



St. Mary's on the Hill P.S. February Information 2025



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

Principal

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 arrive at 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 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 we are all working together.

Internet Safety Day 2025



Internet Safety Safer Internet Day 2025 will be celebrated globally on Tuesday 11th February with the slogan 'Too good to be true? Protecting yourself and others from scams online'. As we are off on this day the children will engage in a range of activities which will explore how respect and relationships online are fostered and developed, when they return to school. 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 2025

Monday 3rd 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 'Know Yourself, Grow Yourself'; Empowering children and young people can have a positive impact on their health and wellbeing. For example, children and young people who feel their voices are heard - and 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, working 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



After School Activities will renew for term 2 after mid-term. A timetable will be sent to parents this week. Clubs will commence on Monday 17th February and will end week beginning Monday 7th April 2025.

Mid Term Camp at St. Mary's on the Hill Primary School by Kidz Academy



Glengormley ★

★ Multi-Activity Camp
10th-14th February 2025

📍 St Mary's On The Hill Primary School

KidZ
ACADEMY

*During mid term break Kidz Academy will be running a camp each day filled with a range of activities.
To book into this camp please click on the link below.*

Road Safety Quiz 2025



Well done to our road safety quiz team who did extremely well last month. Congratulations to Riley, Sean, Riona and Olivia!

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.

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. 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.

School Dinners

EAT SMART WITH THE LUNCH BUNCH



| WEEK BEGINNING | MONDAY | TUESDAY | WEDNESDAY | THURSDAY | FRIDAY |
|--|---|---|--|---|---|
| 17 February 17 March 14 April 12 May 9 June | Homemade Beef Bolognese Green Beans & Diced Carrots Penne Pasta or Baby Potatoes with Herbs Iced Lemon Sponge Finger | Baked Breaded Whiting & Tartare Mayo Garden Peas & Sweetcorn Chipped Potatoes or Baked Jacket Potato Forest Fruits Flavoured Jelly with Mandarin Oranges | "Lunch Bunch" Chicken Curry with Freshly Baked Mini Naan Bread Broccoli & Roasted Butternut Squash Steamed Fluffy Rice or Oven-Baked Herb Wedges Cheesecake with Strawberry Sauce | Cook's Gammon with Stuffing & Gravy Fresh Selection of Vegetables in Season Oven Baked Roast Potatoes & Mashed Potatoes Belgian Waffle with Fruit Salad & Chocolate Sauce | Oven Baked Chicken Goujons with choice of Dip Baked Beans & Coleslaw Chipped Potatoes or Baked Jacket Potato Artic Roll with Summer Berry Sauce |
| 24 February 24 March 21 April 19 May 16 June | Golden Crumbed Fish Fingers & Mayo Dip Garden Peas & Baked Beans Mashed Potato or Pasta Salad Homebaked Chocolate & Raspberry Brownie | Homemade Beef Lasagne with Garlic Bread Slice Baton Carrots & Broccoli Chipped Potato & Baby Potato Salad Assorted Yoghurt Pots & Fresh Fruit Salad | "Lunch Bunch" Chicken Curry with Freshly Baked Mini Naan Bread Sweetcorn & Spaghetti Hoops Steamed Fluffy Rice or Mashed Potato Caramel Apple Crumble & Custard | Cook's Roast Turkey with Stuffing & Gravy Fresh Selection of Vegetables in Season Oven Baked Roast Potatoes & Mashed Potatoes Ice Cream with Two Fruits | Cheesburger with Burger Sauce in Bap Mini Corn on the Cob & Coleslaw Chipped Potatoes or Baked Jacket Potato Homebaked Oaty Biscuit with Fresh Fruit |
| 3 March 31 March 28 April 26 May 23 June | Oven Baked Cod Goujons with Mayo Dip Garden Peas & Potato Salad Chipped Potatoes or Baked Jacket Potato Ice-Cream Slider & Orange Wedges | Homemade Spaghetti Bolognese Baton Carrots & Broccoli Spaghetti & Parsley Baby Potatoes Homemade Jam & Coconut Sponge & Custard | "Lunch Bunch" Chicken Curry with Freshly Baked Mini Naan Bread Mini Corn on the Cob & Butternut Squash Steamed Rice or Oven Roasted Cubed Potatoes Summer Fruit Salad & Yoghurt | Cook's Roast Pork with Stuffing & Gravy Fresh Selection of Vegetables in Season Oven Baked Roast Potatoes & Mashed Potatoes Strawberry Jelly & Sliced Pears | Oven Baked Chicken Nuggets with Choice of Dip Sweetcorn & Baked Beans Chipped Potatoes or Baked Jacket Potato Homemade Shortbread & Watermelon Wedge |
| 10 March 7 April 5 May 2 June 30 June | Baked Cod Bites with mayo Dip Mushy Peas & Coleslaw Chipped Potatoes or Baked Jacket Potato Chocolate Kripie Square & Orange Wedges | Home-Baked Margherita or Tes-Mea Spicy Beef Pizza Baton Carrots & Broccoli Oven Baked Paprika Wedges & Baby Potato Salad Cola Jelly & Chopped Fruit | "Lunch Bunch" Chicken Curry with Freshly Baked Mini Naan Bread Sweetcorn & Roasted Butternut Squash Steamed Fluffy Rice & Pasta Salad Angel Cake & Custard | Cook's Roast Beef & Yorkshire Pudding with Stuffing & Gravy Fresh Selection of Vegetables in Season Oven Baked Roast Potatoes & Mashed Potatoes Ice-Cream Sliced Pears & Caramel Sauce | Hot Dog with Ketchup Mini Corn on the Cob & Baked Beans Skunny "French Fries" or Baked Jacket Potato Chocolate Cookie & Milkshake |

