the teacher. You will find the Holiday List posted on the school website. I would urge you to organise family holidays during these periods only. As far as possible, medical appointments should be made outside school hours. Please inform the school if you wish to withdraw your child from class before the end of the school day. On arrival please call at the school office and Mrs Mason will send for your child.

*Please remember that if your child arrives after 9:00am they will be marked **late** and if they arrive after 9:10am they will be registered as having **missed the first session** of the day.*

Uniform



*All pupils are expected to wear full uniform to school each day. **Trainers are NOT acceptable.** In the event of inclement weather, pupils may wear boots but are expected to bring school shoes for indoor use. In the interest of safety no jewellery, apart from a watch or stud earrings only, may be worn to school. No pupil should wear makeup. On PE days pupils may wear their PE uniform to school - navy shorts or tracksuit bottoms, a plain white polo shirt and trainers/plimsolls. The class teacher will send notification of P.E days.*

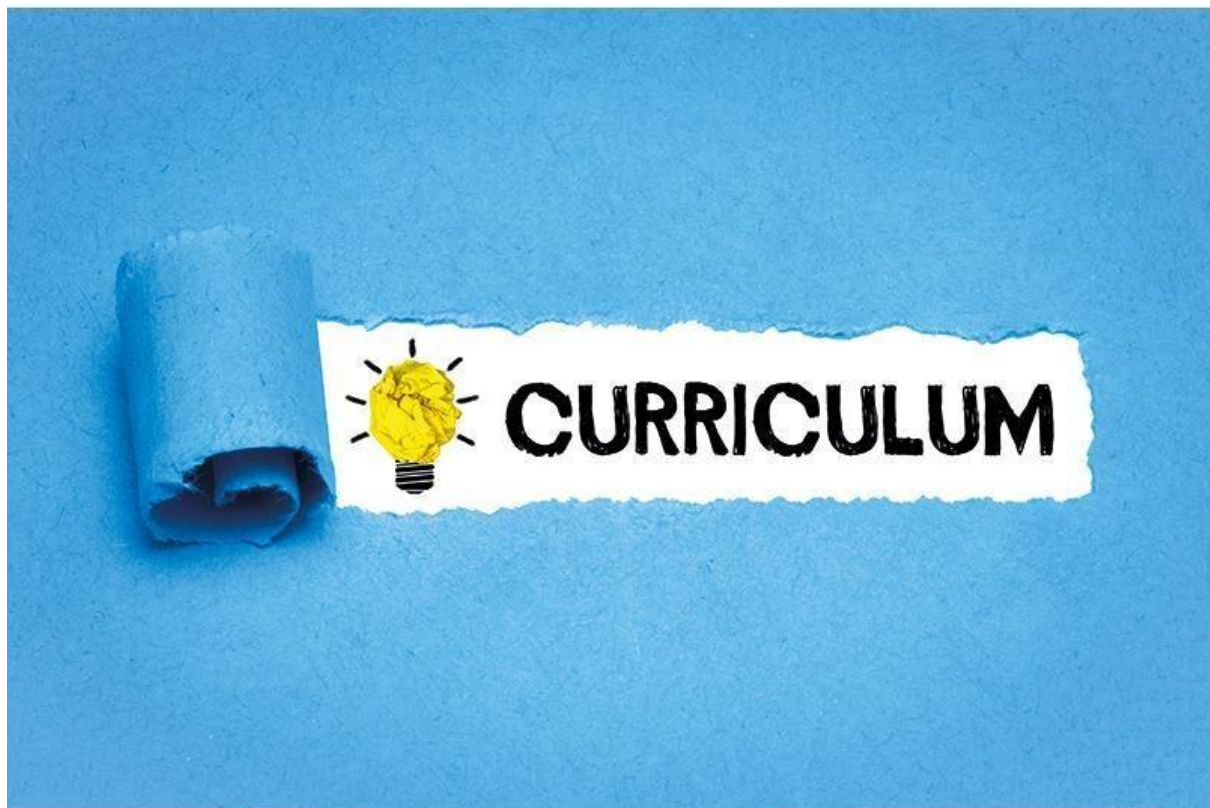
PLEASE LABEL ALL ITEMS OF CLOTHING

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.*

Curriculum Information Meetings for Parents



P7 Monday 23rd September 9.15am

P1 Tuesday 24th September 9.15am

P3 Wednesday 25th September 9.15am

P5 Thursday 26th September 9.15am

P6 Friday 27th September 9.15am

P2 Tuesday 1st October 9:15 am

P4 Wednesday 2nd October 9.15am

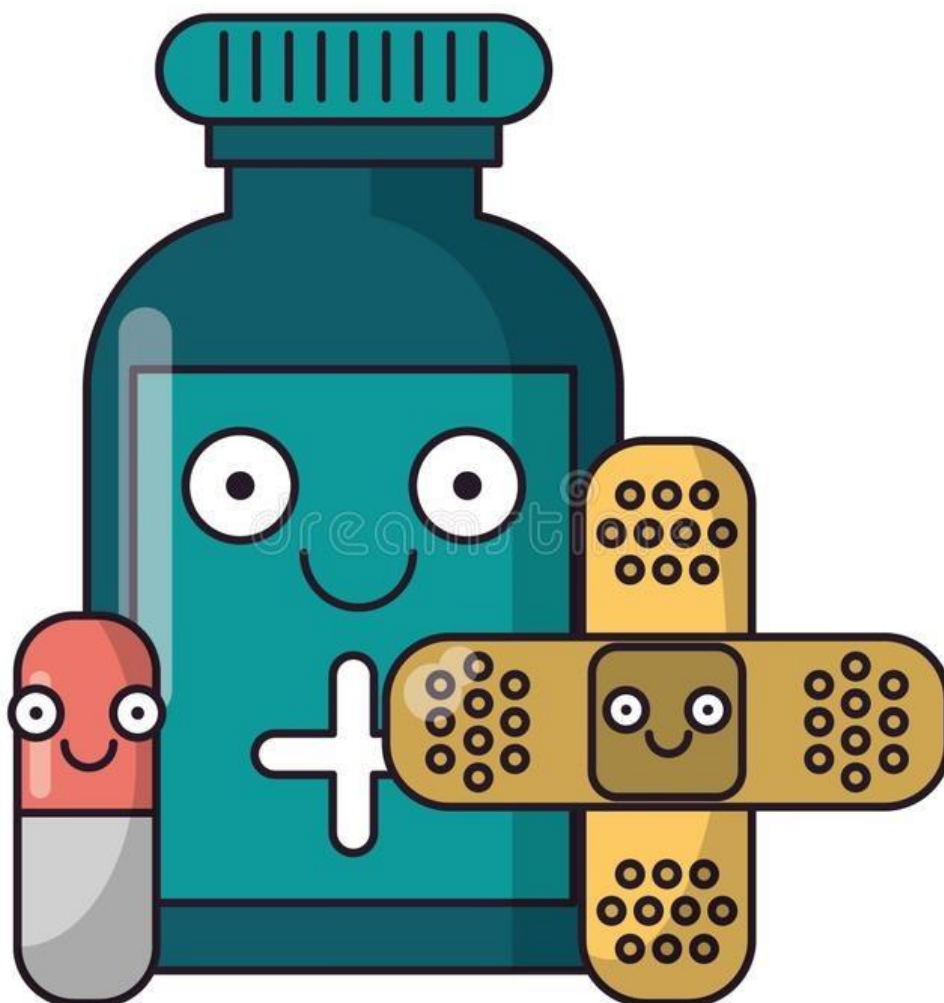


We have a number of children who suffer from allergies, which can result in potentially serious consequences. I would therefore ask that these children are not exposed to danger and that you are mindful of any children in your child's class who may have an allergy. We continue to be a Nut Free School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

Parents of children with diagnosed allergies are asked to provide the school with 4 Epipens (with valid dates), along with the Care Plan and any other necessary medication as soon as possible. 2 Epipens will be kept in the classroom, with a further 2 kept in the school office for central access.

Please continue to support our 'Healthy Eating Policy' and provide your child with a piece of fruit and water or milk for break.

Administraion of Medicine



*Please contact the school office if your child requires prescribed medicine during the school day. Parents need to sign and complete an 'Administration of Medication' form (available from the school office). All medication needs to be **prescribed**, should have the child's name on it and the dosage clearly labelled. Staff will not administer inadequately labelled medication. Please do not send in any medication with your child – it must be handed into the school office by an adult.*

School Dinners



Parents can now select and pay for dinners up until week beginning 30th September 2024 by logging into School Money using your unique username and password. A new menu will be available from week beginning 7th October and a copy of this will be forwarded to parents and will also be available on our school website. Your child's dinner should be ordered before midnight prior to the day it is required. We require every parent to use this facility. Please contact the school office if you have any problems.

