



## St. Mary's on the Hill April's Information 2026

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*As we move further into the third term, a number of important events and activities are planned across the school. I would encourage you to take a few moments to read through this month's Sway carefully so you are fully aware of what is coming up and can note any dates relevant to your child.*

*We are now approaching the end of what has been a very busy and productive second term. Our pupils have worked incredibly hard, and it has been wonderful to see the progress they have made both academically and personally. With the Easter break fast approaching, we hope everyone enjoys a well-earned rest and returns refreshed and ready for the final term of the school year.*

*Although our third term is relatively short, it is always one of the most active and enjoyable periods in the school calendar. We have a variety of key events to look forward to, including our annual Sports Days, the P7 End-of-Year Shows, and the celebration of the Sacraments of Penance and First Holy Communion for many of our pupils. These occasions are very special milestones, and we are grateful for the ongoing support you provide in helping to prepare the children and participate in these moments.*

*As always, your partnership with the school contributes greatly to the success and wellbeing of our pupils, and we truly appreciate your continued cooperation and encouragement.*

*If you have any queries or require further information about anything featured in this Sway, please feel free to contact us at the school email address below:*

*info@stmarys.newtownabbey.ni.sch.uk*

*Kind regards,*

*Mr. Matthew O'Brien*

*Principal*

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## Pupils of the Month for March



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*Congratulations to all our wonderful Pupils of the Month for March. They have worked so hard and we are very proud of them all.*

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Class	Name	Name
P1GB	Fionn Campbell	Ava Boyle
P1MMA	Junior Brown	Ciara Hughes
P2AW	Katie Reddick	Croia Milne
P2MM	Muireann Neill	Nari Kim
P3KR	Krystal Chettri	
P3	Conan McDade	Freya Rennick
P4MMc M	Ava Rose McFarlane	Úna Turley
P4AOB	Emily Mason	Aoife Lewis
P5MD	Aleph Jimenez Dorta	Max McPoland
P5EC	Isla Ross	Meyah McCammond
P6SMCC	Ava Bellamy	Cadhla O Hanlon Khadine Masterson
P6SR	Lily Grzona, Niamh Morelli	Malachi Hegney
P7JP	Maggie Corey Kyla Logue	Leo McDonnell
P7JOK	Nansi Mc Mullan	Conall Roe

## Value for April - Fun



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*Fun is a hugely important part of school life. 🌟 It reminds us that learning should be enjoyable, engaging, and full of moments that make us smile. When we are having fun, we are not only happier—we are also more open to learning new things, developing new skills, and challenging ourselves. 📖*

*Fun helps create the kind of positive learning environment where everyone feels confident and included. It encourages curiosity, creativity, and enthusiasm—all essential ingredients for great learning. 🌟*

*This value also invites us to reflect on our behaviour and how it affects others. Fun is something we create together. We can all ask ourselves:*

Am I helping to make this activity enjoyable for others?

Am I bringing a positive attitude?

Am I including everyone so that they feel part of the fun?

*These simple reflective questions encourage us to think about our role in building a joyful and supportive school community. ❤️*

*Throughout April, we will be celebrating this value in our classrooms, assemblies, and activities—highlighting moments where pupils show kindness, positivity, and a love for learning. Together, let's make this a month filled with laughter, teamwork, and plenty of fun!*



## P1 Trip Ark Open Farm



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*P1's are looking forward to their trip to the Ark Open Farm which is coming up on 9th April. This fits in with their topic they are covering in the classroom and there is much excitement amongst the children.*

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## School Council



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*The school council have been very busy in the second term and will continue to be so as we move into the third term. The children will be attending Mossley Mill to meet the Mayor of Antrim and Newtownabbey. There will also be a trip to Stormont in the third term. Dates to be confirmed.*

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## School Closures



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*The school will be closed on the following dates*

***Easter Holidays*** - School closes Thursday 2nd April @ 12:00pm and reopens on Monday 13th April

***May Day Bank Holiday*** - Monday 4th May

***School Closed*** - Monday 24th May, Tuesday 25th May, Wednesday 26th May and Thursday 27th May

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## Sports Days 2025



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*Sports Day will take place on the following dates:*

***Thursday 21st May 2025 P4 - P7 @ St. Mary's on the Hill P.S.***

***Friday 22nd May 2025 P1 - P3 @ St. Mary's on the Hill P.S.***

*More details to follow*

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## Sporting Events



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*This month the school teams will be taking part in a number sporting events:*

***Féile Gerard Lawlor @ CLG Noamh Eanna - Friday 17th April***

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## After School Activities



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*The new timetable for After School Activities for term 3 will commence week beginning Monday 28th April and will be forwarded to parents on Monday 7th April. To secure a place for your child and make payment please login to School Money to book for Hurling & Gaelic Football. The after schools clubs run by Kidz Academy & Play Sport NI can be accessed through the following links:*

**[www.playsportni.co.uk](http://www.playsportni.co.uk)**

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## School Dinners



Parents can now select and pay for dinners for the third term, up until the end of June 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. Some changes have been made to the lunch menu which can be viewed here and also on the school website.