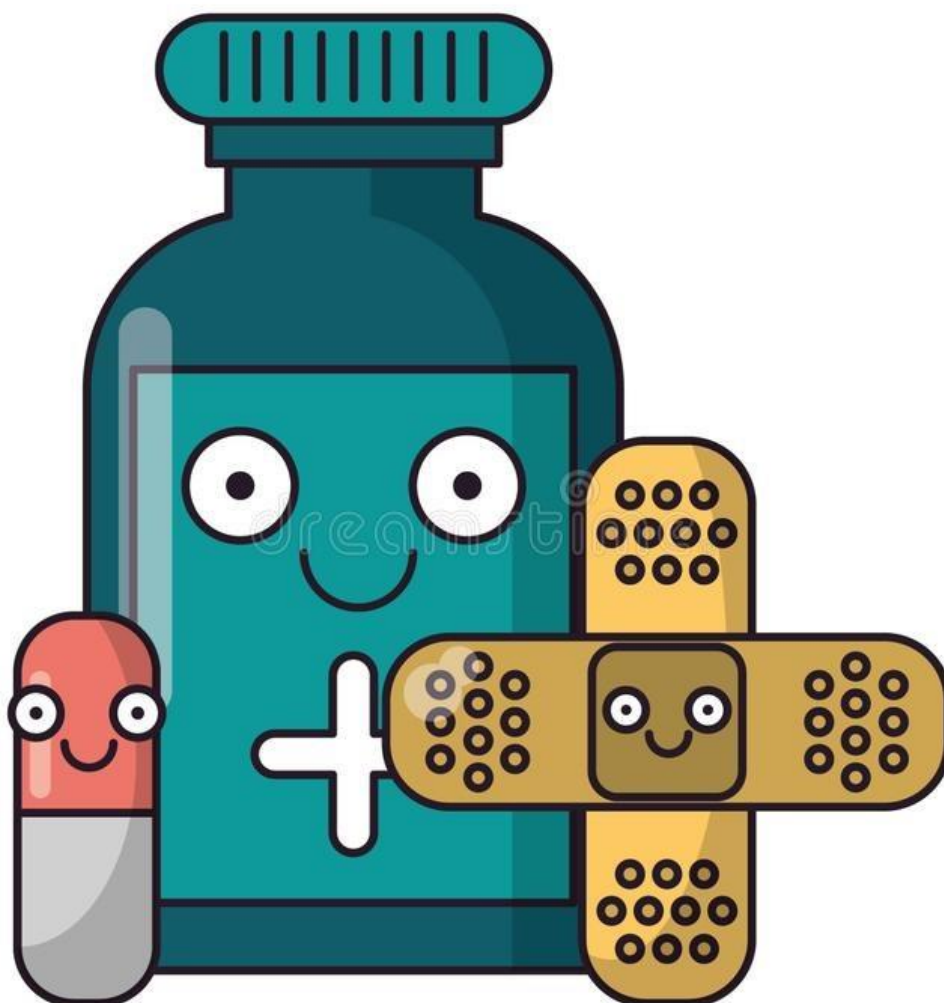
MILK, WATER, BREAD & FRESH FRUIT
AVAILABLE DAILY

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

MENU SUBJECT TO PRODUCT
AVAILABILITY

The attached menu will be used from Monday 17th February 2025.

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



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- 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.*
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