

St. Mary's Primary School Cabragh

10 Whites Road, Cabragh, Dungannon, Co. Tyrone, BT70 3AN

Telephone: (028) 8776 7356

Principal: Mrs Louise Quinn



21st July 2025

Dear Parent/Guardian,

It is hard to believe that we are almost half- way through our summer holidays! I hope you and the children are all doing well and enjoying the summer break. I would like to begin this update by thanking you all for your kindness and support during my time in St Mary's Cabragh. It has been a privilege and an honour to lead the school for the past five years and St Mary's will always hold a special place in my heart.

Mrs Lavery and I have been working closely together over the past few weeks to ensure a smooth transition. I would like to take this opportunity to wish Mrs Lavery well in her new post and I know that St Mary's will continue to flourish under her leadership.

I would like to pay tribute to the hard work and dedication of our school staff. I would also like to thank you for your continued support of the school and most importantly I would like to thank the children. They have been a credit and I am immensely proud of each and every one of them. I would especially like to mention our Primary 7s. They have all been fantastic and are great ambassadors for St. Mary's! I would like to wish you well in your new schools.

New School Term 2025-2026

School will reopen on **Thursday 28th August 2025 for Primary 1 and Primary 7 ONLY** (Induction morning **9am – 11am**)

School re-opens for All pupils on Friday 29th August 2025.

PLEASE NOTE:- School Dinners and School Bus Transport will commence on Monday 1st September 2025. Your child will need to be dropped off at school on Friday 29th August and will need to bring a healthy snack and packed lunch.

Staffing Complement 2025-2026

- **Principal** - Mrs Helen Lavery
- **Primary One** - Miss Lauren Cush (Class Teacher) and Mrs Sheila Donaghy (Classroom Assistant)
- **Primary Two** - Class Teacher and Mrs Suzanne Quinn (Classroom Assistant)
Miss Amy O'Neill (Classroom Assistant) and Miss Tara O'Neill (Classroom Assistant)
- **Primary Three** - Mrs Marie Poacher (Class Teacher) and Mrs Fiona Morris / Jenna Quinn (Classroom Assistant)
- **Primary Four** - Mrs Donna Quinn (Class Teacher), Mrs Una Bloomer (Classroom Assistant) and Miss Ellen McAleer (Classroom Assistant)

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- **Primary Five** - Miss Claire Canavan (Class Teacher) and Miss Meg Daly (Classroom Assistant)
- **Primary Six** - Mrs Michelle McCann (Class Teacher) and Mrs Margaret Rafferty (Classroom Assistant), Mrs Catherine Mc Elvogue / Mrs Kathryn Tierney (Classroom Assistant) and Mrs Claire McKillion (Classroom Assistant)
- **Primary Seven** - Mr Dermot Morrow (Class Teacher) and Mrs Michelle Wallace (Classroom Assistant)
- **Secretary** - Mrs Paula O'Neill
- **Catering** - Mrs Melissa Pike, Mrs Maureen Kelly and Mrs Rita McGlinchey
- **Caretaker** - Mr Damien Hamill
- **Cleaner** - Mrs Katrina Lasyk
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Holiday List

Please see the school website for school closures 2025-2026. This may be subject to change.

<https://www.stmaryscabragh.com/calendar/>

New Entrants

The Primary One children will start school on Thursday 28th August 2025 (9:00 am- 11:00 am) as a whole class.

Friday 29th August – Wednesday 3rd September, the Primary One children will be phased into school in small groups. Please refer to the inside of your Starting School pack to see which day your child should attend school. For example, if your child's small group day is Monday 1st September, then your child does not attend school on Friday 29th August, Tuesday 2nd or Wednesday 3rd. The whole Primary One class will come together again on Thursday 4th September 2025. The children will finish school early (12.30pm) 29th August – 26th September inclusive. Commencing Monday 29th September 2025, the children will go home at 1.30pm.

P1 and P2 Afterschool

The P1 and P2 Afterschool is optional for P1 and P2 pupils. The Afterschool Club runs from 1:30pm - 2:45pm each day. The Afterschool for Primary 2 pupils will commence on Monday 1st September 2025. This can be booked via the School Website. <https://www.stmaryscabragh.com/after-school/> **We kindly request that payment is made on a WEEKLY basis.** The school is dependent on prompt payment so we can employ and pay the Afterschool Leader. Thank you for your support with this matter. It is the responsibility of parents to keep a note of the dates your child attends P1/P2 Afterschool. Please mark your child's name on an envelope, indicate the days your child attended and enclose payment for the days attended that week. **The Afterschool for Primary 1 pupils will commence on Monday 29th September 2025.**

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Transport Application Form for September 2025

If your child is going to be travelling to and from school by bus in September 2025, an application form must be completed online.

<https://www.eani.org.uk/home-to-school-transport-new/transport-onlineapplications/primary-school-transport-applications>

Free School Meals/School Uniform/Physical Education Clothing Allowance Application

The online application for 2025 is now live. We encourage all parents to make an application BEFORE 25 JULY 2025. <https://www.eani.org.uk/parents/pupil-applications-and-grants/free-school-meals-and-uniform-grants/apply-for-free-school>

Please refer to link above for further details for eligibility.

School / PE Uniform

In St Mary's we have a school uniform and a separate PE uniform. Please see the school website.

<https://www.stmaryscabragh.com/parent-area/school-uniform/>

PLEASE NOTE: Uniforms are now available to buy in Kelly's Drapery, Irish Street Dungannon.

