



## St. Mary's on the Hill September's Information 2025

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### *Welcome to September's Information Update*

*Dear Parents, Carers, and Friends of St. Mary's on the Hill,*

*I am delighted to welcome you to the first newsletter of our new school year—and what a special year it is! **2025 marks the 125th Anniversary of St. Mary's on the Hill Primary School**, a truly remarkable milestone in our school's history. Throughout the year, we will be celebrating this occasion with a variety of events and activities that will bring our school community together in reflection, pride, and joy. We look forward to sharing these moments with you and hope you'll join us in marking this historic chapter.*

*As part of our celebrations this year, we are also delighted to announce a **dedication to our school garden**, which will be officially named in the coming weeks. This space has become a cherished part of our school environment, and we look forward to sharing more details with you soon.*

*September is always an exciting month as children settle into new classrooms and begin working with new teachers. It's also a time for reconnecting with friends—some of whom they may not have seen for two months—which can bring both joy and challenges. If your child is finding the transition difficult in any way, please don't hesitate to reach out. We are here to support them and you.*

*As always, you can contact us via email at [info@stmarys.newtownabbey.ni.sch.uk](mailto:info@stmarys.newtownabbey.ni.sch.uk).*

*Warmest regards,*

**Matthew O'Brien**

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## St. Marys' on the Hill P.S. 125 Years



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### Celebrating 125 Years of St. Mary's on the Hill P.S.

*This year marks a truly special milestone in the life of our school—**St. Mary's on the Hill Primary School is celebrating its 125th year!***

*Since opening its doors in 1900, our school has grown into a vibrant, caring, and inclusive community where generations of children have learned, played, and thrived. We are incredibly proud of our history and the role our school has played in shaping young lives over the past century and a quarter.*

*To mark this momentous occasion, we will be hosting a variety of **events and activities throughout the year.** These will include:*

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- *Celebration assemblies and performances*
  - *Community and alumni events*
  - *Historical displays and storytelling projects*
  - *Special classroom activities*
  - *A commemorative publication*

- *And much more!*
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*One of the highlights will be the **dedication of our school garden**, which will be officially named as part of our anniversary celebrations. This space has become a peaceful and inspiring part of our school grounds, and we look forward to honouring it in a way that reflects its importance to our pupils and staff.*

*We hope these celebrations will be a chance for everyone—past and present—to come together and reflect on the legacy of St. Mary's on the Hill, while also looking ahead to the future with excitement and hope.*

*Please keep an eye on future newsletters and Sways for more details about upcoming events. If you have any ideas or would like to get involved, we'd love to hear from you.*

 You can contact us at: [info@stmarys.newtownabbey.ni.sch.uk](mailto:info@stmarys.newtownabbey.ni.sch.uk)

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## Attendance - Let's aim Higher in 2025

# ATTENDANCE MATTERS

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## Let's Aim Higher!

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*At St. Mary's on the Hill P.S., we believe that **every school day counts**. Last year, our overall attendance rate was **94%**, which is a strong foundation—but this year, we're aiming even higher!*

## Attendance Matters – Let's Aim Higher Together!

*Regular attendance is vital for your child's learning, social development, and overall wellbeing. When children are in school consistently, they build stronger relationships, develop better routines, and make steady progress in their education.*

### Our Goal for This Year

*We are encouraging all families to help us **increase our attendance rate** and ensure that every child has the best opportunity to succeed. Even small improvements can make a big difference!*

### A Reminder About Holidays

*We understand the importance of family time, but we must strongly remind all parents and guardians that **holidays should not be booked during term time**. Absences for holidays during the school year can disrupt learning and make it harder for children to catch up with their peers.*

*If you are unsure about term dates or need support with planning, please contact the school office—we're happy to help.*

### Working Together

*We appreciate the support you give your children in getting to school on time and ready to learn. If your child is experiencing any difficulties that may affect their attendance, please reach out to us. We are here to support every family and ensure every child feels safe, happy, and motivated to come to school each day.*

 **Contact us anytime at:** [info@stmarys.newtownabbey.ni.sch.uk](mailto:info@stmarys.newtownabbey.ni.sch.uk)

*Let's make this 125th year one to remember—for all the right reasons!*

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## The Importance of Our School Uniform



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### The Importance of Our School Uniform

*At St. Mary's on the Hill P.S., our school uniform is much more than just clothing—it's a symbol of **pride, unity, and belonging.***

*When children wear their uniform, they represent our school community with respect and confidence. It helps create a sense of equality among pupils, reduces distractions, and encourages a focused learning environment. Most importantly, it fosters a shared identity and reminds us all that we are part of something special.*

