



Learn to Love, Love to Learn

St. Mary's on the Hill March Information 2025



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 staff over the course of this year. During the last number of months we have extended invitations to numerous events e.g. concerts, workshops, information days, carol services all of which have been greatly attended. Your kind words of encouragement, whether through email, 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 | Albert Ferguson | Eiméid Lawell |
| P1KR | Nari Kim | Oisín Coyle |
| P2PSK | Jack Kennedy | Brooke Mc Kenna Amos |
| P2NMcN | Lola Gribben | Charlie McMillan |
| P3MM | Bobby Magill | Shea McCabe |
| P3SR | Charli Quinn | Avianna Sands |
| P4MMA | Lucy Wilkinson | Ivy O'Neill |
| P4RT | Cara Mullin | Robbie McGlone |
| P5MD | Ciaran Boyle | Zara Quigley |
| P5WW | Lily Grzona | Charlotte Brady |
| P6SMCC | Caelan Baxter | Holly Rankin |
| P6GB | Ella Hale | Freddie Mooney |
| P7MOB | Rosalyn Donaghy Molly Clayton-Bradley | Kaiden McKernon |
| P7JK | Zara Reilly | Noah Jimenez-Dorta |

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 2025



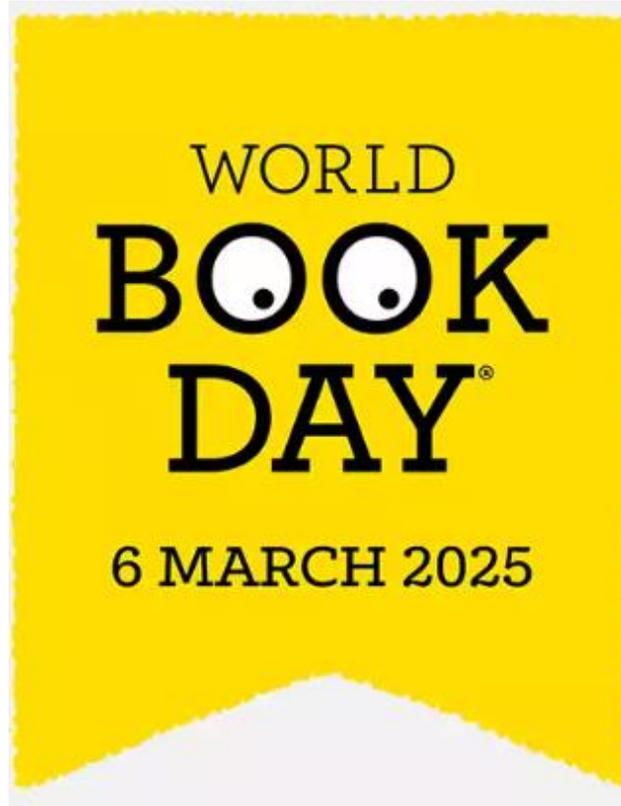
The children are really looking forward to the Peace Proms on Sunday 9th March. There is so much excitement and anticipation for a night that promises to be exciting and fun-filled. Thank you to all the staff and volunteers who are assisting on the evening. We hope the children have a wonderful time. We are very aware that this is a late night for pupils (and staff) - but it is an excellent experience for them. We do not expect the children to be in school first thing on Monday morning. Pupils who are in school by 11am will be marked as present for the morning.

Whole School Day of Culture



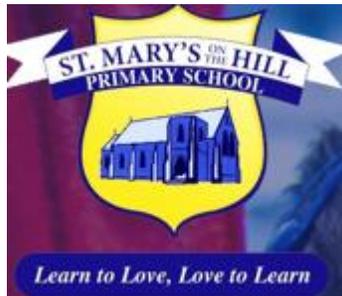
A concert will be held in the hall for pupils on Friday 14th March to celebrate the Feast of St Patrick. Children are asked to wear something green eg. hat/badge/ green baubles / socks. No football/sports tops should be worn.

World Book Day 2025



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.

