

St. Mary's Primary School Cabragh

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

Telephone: (028) 8776 7356

Principal: Mrs Louise Quinn



4th July 2022

Dear Parent/Guardian,

It is hard to believe that we are now at the end of the school year! I would like to begin this update by paying tribute to the hard work and dedication of our school staff. Through challenging times, they have been there to support you and your children.

I would 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. We look forward to welcoming you all back to St. Mary's to find out how you are all getting on!

School will reopen on Thursday 1st September 2022 (P1-P7)

Staffing Complement 2022-2023

- **Principal** - Mrs Louise Quinn
- **Senior Leadership Team** - Mrs Eilís Kelly and Mrs Marie Poacher
- **Primary One** - Miss Lauren Cush (Class Teacher) and Mrs Katalin Quinn (Classroom Assistant)
- **Primary Two** - Mrs Eilís Kelly (Class Teacher) and Mrs Jenna Quinn (Classroom Assistant)
- **Primary Three** - Mrs Marie Poacher (Class Teacher), Mrs Sheila Donaghy (Classroom Assistant) and Mrs Una Bloomer (Classroom Assistant)
- **Primary Four** - Mrs Donna Quinn (Class Teacher) and Mrs Claire McKillion (Classroom Assistant)
- **Primary Five** - Miss Claire Canavan (Class Teacher) and Mrs Michelle Wallace (Classroom Assistant)
- **Primary Six** - Mrs Michelle McCann (Class Teacher) and Mrs Margaret Rafferty (Classroom Assistant)
- **Primary Seven** - Mr Dermot Morrow (Class Teacher), Mrs Catherine McElvogue (Classroom Assistant) and Mrs Kathryn Tierney (Classroom Assistant)
- **Engage Programme Teacher** - Mrs Andrea McGuinness
- **Secretary** - Mrs Paula O'Neill
- **Catering** - Mrs Sandra Nugent, 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 2022-2023. This may be subject to change.

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

Primary One New Entrants

The Primary One children will start school on Thursday 1st September as a whole class. Friday 2nd September – Thursday 8th 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 5th September, then your child does not attend school on Friday 2nd, Tuesday 6th, Wednesday 7th or Thursday 8th September. The whole Primary One class will come together again on Friday 9th September. The children will finish school early (12.30pm) 1st September – 30th September inclusive. Commencing Monday 3rd October, the children will go home at 1.30pm.

Primary One & Two Afterschool (1.30 pm - 2.45 pm)

Afterschool for P1 & 2 may be booked via the school website. The online booking system will be opened at the end of August for Primary 2 parents.

<https://www.stmaryscabragh.com/after-school/>

Primary 1 children may avail of the Afterschool provision, week commencing Monday 3rd October. Mrs Paula O'Neill, our school secretary, will provide further information on how to access the online booking system in September.

Primary 2 children may avail of the Afterschool provision commencing Thursday 1st September.

PLEASE NOTE: Afterschool money **must be paid on a weekly basis**. We ask that parents **do not** allow monies owed to accrue.

Transport Application Form for September 2022

If your child is going to be travelling to and from school by bus in September 2022, an application form must be completed online.

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

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

We encourage **all parents** to make an application.

<https://www.eani.org.uk/financial-help/free-school-meals-uniform-grants/apply-for-free-school-meals-uniform-grants>

Who is eligible to apply for free school meals/school uniform/physical education allowance?

Parent(s)/Guardian(s) who live in Northern Ireland, whose child/children attend a school or Regional/FE College in Northern Ireland and who receive one of the following benefits –

- Income Support;
- Income Based Jobseeker's Allowance;
- Income Related Employment and Support Allowance;
- Guarantee Element of State Pension Credit;
- Child Tax Credit or Working Tax Credit with an annual taxable household income of £16,190 or less;
- Universal Credit with net household earnings not exceeding £14,000 per year; **or** where the parent/guardian is an Asylum Seeker supported by the Home Office Asylum Support Assessment Team (ASAT)

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/>

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 etc. The sweatshirt and polo t-shirt with the school logo can be purchased in Horace Mc Mullan's, Scotch 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.