### Wearing Our Uniform with Pride

*We are proud of how smart and well-presented our pupils look each day. Thank you to all families for your continued support in maintaining high standards. A neat and tidy uniform reflects the values we hold as a school and helps children feel ready to learn.*

### A Reminder About Footwear

*As part of our uniform policy, we kindly remind all families that **black shoes** should be worn to school. Trainers or coloured footwear are not part of our uniform and should be reserved for PE days only.*

*If you have any questions about uniform guidelines or need support, please don't hesitate to contact us.*

 [\*\*info@stmarys.newtownabbey.ni.sch.uk\*\*](mailto:info@stmarys.newtownabbey.ni.sch.uk)

*Let's continue to wear our uniform with pride and show the world what it means to be part of St. Mary's on the Hill.*

**PLEASE LABEL ALL ITEMS OF CLOTHING**

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## Car Parking



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**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 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.*

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## After School Clubs



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*After School Clubs will commence week beginning **Monday 8th September 2025**. You can enrol your child and pay for the after school activity of your choice, through the Kidz Academey website. Hurling and Gaelic football clubs can be booked through School Money.*

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## Waiting Club



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*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.*

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## Free School Meals

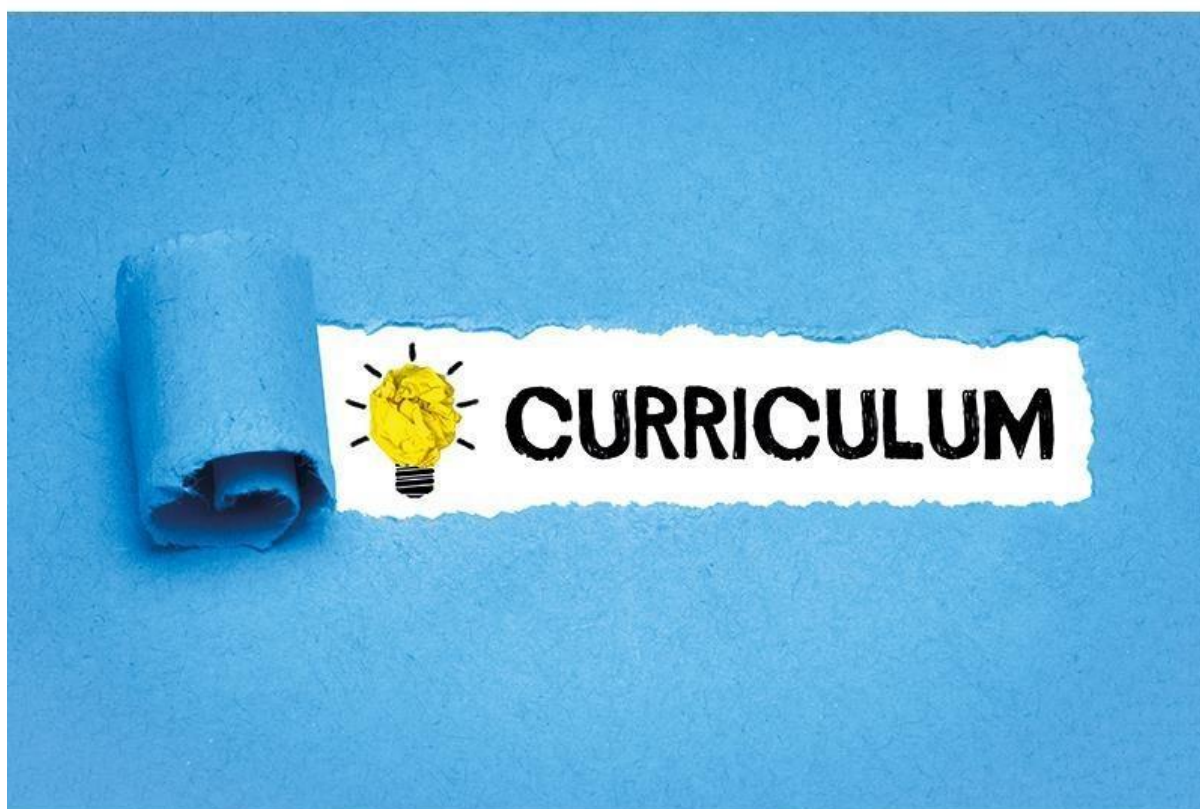


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*The application process for free school meals/uniform has commenced. Parents who are currently eligible to apply for free meals/uniform should now complete their application. **Please note that entitlement to free school meals will attract funding 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](http://www.eani.org.uk) or alternatively by contacting Free School Meals Section on 02825661350. Forms are also available from the school. Should you have any further queries regarding this, please contact the school office.*

