

St. Mary's on the Hill

Curriculum Booklet



Primary 4

2024 – 2025

OUR SCHOOL RULES

OUR WORK RULES:

- We always try our best
- We are good listeners
- We are ready to learn
- We work well with others
- We ask for help when we need it

OUR MOVEMENT RULES:

- We line up quietly
- We walk safely in and around our school
- We enter classrooms politely

OUR BEHAVIOUR RULES:

- We respect and care for each other
- We respect and care for our school
- We show good manners
- We play safely and fairly

We would ask for your cooperation in reminding your child of the school rules so that we can ensure that every child is safe and happy. For further details please refer to the Positive Behaviour Policy available on the school website

Religious Education

- Grow in Love Series
- Virtual Mass in the classroom
- RSE ‘The Wonder of my Being’
- Charity fund raising
- Please note:

First Communion	P4RT	Both classes will make their First Holy Communion together on Wednesday 11 th June 2025.
	P4MMA	

Thinking Skills and Personal Capabilities

Thinking Skills and Personal Capabilities have been divided into five strands:

- Managing Information
- Thinking, Problem-Solving and Decision-Making
- Being Creative
- Working with Others
- Self-Management

These skills underpin the curriculum, along with the Cross-Curricular Skills of Communication, Using Mathematics and Using ICT.

The curriculum emphasises the development of pupils’ skills and capabilities for lifelong learning and participating in society. By engaging pupils in active learning contexts across all areas of the curriculum, we can develop pupils’:

- personal and interpersonal skills
- capabilities and dispositions
- ability to think both creatively and critically

In school, pupils are guided through tasks to examine how to approach, structure and work through activities. They will solve any problems which may arise, including differences of opinion. We give the pupils opportunities to self and peer assess in order to see how they can improve their learning.

Mathematics and Numeracy

Requirements are:

- Processes in Maths
- Numbers
- Measures
- Shape and Space
- Handling Data

Process in Mathematics

- Making and monitoring decisions
- Communicating mathematically
- Mathematical reasoning

Number

- count, read, write and order whole numbers
- develop an understanding of place value
- estimate and approximate
- explore and predict patterns and sequences
- develop strategies to add and subtract mentally
- know the multiplication facts
- engage in a range of activities to develop understanding of the four operations of number
- use the four operations to solve problems involving money
- discuss the value of money

Measures

- develop skills in estimation of length, 'weight', volume/capacity, time, area and temperature
- understand the relationship between units and convert one metric unit to another
- use the four operations to solve problems
- recognise times on the analogue and digital clocks

Shape and Space

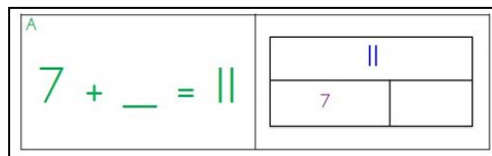
- construct a range of regular 2-D shapes
- name and describe common 2-D shapes
- construct 3-D shapes
- investigate the number of faces, edges and vertices on these shapes
- name and describe common 3-D shapes
- recognise right angles

Data Handling

- collect, classify, record and present data drawn from a range of meaningful situations, using graphs, tables, diagrams and ICT software

Problem Solving

- An important part of Numeracy is equipping children with the strategies they need to solve problems
- We are looking at a number of approaches including **bar modelling**.
- Using the bar modelling method, the children draw rectangles to represent objects.



In Primary 4 , a rapid recall of number bonds from the number families is important, as well as the 2, 3, 4,5 and 10 times tables. We use ten problem solving strategies in class and these all facilitate different ways to find a solution.

Star Maths and Freckle are now being used in school. Information will go home shortly to update you on this learning platform. Logging onto Freckle daily would be very beneficial.

Using ICT

Using ICT (Information and Communications Technology) describes the ability to handle and communicate information, solve problems, pose questions and be creative through the use of technology.

The focus on Using ICT means that pupils will have opportunities to transfer their knowledge, understanding and skills in a variety of meaningful contexts across the curriculum. This includes:

- Collaborating inside and outside the classroom
- Sharing and exchanging work
- Exhibiting and showcasing their learning

Using ICT, along with Communication and Using Mathematics, is one of the three statutory Cross-Curricular Skills that form part of the Northern Ireland Curriculum.

They will have the opportunity to develop ICT skills through topic based learning and are encouraged to use the computer as a research tool for personal learning and to complete homework.