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The school uniform may be purchased in Horace Mc Mullan's, Scotch Street Dungannon. The plain grey trousers/skirt/pinafore and blue shirt/blouse may be purchased in any store (Dunnes, Marks and Spencer etc).

This year I am pleased to announce the introduction of the **"School Uniform Exchange"** initiative. Please see the school website and School Facebook page for further information. <https://www.stmaryscabragh.com/news/school-uniform-exchange-/>
This brilliant initiative will help to cut down on the cost of purchasing school uniform.

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 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/healthy-eating-/> or click on the links below for some ideas.

<https://www.nhs.uk/healthier-families/recipes/healthier-lunchboxes/>

<https://www.bbcgoodfood.com/howto/guide/school-packed-lunch-inspiration>

Children who take lunch are allowed one small treat on a Friday. (A fun size bar or a bag of low fat crisps) We do not permit the children to bring in lollipops or packets of chewy sweets. Children who take school dinner have their own treat day. Children who take school dinners, cooked by the kitchen staff, should not bring in treats to school on a Friday.

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.**

School Dinners

School meals are cooked in the school kitchen. The canteen staff are committed to providing healthy and nutritious meals. The **dinner menu** for the first term can be viewed on the school website. <https://www.stmaryscabragh.com/parent-area/dinner-menu-953/>

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School dinners must be booked and paid for on the School Money App. Dinners must be paid for by the end of each week. Mrs Paula O'Neill, our school secretary, will provide further information on how to access the School Money App in September.

Break-time 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 drinks are **not** permitted.

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. *Children who do not arrive in school for registration will be marked late.* I would like to remind parents that **school begins at 8.45am sharp.** 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.

Commencing 1st September, we hope to resume our daily whole school assemblies. Sadly, this was paused due to the impact of COVID-19 restrictions. It is vital that that all pupils attend for Assembly and prayers each morning. On Thursday 1st September children in Primary 2-7 should go to the Assembly Hall each morning (**NOT** directly to the classroom, which was the case during the pandemic). Staff members will be on duty in the Assembly Hall to receive the children **from 8.30 am onwards.** For the month of September, Primary 1 children should go directly to the Primary 1 classroom.

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 to fulfil their potential. Please see the school website for further information. <https://www.stmaryscabragh.com/parent-area/attendance/>

Family 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. In each Academic Year there are only a maximum of 190 statutory school days – this allows plenty of time for holidays to be arranged outside term time. Holidays taken during term time will be

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categorised as an unauthorised absence. Avoid taking family holidays during the school term.

Attendance- How Parents Can Help

- Establish a good routine in the mornings and evenings so your child is prepared for the school day ahead.
- Make sure your child goes to school regularly and follows the school rules.
- Ensure your child arrives at school on time – not late.
- Arrange dental and medical appointments outside school hours when possible.
- Always inform the school if your child is absent due to illness – this must be followed up with a **written note** when your child returns to school. Please find a copy of the absence notification form on the school website. <https://www.stmaryscabragh.com/parent-area/attendance/>
- Take truancy seriously – if your child is not attending school as you expect they may be putting themselves at risk – Who are they with? What are they doing?
- Take family holidays outside term time.
- Talk to your child about school and take an interest in their school work (including homeworks).
- Attend parent evenings and school events.
- Praise and reward your child's achievements at school.
- Always support school staff in their efforts to control difficult or challenging behaviour.
- Discuss any problems or difficulties with the school – staff are there to help and will be supportive.

Please note- the **Absence Notification Form** must be completed for each period of pupil absence and returned to the class teacher immediately.

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

I wish you all a happy and restful summer.

Kind Regards,

Louise Quinn