PE Uniform - We are mindful of the cost to parents, so, to keep the cost of the PE uniform down, we allow the children to wear affordable plain navy leggings /plain navy tracksuit bottoms that can be purchased very cheaply in Tesco, Primark. M&S etc. The branded sweatshirt and polo t-shirt with the school logo can be purchased in Kelly's Drapery, Irish Street Dungannon. The blue polo t-shirt with the school logo is optional. A plain blue polo t-shirt is also acceptable. School Uniform- PE uniform is not school uniform. In St. Mary's, we feel it is very important for the children to wear school uniform. Our school uniform embodies the ethos of St Mary's. On school trips, attendance at Feis and festivals etc, our children are always commended for their smart appearance and excellent manners. We want to instil these values in our children from the outset. We take pride in our children and their smart appearance in their school uniform. The wearing of school uniform also allows the children to get into the right mindset for the school day and the teaching and learning that takes place. I am pleased to announce that the "School Uniform Exchange" initiative will take place this summer. Please see Friends of Cabragh Facebook page for further information. This brilliant initiative will help to cut down on the cost of purchasing school uniform. The back room at Killeeshil Community Centre will be open from Wednesday 6th August to Saturday 9th August from 10am -8pm. Uniforms can be viewed in privacy.

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Home/School Communication

St Mary's strives to maintain close liaison with parents, and we greatly value the close partnership we have with our parents. To keep parents informed of important updates, we regularly use the school's texting service, the school website, <https://www.stmaryscabragh.com/home/> and the school Facebook page. Each month parents will also receive a Calendar and Newsletter with key information and important updates. **It is important that parents keep these safe and make note of important events, including dates and times of After-school Clubs etc.**

PLEASE NOTE: The school mobile phone is primarily a one - way system and is used for sending important notifications to parents/guardians. The school mobile phone is not regularly monitored and **we kindly request that parents who wish to contact the school avoid texting the school mobile and telephone the school office on 028 877 67356 instead.** We thank you for your support with this matter. At St Mary's, appointments must be made if a parent wishes to see a class teacher or the school principal. Please contact the school secretary 028 877 67356 to make an appointment if you wish to see a particular class teacher or the school principal. We also kindly request that phone calls to staff members are made **before 3:30 pm.**

Safeguarding and Child Protection

In the interest of Child Protection / Security and to avoid unnecessary disruption to class teaching, parents and visitors **MUST** report to the Secretary's office. **Parents should not go beyond the school entrance foyer unless accompanied by a member of staff.**

Healthy Eating

St Mary's Primary School promotes healthy eating at school. Schools are monitored by the Department of Education to check that they are doing everything possible to promote healthy eating. Lunch is an important meal for school going children. It should provide one third of their recommended daily allowance of nutrients without being high in fat, sugar or salt. It should also provide dietary fibre. Convenience foods like crisps, sweets, biscuits, chocolate and soft/fizzy drinks are not permitted. Children should bring a water bottle or milk to school. Please see the school website <https://www.stmaryscabragh.com/parent-area/healthyeating/> for more information.

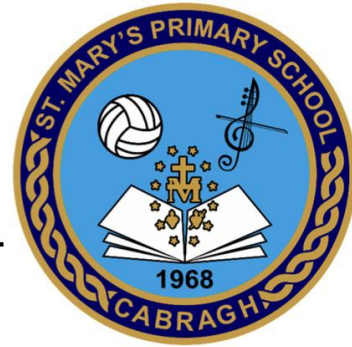
All children are allowed one small treat on a Friday. (EG- A fun size bar, Kit-Kat, Milky Way etc) **TO BE EATEN AFTER LUNCH.** We do not permit the children to bring in fizzy drinks, lollipops or packets of chewy sweets. The dentist does not recommend children eating sugary snacks mid -morning and recommends that children eat their treat immediately after their lunch. PLEASE NOTE:- We have a large number of children with life threatening nut allergies. Please **DO NOT** send nuts to school with your child or foods that contain nuts.

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School Dinners

Please note that dinners MUST be paid for on a weekly basis. School dinners can be booked and paid for via the SchoolMoney App. The school secretary will speak with new P1 parents on 29 August 2025 to advise on setting up School Money. School meals are cooked in the school kitchen. The canteen staff are committed to providing healthy and nutritious meals. The dinner menu for September can be viewed on the school website. <https://www.stmaryscabragh.com/parent-area/dinner-menu-953/>

Snacks -All children have a break at 10.30am. It is important that all children bring a daily snack to school for their mid-morning break. Children should bring a healthy snack (sandwich, wrap, crackers/cheese, fruit, carrot sticks etc.) High fat and high sugar content foods like crisps, sweets, biscuits, chocolate and soft/fizzy drinks are not permitted. Children should bring their water bottle to school each day.

Time-Keeping

Time-keeping is extremely important in the education of your child and is a life-long learning skill. If your child is persistently late they are missing out on important learning opportunities at the start of the lesson. I would like to remind parents that school begins at 8.45am. Children may be dropped off at school from 8.30 am onwards. Arrival to school before 8.30 am is only permitted for the early bus children.

Attendance

It is essential that your child attends school regularly and maintains a pattern of good attendance throughout their school career. Excellent attendance at school is important to allow a child or young person to fulfil their potential. Please see the school website for further information.

<https://www.stmaryscabragh.com/parent-area/attendance/>

Holidays

You can demonstrate your commitment to your child's education by not taking holidays during term time. Any child who is absent from school due to a holiday will miss out on important learning and will fall behind with their school work. Holidays taken during term time will be categorised as an unauthorised Key Point absence. Avoid taking family holidays during the school term.

Thank you for taking the time to read through this important newsletter and enjoy the rest of the summer holidays.

Kind regards,

Louise Quinn