We will continue to set tasks on Google Classroom. If your child has any difficulty with their C2K username or password, please let us know.

Language and Literacy

Requirements are;

- Talking and Listening
- Reading
- Writing

Talking and Listening

In a range of contexts, with different audiences and taking account of a variety of purposes;

- Listen attentively
- Ask questions about others points of view and respond appropriately
- Explain ideas and opinions clearly
- Plan an approach to talking

The pupils will take part in;

- Circle time
- Group activities
- Role play
- Presentations
- Debates

Reading

In a range of contexts, with different audiences and taking account of a variety of purposes;

- Read a range of texts
- Read independently
- Locate information and use it appropriately – Research
- Understand explicit and implicit meanings
- Explain opinions

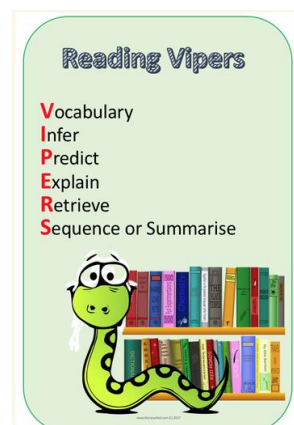
The pupils will take part in;

- Shared reading
- Guided reading
- Independent/ Silent reading
- Accelerated reader programme
- Reading for fun and facts
- Identify and use the explicit skills of reading as set out in our VIPERS strategy

Pupils will be encouraged to read widely; fiction, non-fiction, comics, magazines, sports reports...anything that sparks an interest! We are very lucky to be an Accelerated Reading school, and we would encourage you to monitor your child's achievements by signing up to Home Connect.

Writing

In a range of contexts, with different audiences and taking account of a variety of purposes;



- Talk about, plan and edit work
- Structure writing
- Write using the correct style and format
- Apply grammar and spellings rules.

The pupils will develop styles of writing in across the curriculum, such as:

- Narrative
- Report
- Recount
- Persuasive
- Explanation
- Poetry

Handwriting: Primary Four will continue with the *Penpals for Handwriting* scheme.

The Arts

Music

Pupils' experiences in Music centre around three core activities: composing, performing and listening.

The pupils will;

- Follow – 'The Music Express' Programme
- Learn songs and hymns for the Religion Programme Learn (We will follow guidance from the Department of Education regarding singing)

Art and Design

Art and Design activities encourage the pupils to;

- Respond to the world around them
- Respond to their individual feelings and emotions
- Develop and use their imagination
- Express their ideas, thoughts and feelings
- Solve problems
- Become more aesthetically aware

The pupils will;

- Complete WAU related Art work
- Use wide range of art materials
- Appreciate the work of a famous artist
- Complete Seasonal art activities

Drama

Drama enables pupils to express their thoughts, ideas and feelings in a safe environment.

The pupils will;

- Take part in teacher lead activities, including role play and circle time activities

The World Around Us

This Area of Learning comprises the subjects of geography, history and science and technology.

Theme 1 – Home Sweet Home

This theme gives us the opportunity to learn about our homes, different houses in our country, in other counties, people who build homes, materials for building, moving house, map making and the homeless.

Theme 2 – Celebrations

Throughout the year, we will focus on different celebrations / festivals and learn about those from our country and those in other countries such as Halloween, Christmas, St Patrick's Day, Chinese New Year and Diwali.

Theme 3 – Them Bones! Them Bones!

We learn about different bones in our body, different animal bones, breaking bones and how they are fixed, fossils, dinosaurs, the day of the dead, pirate symbols using bones.

Forest School Trip

We learn about care for our local environment and our natural surroundings. We will embark on a trip to Clandeboye Forest School.

In WAU, we cover history, geography, science and art activities alongside literacy, numeracy and ICT.

Personal Development and Mutual Understanding

Personal Development and Mutual Understanding (PDMU) focuses on encouraging each child to become personally, emotionally and socially effective, to lead healthy, safe and fulfilled lives and to become confident, independent and responsible citizens, making informed and responsible choices and decisions throughout their lives.

The pupils will;

- Have an opportunity to become ECO Warriors
- Have the opportunity to become Pupil of the Month
- Take part in a programme to select a Class and a School Councillor
- Take part in Anti Bullying week
- Take part in Fire Safety Talks (following DE guidance on visitors to the School)
- Create and modify our Class Plan for Learning
- Be assigned to be a member of one of four house in our new whole-school House Points system.

