



St. Mary's on the Hill December Information 2024



Welcome to December's Information Sway. We are now in full flow with preparations for Christmas and there are plenty of opportunities in school for the children to participate in the build up. Our P1's and P2's are preparing for their assembly and concert performance respectively. P4 - P7 are practising carols to support our P5 children in their Carol Service. The choir is preparing to visit nursing homes in our community and I'm sure there may be a special visitor in school at some point too. It is indeed an exciting time.

As the children enjoy the excitement can I ask that you take some time with your child to remind them of the importance of making good choices. We as a school community still have high expectations for good behaviour during the upcoming weeks.

It is important to remember at this time of the year those who need extra support. A Christmas Jumper Day will take place on Friday 6th December for Developing World Group, it is £1 per child and anything you can give will be greatly appreciated, this can be paid through school money.

I hope, as we prepare for Christmas through the season of Advent, that Hope, Love, Joy and Peace comes to each of your families and I wish you all a very happy and joyful Christmas. God Bless.

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

Open Day 2024

We are delighted to invite you and your child to our Open Day on Friday 13th December.

Come and experience, first hand, life in St. Mary's on the Hill, including:

- Centre of pastoral excellence
- Child-centred learning and provision
- Our amazing school choir and orchestra
- Engaging interactive activities
- Enthusiastic and approachable staff



Learn to Love, Love to Learn

OPEN DAY!

FRIDAY 13th
DECEMBER



Mr Matthew O'Brien (Principal) will host an information session at 9:30am in the school's assembly hall

We look forward to meeting you all!

142 Carrmoney Road,
Co. Antrim, BT26 6JU
(028) 9083 6284

Find us on



Prospective P1 parents/carers we are delighted to invite you, to our Open Day on Friday 13th December.

Come and experience, first hand, life in St. Mary's on the Hill Primary School, including our

- *Centre of pastoral excellence*
 - *Child centred learning and provision*
 - *Amazing school choir*
 - *Engaging interactive activities*
 - *Informative and approachable Early Years team*
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Open Enrolment Timetable - September 2025



Thursday 5th December 2024 EA publishes information on website about the primary one admissions procedure and admissions criteria for schools.

Friday 10 January 2025 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 24th January 2025 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 24th January 2025** will be treated as late.*

Applicants will be guided after the Online Portal closes on how to complete a late application.

School Council



On the 27th November, the Deputy Mayor of Antrim and Newtownabbey Alderman Mr Paul Dunlop , congratulated the new class and school councillors on their wonderful achievement at being elected to office and we wish them well for the year ahead. The councillors allow the pupils' voices to be heard and they play a very important role in the school. A special thank you to Mrs Keers for organising this. She schedules meetings and visits for pupils and is a great role model for the children. A huge thank you must also go to all the children who participate. While not everyone gets elected we really appreciate the effort the children make in applying for these positions.

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 December we are focusing on '**Showing Respect and Care for each other**'. I will talk to the children at each of our assemblies regarding this and staff will reinforce the message in school. 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.*

P2 Nativity Play



P2 pupils have been tirelessly rehearsing for their concert, Whoops - a - Daisy Angel. Two performances will take place in the assembly hall: Wednesday 4th December at 9.30am and on Thursday 5th December at 9.30am. Tickets are available from the school office.

P5 Carol Service



We are delighted the Carol Service will take place in St. Mary's on the Hill Church on Wednesday 18th December at 11:15am. Our P5 children will lead the Carol Service for pupils with readings and prayers and will be accompanied by P4 - P7 pupils. It promises to be a special event. Parents of P5 children are welcome to attend.

P1 Christmas Assembly



*The P1 Christmas Assembly will take place on Friday 6th December at 9:30am in the assembly hall.
We know this will be a very special event for the children. P1 parents are invited to attend.*

Christmas Jumper Day/Pupil Christmas Dinner/Santa Mile



Will be held on Friday 6th December. We are asking parents to donate £1 per child towards Developing World Group. This can be paid via School Money.

