







# St. Mary's on the Hill May's Information Sway 2026



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 *Welcome to May's Information Sway* 

*As we move through **Term 3**, we have lots of exciting events and celebrations coming up for our school community. We kindly encourage everyone to take some time to read through this Sway so you are fully informed about what lies ahead over the coming weeks.  *

*We can look forward to a wonderful range of opportunities where our **school community can come together, connect, and enjoy special moments.**   These include our much-anticipated **Sports Days**, where pupils will have the chance to showcase their skills,*

teamwork, and determination. 🧑🏻‍🤝‍🧑🏻👉👉 We are also excited to host our **Summer Fair**, which promises to be a fun-filled event for families and friends to enjoy together. 🏠🌻

In addition, we will be celebrating important milestones in our pupils' faith journeys. Our **Primary 3 children will receive their First Confession**, and our **Primary 4 pupils will celebrate their First Holy Communion**. 🙏👉👉 These are very special occasions, and we thank families for their continued support and involvement.

As the lighter evenings and warmer days approach, we hope that children will have many opportunities to **spend more time outdoors**, enjoying the fresh air and the lovely weather we have been experiencing recently. 🌻🌿 Outdoor play and activities are such an important part of wellbeing and enjoyment at this time of year.

If you have **any questions or queries**, please do not hesitate to contact us. 📧 You can send a message to the school via the email address provided below, and a member of staff will be happy to help.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support. We look forward to sharing a busy and joyful term together! 😊🌻

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

**Kind regards**

**Mr. Matthew O'Brien**

**Principal**

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## Our Values - Integrity



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### ✨ Our School Value: Integrity ✨

At our school, **integrity** is an important value that guides how we learn, play and treat one another each day. Integrity means **doing the right thing, even when it may be difficult or when no one is watching**. ❤️ It involves being honest, respectful and taking responsibility for our actions.

Across the school, pupils are learning what integrity looks like in everyday life. Through class discussions, stories, assemblies and real-life scenarios, children explore how being truthful, owning mistakes and making fair choices helps to build trust and strong relationships. 🤝👏  
Pupils are encouraged to reflect on their actions and think about how their choices affect others.

We also support children in **putting integrity into practice**—whether that is playing fairly in the playground, telling the truth, showing kindness to friends, or admitting when they need help. 🙌👏 By celebrating positive examples of integrity, we help pupils understand that this value is not just something we talk about, but something we live out every day.

By nurturing integrity, we are helping our children grow into **confident, responsible and respectful individuals**, ready to contribute positively to our school community and beyond.



Trócaire

# Trócaire

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*A huge thank you to everyone who donated to our annual Lenten Appeal this year, in aid of Trócaire. This year the school raised **£3,000.00**. This money will help those families and children in extremely poor parts of our world. This is indeed a fantastic way to show how our school is aware of social need throughout the world.*

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Sponsorship for Belfast Marathon 2025 - ICT in provsion in school



*Learn to Love, Love to Learn*

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*I would like to thank everyone for their generous sponsorship of the SMOTH team at the Belfast Marathon. We are raising money for our Specialist Provision. The total raised so far stands at £1,285 of £4000. Thank you all very much for being so extremely generous. If you could donate further please use the link below.*

*<https://gofund.me/1c261e7ff>*

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## School PTA Bounceathon



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*Thank you to the PTA who have organised a School Bounceathon for P1 - P7 pupils. The event will take place on Friday 29th May during the school day.*

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## St. Mary's on the Hill Summer Fair 2026



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*The summer fair will take place on **Saturday 20th June** from **12:00pm - 3:00pm**. If you have some time why not come down and join us and see all the exciting stalls which will be on display.*