Belfast City Marathon 2025



For several years, our dedicated school staff have participated in the Belfast City Marathon to raise funds for various causes. This year, we are excited to announce that our fundraising efforts will be directed towards purchasing outdoor equipment for our Specialist Provision class. Currently, the area outside these classrooms is quite limited and lacks sufficient equipment, which restricts the opportunities for our children to engage in outdoor activities. We believe that enhancing this space with appropriate equipment is crucial for the physical and social development of our students in the Specialist Provision class.

We see this marathon as the perfect opportunity to rally our community and make a significant impact on our school.

If you would like to contribute, please make a donation using the link below.

<https://gofund.me/f3d39a92>

Additionally, we would be grateful if you could help spread the word to your friends and family, encouraging them to support our cause by sharing this post. We greatly appreciate your support and encouragement as we embark on this fundraising journey.

Thank you!

Primary 7 Confirmation 2025



The children in Primary 7 will be celebrating their Confirmation this month.

On Wednesday 12th March 2025 our P7's will be confirmed

The ceremony will take place in St. Bernard's church. We will keep the boys and girls in P7 in our prayers during this special time.

P7 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 17th March 2025 and Tuesday 18th March 2025*

***Easter Break** - School will close at 12 noon on Thursday 17th April and will re-open for the third term on Monday 28th April 2025.*

Trócaire Week 2025

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. This year Trócaire Week will commence on Monday 7th April. 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 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.

**EAT SMART WITH
THE LUNCH BUNCH**



| WEEKS SERVED | MONDAY | TUESDAY | WEDNESDAY | THURSDAY | FRIDAY |
|--|---|---|---|--|---|
| 19 February 16 April 13 May 10 June 7 September 4 September | Beef Bolognaise Broccoli Pasta Sauce Chocolate & Orange Cookie | Breaded Fish & Lemon Mayo Garden Fries Chopped Potato Roasted Potatoes Raspberry Jelly & Two Fruits | Fresh Omelette, stuffing & garnish Fresh Vegetables in season Mashed new root potato Pineapple delight | Chicken Curry & Naan Bread Diced Curry Rice & Peas Fruit Sponge & Custard | Hot Dog with Tomato Ketchup Spaghetti Napoli (no onions) Chopped Potato Roasted Potatoes Ice Cream & Marshmallows |
| 26 February 23 March 20 April 17 May 14 June 9 September | Golden Crumbed Fish Fingers Baked Beans & Cheddar Fries Chopped Roasted Potatoes Homemade Flakemeat Biscuit | Beef Rigatonia Sweetcorn Mashed Orange Sponge & Custard | Roast Beef, Gherkin Fries Fresh Vegetables in season Mashed New Root Potatoes Golden Knafeh Square | Chicken Curry & Naan Bread Salad Diced Curry APFC Roll and Pickles | Chicken Goujons & Sweet Corn Dish Sweet Corn Chopped Baby Beetrod Fruit Muffin / Orange Juice |
| 4 March 1 April 27 April 24 May 21 June 18 September | Golden Crumbed Fish Fingers Sweetcorn & Roasted Potatoes Sweet Potato / Cheddar Cheese Ice Cream, Fruit & Chocolate Dessert | Homemade Cottage Pie Spring Beans / Mashed Beans Summer Fruit Cheesecake | Roast Chicken, Stuffing & Gravy Fresh Vegetables in Season Mashed New Root Potatoes Homemade Biscuits & Orange Wedges | Beef Meatballs With Tomato & Basil Sauce Salad Diced Curry Sticky Date Pudding & Custard | School "Happy Day" Chicken Goujons Beans Masher Fries Chopped Baby Beetrod Frozen Fruit Yogurt |
| 11 March 8 April 5 May 2 June 23 August 20 September | Baked Pork Sausages & Gravy Roasted Beans / Cheddar Fries Chopped / Roasted Potatoes Ice Cream & Two Fruits | BBQ Pulled Pork Pizza Whip Omelette / Italian Dishes Over Roasted Curry & Potatoes Wedges Jelly Cake Pies | Roast Pork, Stuffing & Gravy Fresh Vegetables in Season Mashed New Root Potatoes Fresh Fruit Salad & Yogurt | Breaded Fish & Lemon Mayo Garden Fries Mashed Potato Fruit Sponge & Custard | Beef Burger / Bean Burger in Brioche Sweet Corn Chopped / Baby Beetrod Lemon Cheesecake & Marsh Wedges |

