

# St. Mary's Primary School Cabragh

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

Telephone: (028) 8776 7356

Principal: Mrs Louise Quinn

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1<sup>st</sup> April 2022

## April Newsletter

Dear Parent/Guardian,

Please find below some information for your attention.

### Friends of Cabragh Coffee Morning

'Friends of Cabragh', our Parent Support Group and the staff and pupils of St. Mary's would like to thank everyone who supported the Coffee Morning fundraiser on Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> March 2022, in Killeeshil Community Centre. We are overwhelmed by the generosity of our school community. A total of £2,203.24 was raised. Thank you!

### School Holidays

St. Mary's will be closed for the **Easter holidays (14<sup>th</sup> April – 24<sup>th</sup> April inclusive)**. School closes at 12 noon on Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> April. School buses will be available for those children who travel home on the bus. Children should be collected at 12 noon sharp. School will re-open on Monday 25<sup>th</sup> April.

**School Closure** -The school will be used as a polling station in the upcoming May Election.

The school will be closed on **Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> May 2022**.

### First Confession

Congratulations to our Primary 4 children who made their First Confession on Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> March in the Church of the Assumption, Tullyallen. All the children conducted themselves so reverently and certainly did their parents, families, teachers and indeed our whole school and parish community proud! Well done boys and girls!

### First Holy Communion

Father Hannigan has set a date for First Holy Communion for Primary 4 pupils. First Holy Communion will take place on **Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> June 2022** in The Church of the Assumption, Tullyallen, at 11.00 am.

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## Confirmation

Father Hannigan has set a date for Confirmation for Primary 7 pupils. Confirmation will take place on **Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> May 2022** in the Church of the Assumption, Tullyallen, at 5.00 pm.

**\*\* PLEASE NOTE- School will close half day for all pupils on Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> May.**

## Relax Kids

**Primary 5-7 children will have their final Relax Kids session on 8<sup>th</sup> April 2022.** In the Relax Kids classes, the children explored different emotions that they may experience in school or out of school such as stress, anxiety, worry and happiness. The children have learned and discussed the benefit of different strategies that they can use to cope and manage these different emotions. These include; exercise, stretching, meditation, breathing techniques and positive self-talk. The children have thoroughly enjoyed the Relax Kids programme and it has been a great success.

## Creative Music After-School

Funding has been secured through the Extended Schools Programme for a Creative Music After-School. **Primary 3 children (Group 2) will have their final two sessions on 6<sup>th</sup> April and 27<sup>th</sup> April.**

**Primary 4** will then have the opportunity to attend this After-School, commencing Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> May 2022 – Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> June 2022. The Creative Music After-School will be facilitated by a trained Music Specialist, Mr Donal Gormley, and will be offered to P4 pupils from 2.45 pm until 3.45 pm.

Music has numerous benefits for children including; activating both sides of the brain, improving listening, concentration and problem-solving, improving working memory, confidence building, promoting creativity and self-expression and promoting well-being - reducing anxiety and stress.

Primary 4- Group 1 (Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> May, 11<sup>th</sup> May, 18<sup>th</sup> May, 25<sup>th</sup> May)

Primary 4- Group 2 (Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> June, 15<sup>th</sup> June, 22<sup>nd</sup> June, 29<sup>th</sup> June)

## Multi-Sports Afterschool Dates

Primary 5 – Monday 4<sup>th</sup> April. (Final Session)

Primary 7 - Monday 25<sup>th</sup> April, 9<sup>th</sup> May, 16<sup>th</sup> May, 23<sup>rd</sup> May, 30<sup>th</sup> May, 6<sup>th</sup> June, 13<sup>th</sup> June.

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## **Basketball Afterschool Dates**

Primary 6 – Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> April (Final Session)

Primary 5 – Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> April, 12<sup>th</sup> May, 19<sup>th</sup> May, 26<sup>th</sup> May, 9<sup>th</sup> June

## **Hurling Dates**

Primary 5- Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> April (Final Session)

Primary 6- Wednesday 27 April, 4<sup>th</sup> May, 11<sup>th</sup> May, 18<sup>th</sup> May, 25<sup>th</sup> May, 8<sup>th</sup> June, 15<sup>th</sup> June, 22<sup>nd</sup> June, 29<sup>th</sup> June.

## **Swimming Dates**

**Primary 7** - 1<sup>st</sup> April, 8<sup>th</sup> April.

**Primary 4** - Friday 6<sup>th</sup> May, 13<sup>th</sup> May, 20<sup>th</sup> May, 27<sup>th</sup> May, 10<sup>th</sup> June

## **Cumann na mBunscol**

The Primary 7 children will be travelling to Fr Connolly Park, Eglish, for a Blitz on

**Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> April** (9.45am - 12.30pm)

## **P6 Trip**

Primary 6 will be travelling to the **Planetarium in Armagh on Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> April**. The children will need a packed lunch and must wear their school uniform. The children will return to school in time for the buses at home time.

## **WordShark**

St. Mary's has invested in the expensive Wordshark programme for all Primary 2 and Primary 3 children, to help bridge the gaps in learning, due to school closures during Lockdown. "Wordshark" provides a fun and effective games-based solution for pupils learning to spell and read. It includes everything that pupils need in order to achieve their spelling targets. The children have received their usernames and password details for the spelling programme which will reinforce the spellings the children are learning in school. It is vital that your child uses this resource to consolidate and reinforce their spellings.

The link for "wordshark" is:

<http://onwordshark.com/stmaryscabragh/login>

You can find a shortcut to Wordshark on the school website. (Kids Area / Wordshark) Click on the 'Wordshark' button

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## Accelerated Reader

As you are aware, your child was set an individual AR (Accelerated Reader) target in January. The targets that are set for each child depend on two factors, the result of a Star Reading Test that each child sits at the start of the term and the teacher's estimation of the amount of time the child is likely to read each day.

After the Star Reading Test is taken, the children are awarded particular levels for their reading books. This is called their ZPD. The Accelerated Reading Program has determined that the child should read and take quizzes within these levels. It is so important that your child uses this fantastic resource for reading, to improve fluency and comprehension skills. The end date for this term's target is 8<sup>th</sup> April 2022.

Please encourage your child to keep reading and taking AR quizzes to ensure he/she reaches 100% by 8<sup>th</sup> April 2022. Prizes will be awarded to those children who reach their target.

As parents, you can ensure that your child gets the most out of the program by reading regularly and consistently and asking the children questions about the book they are reading. Make sure to ask your child about the scores they are achieving in the quizzes.

## **You can access books for Accelerated Reader via**

- **Dungannon Library-** They have created a section for Accelerated Reader books.
- **The Libby App-** <https://www.librariesni.org.uk/browse-read/libby/>
- **Oxford Owl-** <https://www.oxfordowl.co.uk/for-home/find-a-book/library-page/>

**If you buy books you can use the 'AR Bookfinder' [www.arbookfind.co.uk](http://www.arbookfind.co.uk) to ensure that your child is reading at the correct ZPD.**

Please do not hesitate to contact the school if you have any questions regarding any of the above.

Kind regards,

*Louise Quinn*