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## First Confession

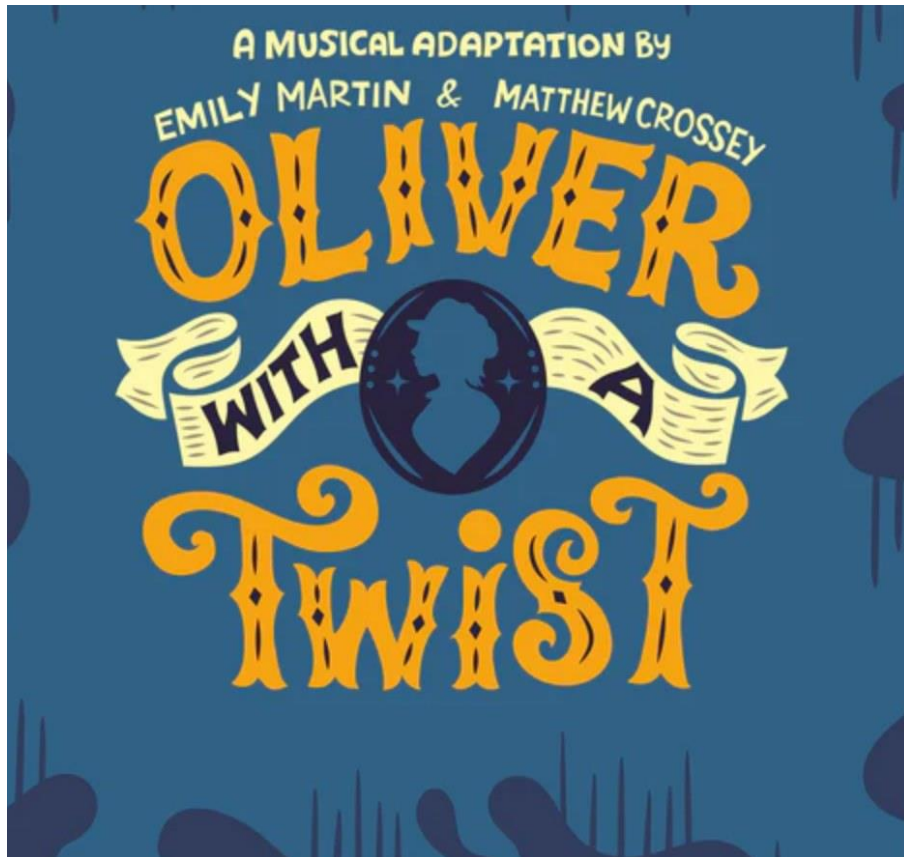
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*First Confession for Primary 3 will take place on Wednesday 20th May for P3EL and Thursday 21st May for P3KR in St Bernard's Church at 4:00pm. **P3 children can be picked up from school at 12:00pm on this day.***

*We pray for our Primary 3's as they receive the gift of forgiveness through their first confession.*

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P7 Performance - Oliver (with a) Twist



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*This year the Primary 7's will be performing for their parents as well as pupils. The show this year is Oliver (with a) Twist. As you can imagine they are all very excited. P7 parents are invited to attend on:*

***Tuesday 9th June @1:15 pm***

***Thursday 11th June @ 7:00 pm***

*Further information to follow.*

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## May Holidays

The word 'MAY' is written in large, bold, uppercase letters. Each letter is filled with a vibrant, multi-colored pattern of red, orange, yellow, and blue, giving it a festive, paper-like appearance. The letters are set against a plain white background.

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*The School will be closed on the following dates in May;*

***Monday 25th May 2026;***

***Tuesday 26th May 2026;***

***Wednesday 27th May 2026;***

***Thursday 28th May 2026;***

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## Holy Communion

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*Primary 4 children will make their First Holy Communion on Wednesday 3rd June in St. Bernard's church at 4:00pm. **P4 children can be picked up at 12 noon on this day.** More details to follow.*

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Sport Day



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

***Thursday 21st May 2026 P1 - P3***

***Friday 22nd May 2026 P4 - P7***

*An email will be issued at a later date which will give times and what will be needed for the Sports Days.*

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# School Dinners



Parents can now select and pay for dinners for the third term, up until the end of June 2026, by logging in 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 lunch menu can be viewed here and also on our website.