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## Curriculum Information Meetings for Parents



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- **P2 Monday 22nd September 9.15am**
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- *P3 Tuesday 23rd September 9.15am*
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- *P4 Wednesday 24th September 9.15am*
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- *P5 Thursday 25th September 9.15am*
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- *P6 Friday 26th September 9.15am*
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- *P1 Tuesday 30th September 9.15am*
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- *P7 Wednesday 1st October 9.15am*
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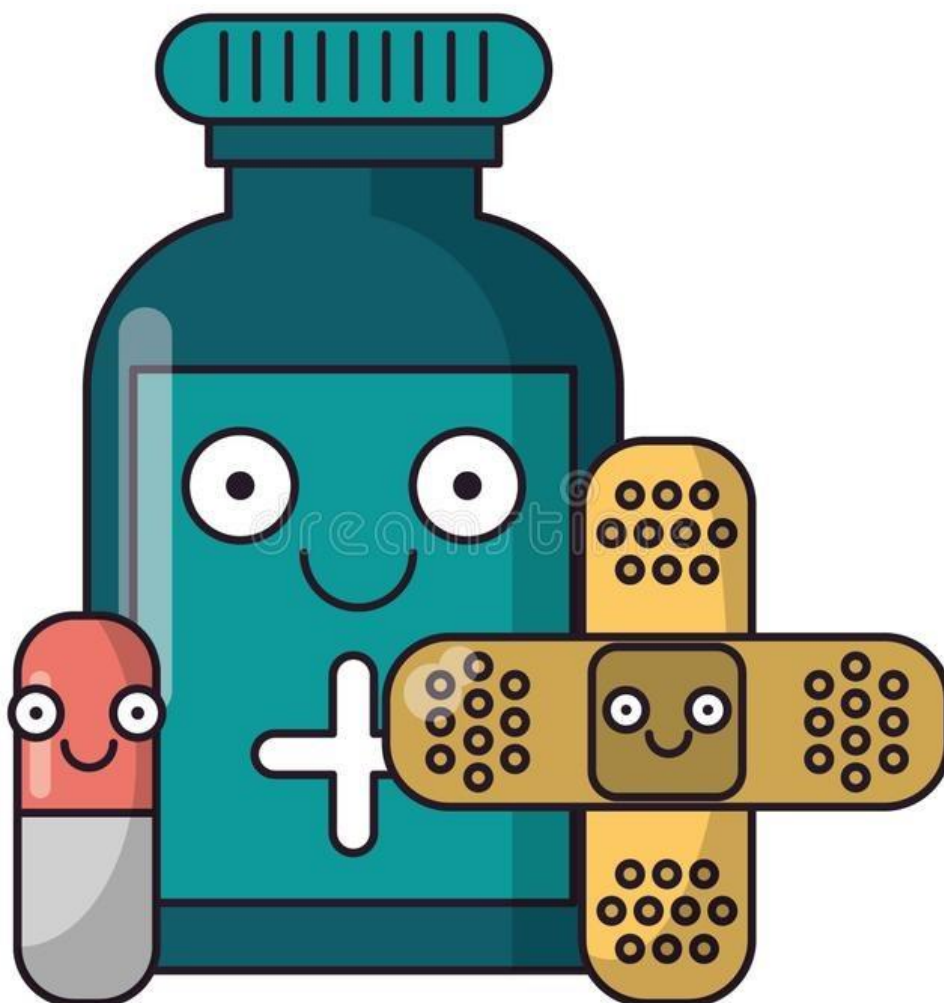
*We have a number of children who suffer from allergies, which can result in potentially serious consequences. I would therefore ask that these children are not exposed to danger and that you are mindful of any children in your child's class who may have an allergy. We continue to be a Nut Free School and I would ask that you do not send in anything that would contain 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.*

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## Administraion of Medicine



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*Please speak to your child's teacher if you require medication administered to your child 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 needs to be prescribed, should have the child's name on it and the dosage clearly labelled. Teachers will not administer medication that is not labelled as such. Please do not send in any medication with your child – it must be handed into the school office by an adult. Thank You.*