*The children's Christmas dinner will take place on Thursday 12th December and the children will receive a Christmas box for their lunch. The cost of the dinner is £2.60 per child and can be ordered via School Money **no later than Tuesday 10th December.***

Christmas Gifts for Teachers



The charity chosen this year, in lieu of gifts for staff, is the Developing World Group. Their aim, is to help children and young people in the developing world. They do this by sending funding and prayers to people directly known to us, through parishioners or priests of the parish. Regular feedback on how the money is used is given in the parish bulletin together with information on upcoming events, what they have raised and what projects they are supporting. If parents would like to donate to this charity rather than buying Christmas gifts for staff please do so via School Money. This is a voluntary contribution.

Christmas Cards



*In order to manage Christmas cards for classmates this year we are asking parents to send them on **Tuesday 17th December only**. This will cause less disruption for the school day.*

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 028 2566 1350. 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

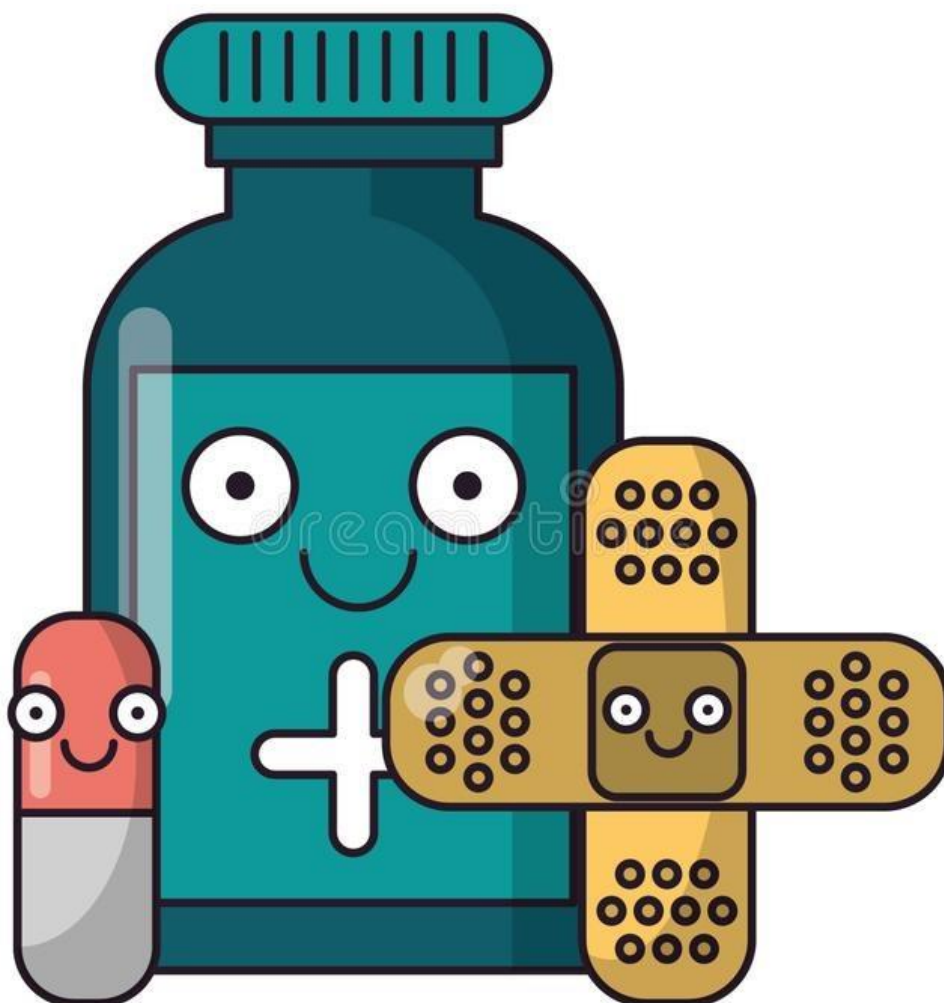


We have a number of children who suffer from allergies, which can result in potentially serious consequences. I would therefore ask that these children are not exposed to danger and that you are mindful of any children in your child's class who may have an allergy. We continue to be a Nut Free School,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