| EAT SMART WEEK<br>THE LUNCH BUNCH                                  |  |  |   |   |  |
|--|--|--|---|---|--|
| WEEK BEGINNING   | MONDAY   | TUESDAY  | WEDNESDAY   | THURSDAY  | FRIDAY   |
| 12th February<br>15th March<br>12th April<br>12th May<br>12th June | Baked Fish Steaks with Lemon Mayo<br>Steamed Broccoli & Sliced Beans<br>Chopped Potatoes & Sliced Potatoes<br>Selection of Fruit (Apple, Pear) | Home-made Beef Burgers<br>Baked Carrots & Green Beans<br>Fruit Pops & Fresh Seasonal Salad<br>Muesli or Large Sponge with Custard        | Lunch Bunch Chicken Curry & Rice<br>Rice Salad<br>Sautéed Peas & Potatoes<br>Steamed Broccoli & Green Beans<br>Fruit Pops & Fresh Seasonal Salad<br>Muesli or Large Sponge with Custard                                     | Roast Turkey with Stuffing and Potatoes<br>Roast Carrots & Spring Cabbage<br>Mashed Potatoes & Oven Baked Potatoes<br>Fruit Pops and Muesli   | Hot Dog with Tomato Ketchup<br>Sautéed Peas & Rice Corn on the Cob<br>Chopped Potatoes & Sliced Potatoes<br>Vanilla Ice Cream with Sliced Peaches                        |
| 12th February<br>12th March<br>12th April<br>12th May<br>12th June | Golden Baked Cod Steaks<br>Steamed Broccoli & Sliced Beans<br>Chopped Potatoes & Sliced Potatoes<br>Steep Steamed Vegetables and Fruit Tray    | Home-made Fish<br>Steamed Fish Seasonal Salad & Cucumber<br>Oven Baked Potatoes<br>Home-made Apple Sponge with Custard                   | Lunch Bunch Chicken Curry & Rice<br>Rice Salad<br>Sautéed Peas & Spring Cabbage<br>Steamed Fish & Mashed Potatoes<br>Fruit Pops (Apple) with Steamed Vegetables   | Roast Turkey with Stuffing and Potatoes<br>Roast Carrots & Spring Cabbage<br>Mashed Potatoes & Oven Baked Potatoes<br>Fruit Pops and Muesli   | Chopped Potatoes with Tomato Ketchup<br>Mashed Potatoes & Rice Corn on the Cob & Cucumber<br>Chopped Potatoes & Sliced Potatoes<br>Caramel Biscuits with Orange Meringue |
| 12th March<br>12th April<br>12th May<br>12th June                  | Golden Crumbed Fish Fingers<br>Sautéed Peas & Spring Cabbage<br>Chopped Potatoes & Sliced Potatoes<br>Baked Potatoes                           | Home-made Beef Burgers<br>Steamed Broccoli & Fresh Seasonal Salad<br>Fruit Pops & Mashed Potatoes<br>Home-made Apple Sponge with Custard | Lunch Bunch Chicken Curry & Rice<br>Rice Salad<br>Green Beans & Sautéed Carrots<br>Steamed Fish & Oven Baked Potatoes<br>Steamed Broccoli & Spring Cabbage<br>Mashed Potatoes & Rice Corn on the Cob with Custard           | Roast Turkey with Stuffing and Potatoes<br>Cauliflower & Fresh Seasonal Squash<br>Mashed Potatoes & Oven Baked Potatoes<br>Jelly Whip with Muesli & Orange  | Baked Fish Steaks<br>Sautéed Peas & Sliced Beans<br>Chopped Potatoes & Sliced Potatoes<br>Fruit Pops (Apple) with Muesli   |
| 12th March<br>12th April<br>12th May<br>12th June                  | Home-made Beef Burgers<br>Sautéed Carrots & Steamed Broccoli<br>Fruit Pops & Sliced Potatoes<br>Muesli, Muesli and Orange Pot                  | Fish and Cheese Pops<br>Sautéed Carrots & Cucumber<br>Chopped Potatoes & Sliced Potatoes<br>Raspberry Jelly with Toot Froyo              | Lunch Bunch Chicken Curry & Rice<br>Rice Salad<br>Green Beans & Sautéed Carrots<br>Sautéed Peas & Spring Cabbage<br>Steamed Fish & Fresh Seasonal Salad<br>Fruit Pops (Apple) with Muesli<br>Fruit Pops (Apple) with Muesli | Roast Turkey with Stuffing and Potatoes<br>Cauliflower & Spring Cabbage<br>Sautéed Peas and Potatoes<br>Roast Carrots & Cauliflower<br>Mashed Potatoes & Rice Corn on the Cob<br>Chopped Potatoes & Sliced Potatoes | Oven Baked Chicken Cordon<br>Sautéed Peas & Sliced Beans<br>Chopped Potatoes & Sliced Potatoes<br>Home-made Potatoes Steaks with Mashed Potatoes                         |

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.

## 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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## Promoting Healthy Eating



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*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.*

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## Free School Meals



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.

## 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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