EAT SMART WITH THE LUNCH BUNCH



WEEKS SERVED	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
19 February 18 March 15 April 13 May 10 June 2 September 30 September	Beef Bolognaise Broccoli Pasta Spirals Chocolate & Orange Cookie	Breaded Fish & Lemon Mayo Garden Peas Chipped Potato / Mashed Potato Raspberry Jelly & Two Fruits	Roast Gammon, stuffing & gravy Fresh vegetables in season Mashed/oven roast potato Pineapple delight	Chicken Curry & Naan Bread Diced Carrots Boiled Rice Fruit Sponge & Custard	Hot Dog with Tomato Ketchup Spaghetti Hoops/ Sweetcorn Chipped Potato&Baked Potato Ice-Cream & Mandarin Oranges
26 February 25 March 22 April 20 May 17 June 9 September	Golden Crumbed Fish Fingers Baked Beans & Garden Peas Chipped / Mashed Potato Homemade Flakermeal Biscuit	Beef Ragù Italia Sweetcorn Wedges / Salad Mandarin Orange Sponge & Custard	Roast Beef, Gravy Fresh Vegetables in season Mashed/ Oven Roast Potato Golden Krispie Square	Chicken Curry & Naan Bread Baton Carrots Boiled Rice Artic Roll and Peaches	Chicken Goujons & Sweet Chili Dip Sweet Corn Chipped/ Baby Boiled Fruit Muffin / Orange Juice
4 March 1 April 29 April 27 May 24 June 16 September	Golden Crumbed Fish Fingers Sweetcorn & Roasted Peppers Baked Potato / Chips/ Coleslaw Ice-Cream, Pears & Chocolate Sauce	Homemade Cottage Pie Spring Greens / Butternut Squash Summer Fruit Cheesecake	Roast Chicken, Stuffed & Gravy Fresh Vegetables in Season Mashed/ Oven Roast Potato Homemade Brownie & Orange Wedges	Beef Meatballs With Tomato & basil Sauce Baton Carrots/ Pasta Spirals Sticky Date Pudding & Custard	School "Chippy Day" Chicken Goujons Beans / Mushy Peas Chipped/ Baby Boiled Frozen Fruit Yoghurt
11 March 8 April 6 May 3 June 26 August 23 September	Baked Pork Sausages & Gravy Baked Beans / Garden Peas Chipped / Mashed Potato Ice-Cream & Two Fruits	BBQ Pulled Pork Pizza Wrap Sweetcorn / Baton Carrots Oven Roasted Garlic & Paprika Wedges Jaffa Cake Pots	Roast Pork, Stuffing & Gravy Fresh Vegetables in Season Mashed/ Oven Roast Potato Fresh Fruit Salad & Yoghurt	Breaded Fish & Lemon Mayo Garden Peas Mashed Potato Fruit Sponge & Custard	Beef Burger / Bean Burger in Bap with Onions Sweet Corn Chipped / Baby Boiled Lemon Shortbread & Melon Wedge

©3 Spring Summer 24 Month Locality L1818C

MILK, WATER, 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

Back to school helplines from EA

BACK TO SCHOOL HELPLINES

Admissions:

028 95 98 55 95

Meals & Uniform:

028 90 41 80 44

Transport:

028 95 98 59 59

Special Educational Needs:

028 95 98 59 60



#wearebacktoschool



SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS HELPLINE

For Special Educational
Needs queries

Phone:
028 95 98 59 60

or contact your
SEN Link Officer



#wearebacktoschool



Lost Property



*There are a number of items of lost property in the school. These items will be placed on a table in the Infant playground on **Thursday 5th September from 1:30pm** (Weather permitting - a new date will be issued if the weather is inclement). There is a range of coats, jumpers and other pieces of clothing that may belong to your child. Please ensure that all uniform items and equipment are labelled with your child's name.*

Dates for Diary



*Monday 30th September- Staff Development Day (Children **do not** attend school)*

Tuesday 8th October - P1 Phonics Workshop (Details to follow)

Friday 25th October - School finishes at 12:00pm for mid term break

*Friday 29th November - Parent Teacher Interviews (Children **do not** attend school)*

Contact Details



If your address, telephone number or email address change, please inform Mrs Mason in the office to ensure we have up-to-date information should we have a need to contact you.