PDMU is a subject in which pupils can reflect on their choices and set themselves targets and challenges. We aim to set up our annual School Council and will continue to foster

positive behaviour through our Class Plans for Learning, high expectations and consistent use of our Positive Behaviour Policy.

Physical Education

Physical Education in the curriculum provides the opportunity for specific attention to be given to the physical development, health and well-being of children.

The pupils will complete activities in;

- Gymnastics
- Dance
- Games
- Athletics

Throughout the year the pupils will have the opportunities to attend presentations regarding, Leading a Healthy Lifestyle.

Primary Four will complete two outdoor activities / PE sessions, in so far as is practically possible:

P4MMA & P4RT: Monday and Wednesday

PE uniform is required on these days.

Assessment

Regular ongoing assessment is conducted by the teacher to inform future planning and assist target setting for individuals and groups of children.

Standardised tests (PTE/ PTM) in English and Maths are conducted with P4-P7 throughout the year. The Primary Four children complete the assessment in April / May.

Assessment for Learning

St. Mary's on the Hill embraces the principles of Assessment for Learning by placing formative assessment at the heart of the learning and teaching cycle. The emphasis is on improvement, raising achievement in pupils' learning and celebrating success. Assessment for Learning has the potential to make a powerful contribution to the central aim of the Northern Ireland curriculum by empowering learners and enabling them to realise their full potential.

The pupils will:

- Use the terms WALT and WILF
- Use self and peer assessment
- Respond to the two stars and a wish marking strategy
- Set their own targets for improvement.

Homework

Homework should take approximately 30-40 minutes per night. If your child is unable to complete the homework within the time, please sign and send in.

Our homework is shared via Google Classroom.

Housekeeping

Morning Drop Off

Please drop your child off at their designated gate from 8.45am. They will proceed straight to their classroom.

Collection Times

Monday - Thursday: 3.00pm

Friday: 2.00pm

In the interests of health and safety, pupils are not permitted to return to the school building once dismissed.

School Dinners

Please pay for school dinners using the *School Money* system. Orders must be placed by midnight of the previous night. The cost is £2.60 per day. The menu is available on the school website.

Healthy Eating Policy

Thank you for supporting our Healthy Eating Policy. Please continue to send a piece of fruit with water or milk for the break-time snack.

Allergies

Please remember that St. Mary's on the Hill is a NUT FREE ZONE.

Due to severe allergies among some of our pupils, birthday cakes and other sharing treats are not permitted. Please refer to the allergy aware letter that has been sent home.

Please advise the class teacher of any changes in your child's medical needs.

Medication

Should your child require essential medication during the school day, a consent form (available from the school office) must be completed and left at the school office along with the medication.

Please ensure that medicines in school, such as inhalers or Epipens are in date.

Medical & Dental Appointments

If your child has an appointment, please contact your child's teacher to let them know. Your child can be collected from the school office where they will be signed out.

Uniform

Full school uniform should be worn, except on PE days, when PE gear should be worn to school.

Our PE gear consists of **plain navy tracksuit bottoms or shorts, a plain white polo shirt** and dark trainers.

The only jewellery permitted is a watch and a small pair of stud earrings.

Simple hair accessories are permitted.

All pupils participating in after-school sports activities must wear our school PE uniform.

Contact Details

Please ensure that your contact details are up-to-date by informing Mrs Mason in the office of any changes to phone numbers, addresses etc. this can be done by e mail or telephone.

Pupil Absence

Please inform the school if your child is absent by phoning or emailing the school office, or by providing a note upon your child's return to school. There is the option to leave a message on the phone system to inform the school of an absence.

Personal Belongings

Please ensure that all items of your child's clothing and belongings are clearly labelled with their name and class.

Please check stationery regularly and replenish as and when needed.

Party Invitations/Cakes

Unfortunately, we are unable to accept birthday cakes and treats as we have several children with severe allergies.

We would ask that party invitations are not distributed in school, as per the school policy, as exclusion from such events can cause offence.

Parent-Teacher Consultations

Parent-Teacher Consultations will take place during the week beginning 25th November 2024. Friday 29th November has been scheduled as day for most meetings to take place.

Further details will follow.

Should you wish to contact your child's teacher prior to this, please contact the office by phone or email.

Please keep us informed of changes circumstances which may impact upon your child.

Facebook

We will celebrate and mark events throughout the school year. 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 asked 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/>

Keep up to date with school events, policies, holidays and useful links by regularly visiting our website, **stmarysonthehill.co.uk**

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