19 February 18 March 15 April 13 May 10 June 2 September 30 September	Beef Bolognese Broccoli Pasta Spirals Chocolate & Orange Cookie	Breaded Fish & Lemon Mayo Garden Peas Chipped Potato Mashed Potat Raspberry Jelly & Two Fruits	Roast Gammon, stuffing & grav Fresh vegetables in season Mashed/oven roast potato Pineapple delight	Chicken Curry' & Naan Bread Diced Carrots Boiled Rice Fruit Sponge & Custard	Hot Dog with Tomato Ketchup Spaghetti Hoops/ Sweetcom Chipped PotatoeBaked Potato Ice-Cream & Mandarin Oranges
26 February 25 March 22 April 20 May 17 June 9 September	Gdden Crumbed Fish Firvers Baked Beans & Garden Peas Chipped I Mashed Potato Homemade Flakemeal Biscui	Baef Rmu Italia Sweetcom Wedges / Salad Mandarin Orange Sponge & Custard	Roast Beef, (Yavy Fresh Vegetables in season Mashed/ Oven Roast Potato Golden Krispie Square	Chicken Curry & Naan Bread Baton Carrots Boiled Rice Artic Roll and Peaches	Chicken GoUns & Sweet Chil Dip Sweet Com Chipped/ Baby Boiled Fruit Muffin / Orange Juice
4 March 1 April 29 April 27 May 24 June 16 September	Golden Crumbed Fish Fingers Sweetcom & Roasted Peppers Baked Potato / Chips/ Colesl Ice-Cream , Pears & Choccol alle Sauce	Homemade Cottage Pie Spring Greens I Butternut Squa Summer Fruit Cheesecake	Roast Chicken, Stuffed & Gr Fresh Vegetables in Season Mashed/ Oven Roast Potato Homemade Brownie & Orange Wedges	Beef Meatballs With Tomato & basil Sauce Baton Carrots/ Pasta Spirals Sticky Date Pudding & Custard	School 'Chippy Day' Chicken Goujons Beans I Mushy Peas Chipped/ Baby Boiled Frozen Fruit Yoghurt
11 March 8 April 6 May 3 June 26 August 23 September	Baked Pork Sausages & Gravy Baked Beans Garden Peas Chipped / Mashed Potato Ice-Cream & Two Fruits	BBQ Pulled Pork Pizza Wrap Sweetcom Baton Carrots Oven Roasted Garlic & Paprik Wedges Jaffa Cake Pots	Roast Pork, Stuffing & Gravy Fresh /egglablesin Season Mashed' Oven Roast Potato Fresh Fruit Salad & Yoghurt	Breaded Fish & Lemon Mayo Garden Peas Mashed Potato Fruit Sponge & Custard	Beef Burger / Bean Burger in Bap with Onions Sweet Com Chipped / Baby Boiled Lemon Shortbread & Melon Wedge

## Facebook



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*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/>*

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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 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](http://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.*

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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 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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## Allergy Awareness



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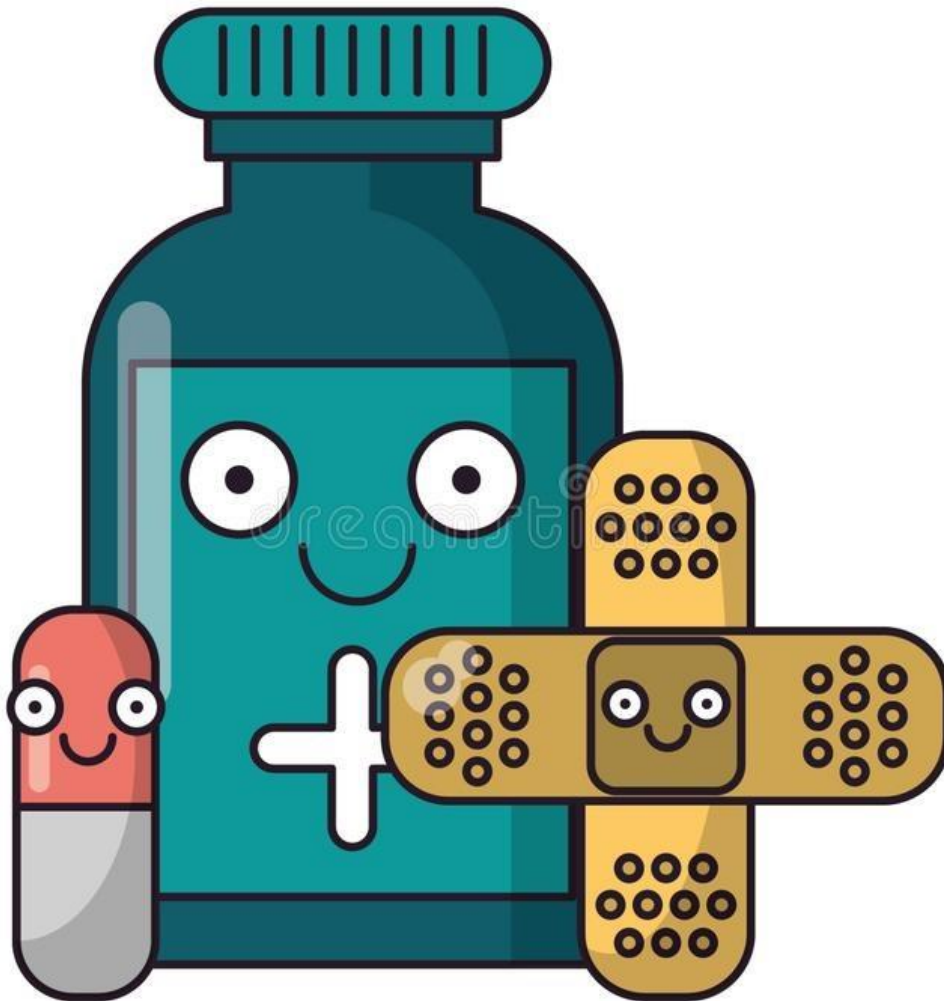
*We have a number of children who suffer from allergies, which can result in potentially serious consequences. I would therefore ask that these children are not exposed to danger and that you are mindful of any children in your child's class who may have an allergy. We continue to be a Nut Free School,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

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## Administration of Medicine



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*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.*

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## Contact Details



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*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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