EAT SMART WITH THE LUNCH BUNCH



WEEKS SERVED	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
7 October 4 November 2 December 30 December 27 January	Oven Baked Fish Fingers Baked Beans / Minced Meat Pie Fresh Spinach / Oven Baked Potatoes Veggie Ice Cream with Peas & Buttered Bread Sauce	Homemade BBQ Chicken Pizza Coleslaw / Baked Carrots Chopped Potatoes / Baked Potatoes Homemade Banana Cake	'Lunch Bunch' Chicken Curry & Naan Bread Dumplings / Fried Courgettes Sautéed / Roasted Potatoes Chocolate & Raspberry Sponge Cake with Custard	Roast Pork, Stuffing & Gravy Fresh Seasonal Vegetables Washed Potatoes / Oven Baked Potatoes Homemade Popcorn Garlic & Orange Wedges	Beef Burger & Bag Mini Corn on the Cob / Garden Peas Chopped Potatoes / Baked Potatoes Fricas / Strawberry Mousse
14 October 11 November 8 December 8 January 3 February	Fish Fingers 'Reading' Smile & Hope Oil Homemade Peas / Baked Beans Chopped Potatoes / Baked Potatoes Apple & Pear Crumble with Custard	Savory Beef Mince & Crusty Bread Sausages / Baked Carrots Oven Baked / Chopped Potatoes / Mashed Potatoes Jambalaya & White Dairy Sauce	Poached Chicken Mini Corn on the Cob / Chopped Peas Washed Potatoes / Baked Potatoes Home Baked Jambalaya / Cornmeal Scones & Custard	Roast Gammon, Stuffing & Gravy Fresh Seasonal Vegetables Washed Potatoes / Oven Baked Potatoes Chocolate Rice Krispie Squares	Cottage Baked Chicken Burger & Bag Sausage Mince / Asian Slaw Chopped Potatoes / Baked Potatoes Peanut Jelly & Peach Slaves
21 October 18 November 15 December 12 January 10 February	Homemade Ham & Cheese Pizza Sausage Mince / Mini Corn on the Cob Roast Potatoes / Mashed Potatoes Veggie Ice Cream with Pear Slaw & Hot Chocolate Sauce	Beef Bolognaise Cauliflower Cheese / Steamed Broccoli Washed Potatoes / Pasta Apple Sponge with Custard	'Lunch Bunch' Chicken Curry & Naan Bread Sausage Pie / Roast Butternut Squash Chopped Potatoes / Baked Potatoes Fruit Smoothie	Roast Beef, Yorkshire Pudding & Gravy Sautéed Fish Fingers & Lemon Maysman Fresh Seasonal Vegetables Washed Potatoes / Oven Baked Potatoes Chocolate Caramel & Custard	Hotdog & Tomato Ketchup & Bag Coleslaw Baked Beans Chopped Potatoes / Peas / Slaw Homemade Chopped Salad & Fresh Fish Pie
28 October 25 November 23 December 20 January	Oven Baked Fish Fingers Steamed Sweet Peas / Sausage Mince Chopped Potatoes / Baked Potatoes Chocolate & Raspberry Brownie	Cottage Pie Baked Carrots / Steamed Broccoli Eggs & Mini Potatoes / Peas / Slaw Ice Cream, Jelly & Toot Froll	'Lunch Bunch' Chicken Curry & Naan Bread Sausages / Roasted Butternut Squash Baked Potatoes / Mashed Potatoes Chocolate & Pear Sponge with Custard	Turkey & Ham, Stuffing, Gravy Fresh Seasonal Vegetables Washed Potatoes / Oven Baked Potatoes Homemade Popcorn & Orange Wedges	Oven Baked Chicken Fuggles Baked Beans / Garden Peas Chopped Potatoes / Baked Potatoes Choice of Fresh Yogurt Pot

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

Parents can now select and pay for dinners for the second term, up until w/b Monday 14th April 2025, 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. Also please be advised that Thursday 12th December is the Christmas Dinner Day for pupils.

Dates for Diary



4th December P2 Christmas Performance for parents - Ticketed event

5th December P2 Christmas Performance for parents - Ticketed event

6th December P1 Christmas Performance for parents

6th December Christmas Jumper Day £1 per child donation to DWG and Santa Mile

12th December Christmas Jumper Dander and Christmas Dinner Day

13th December Open Day for prospective P1 parents for September 2025

14th December Winter Fair - 12 noon - 3pm

16th December Cinema Trip to Movie House P4 - P7

18th December Mr Hullabaloo P1 - P3

18th December P5 Carol Service

19th December School Choir to the Abbey Centre 9:30am

20th December Half Day Finish - P1-P3 : 11.45am / P4-P7 : 12 noon

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.