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

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/>

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

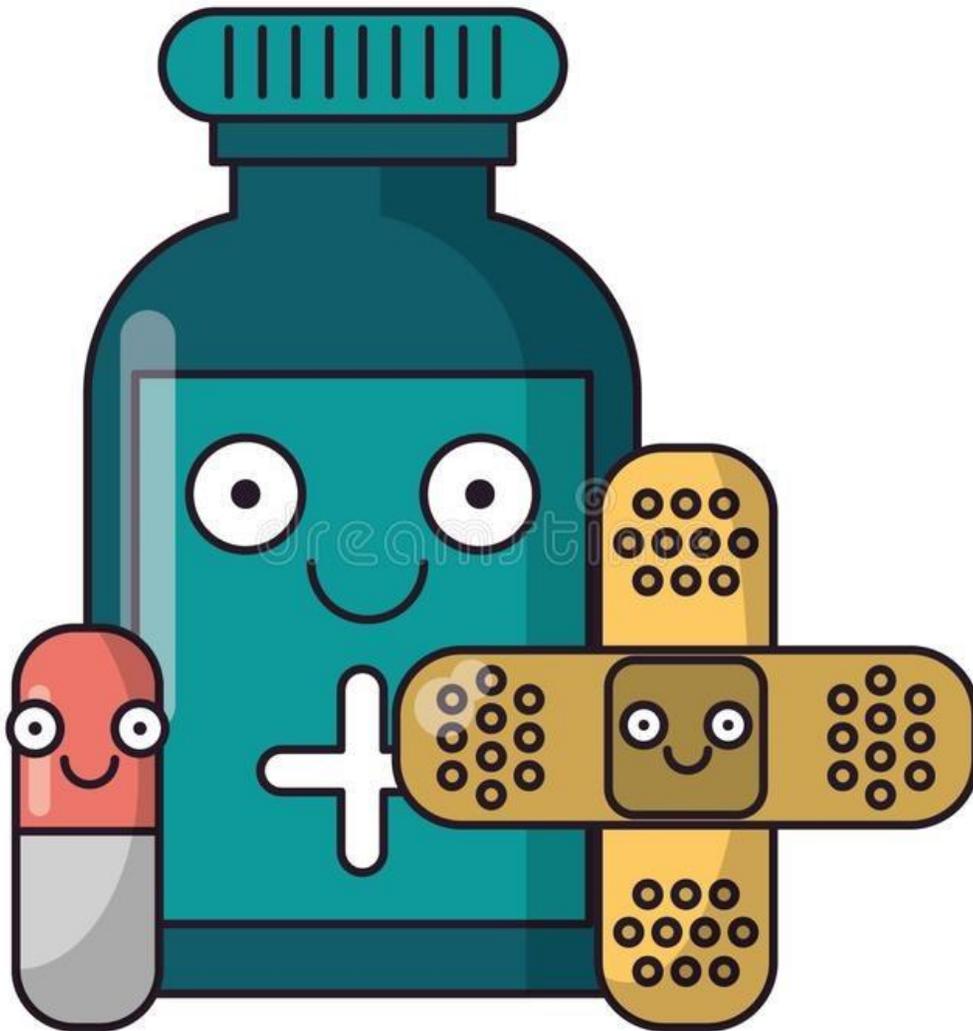


We have a number of children who suffer from allergies, which can result in potentially serious consequences. I would therefore ask that these children are not exposed to danger and that you are mindful of any children in your child's class who may have an allergy. We continue to be a Nut Free School,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