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School Dinners



EAT SMART WITH THE LUNCH BUNCH		STARTS 6th OCTOBER 2025					
WEEK BEGINNING	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY		
6th October, 13th November, 20th December, 27th January, 3rd February	Chicken & Potato Curry Garden Peas & Steamed Sweetcorn Chopped Potatoes & Baked Potatoes Chocolate Mousse & Meringue Dessert	Beef Burgers Steamed Broccoli & Cauliflower Florets Spaghetti & Baked Potatoes Apple Sponge & Custard	Lunch Bunch Chicken Curry with Peanut Sauce & Rice Garden Peas & Steamed Sweetcorn Steamed Potatoes & Baked Potatoes Vanilla Ice Cream & Fruit Chunks	Beef & Vegetable Pudding with Stuffing & Gravy Mini Cakes on the Cob & Baked Beans Chopped Potatoes & Baked Potatoes Yoghurt & Chopped Fruit	Hot Dog with Tomato Ketchup Mini Cakes on the Cob & Baked Beans Chopped Potatoes & Baked Potatoes Yoghurt & Chopped Fruit		
13th October, 20th November, 27th December, 3rd January, 10th February	Chicken & Potato Curry Garden Peas & Steamed Sweetcorn Chopped Potatoes & Baked Potatoes Chocolate Mousse & Meringue Dessert	Beef Burgers Steamed Broccoli & Cauliflower Florets Spaghetti & Baked Potatoes Apple Sponge & Custard	Lunch Bunch Chicken Curry with Peanut Sauce & Rice Garden Peas & Steamed Sweetcorn Steamed Potatoes & Baked Potatoes Vanilla Ice Cream & Fruit Chunks	Beef & Vegetable Pudding with Stuffing & Gravy Mini Cakes on the Cob & Baked Beans Chopped Potatoes & Baked Potatoes Yoghurt & Chopped Fruit	Hot Dog with Tomato Ketchup Mini Cakes on the Cob & Baked Beans Chopped Potatoes & Baked Potatoes Yoghurt & Chopped Fruit		
20th October, 27th November, 4th December, 11th January, 18th February	Chicken & Potato Curry Garden Peas & Steamed Sweetcorn Chopped Potatoes & Baked Potatoes Chocolate Mousse & Meringue Dessert	Beef Burgers Steamed Broccoli & Cauliflower Florets Spaghetti & Baked Potatoes Apple Sponge & Custard	Lunch Bunch Chicken Curry with Peanut Sauce & Rice Garden Peas & Steamed Sweetcorn Steamed Potatoes & Baked Potatoes Vanilla Ice Cream & Fruit Chunks	Beef & Vegetable Pudding with Stuffing & Gravy Mini Cakes on the Cob & Baked Beans Chopped Potatoes & Baked Potatoes Yoghurt & Chopped Fruit	Hot Dog with Tomato Ketchup Mini Cakes on the Cob & Baked Beans Chopped Potatoes & Baked Potatoes Yoghurt & Chopped Fruit		
27th October, 4th November, 11th December, 18th January, 25th February	Chicken & Potato Curry Garden Peas & Steamed Sweetcorn Chopped Potatoes & Baked Potatoes Chocolate Mousse & Meringue Dessert	Beef Burgers Steamed Broccoli & Cauliflower Florets Spaghetti & Baked Potatoes Apple Sponge & Custard	Lunch Bunch Chicken Curry with Peanut Sauce & Rice Garden Peas & Steamed Sweetcorn Steamed Potatoes & Baked Potatoes Vanilla Ice Cream & Fruit Chunks	Beef & Vegetable Pudding with Stuffing & Gravy Mini Cakes on the Cob & Baked Beans Chopped Potatoes & Baked Potatoes Yoghurt & Chopped Fruit	Hot Dog with Tomato Ketchup Mini Cakes on the Cob & Baked Beans Chopped Potatoes & Baked Potatoes Yoghurt & Chopped Fruit		

MILK, WATER, BREAD AND  
FRESH FRUIT AVAILABLE DAILY

MENU SUBJECT TO  
PRODUCT AVAILABILITY

IF YOU REQUIRE ANY ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ON ALLERGENS OR  
SPECIAL DIETS PLEASE CONTACT YOUR SCHOOL

Parents can now select and pay for dinners for the first time, 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.

The menu shown will begin on 6th October.

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



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*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 11th September and Friday 12th 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.*

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## Dates for Diary



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*Monday 29th September - Staff Development Day (Children **do not** attend school)*

*Tuesday 7th October - P1 Parents Phonics workshop in assembly hall at 9:15am*

*Friday 28th November 2025 - Parent Teacher Interviews*

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## Contact Details



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*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.*

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