

St. Mary's Primary School Cabragh

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

Telephone: (028) 8776 7356

Principal: Mrs Louise Quinn



30th September 2022

Dear Parent/Guardian,

It's hard to believe that we are already entering the month of October! We have been so busy in St Mary's and the children have settled into school well and have been working so hard! Here is some information about upcoming events:

Primary 1 Routines

Commencing Monday 3rd October, the P1 children may go directly to the Hall in the morning for Assembly and prayers. The children should not go directly to the classroom as was the case during the month of September. The children will finish school at 1.30pm commencing Monday 3rd October. Parents will have the option of using the After-School Club which runs from 1.30pm-2.45pm. The cost is £5 per day and this includes a snack. If there are two children from the one family, the cost is £6 in total. To book a place for your child go to the school website, click on the **Afterschool Tab** and then click on **Login/Register**. <https://www.stmaryscabragh.com/login/> Please see the letter sent home with your child for the registration code. If you have applied for school transport, your P1 child may take the bus home after Afterschool at 2.45pm. If this is the case, please inform Miss Cush, so that we can ensure your child gets on the correct bus in the afternoon.

School Photos

Our school photographer, Jim Hamill, will be in school on **Wednesday 5th October** to take P1 photos (and family groups), new children to St Mary's and P7 photos. Please ensure your child is in full school uniform on this day.

Flu Vaccine

The School nurse will be here on Thursday 6th October to administer the flu vaccine.

Phonics Workshop

St Mary's will be hosting a **Phonics Workshop** intended for parents of children in Primary 1, 2 & 3 on **Friday 7th October at 1.00 pm in the Primary 1 Classroom**. The Primary 1 and 2 children will be supervised until the end of the workshop at approximately 2pm. At St Mary's we recognise the importance of building a strong relationship with our children's parents and families. This workshop will help parents understand the place and purpose of teaching phonics as a starting point for teaching reading. Please complete the reply slip sent home and return to school on or before Monday 3rd October.

Parent Teacher Meetings

The Parent Teacher Meetings will take place on **Friday 21 October 2022**. There will be no school for pupils on this day. Parents will be notified in due course about their time slots. We ask, where possible, that parents try to attend at the given time. When you receive notification, please return the reply slip immediately. The meetings will take place in your child's classroom.

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Do This in Memory- Primary 4

All P4 children and their parents are warmly invited to **7.00 pm Mass in St Joseph's Church**, Ackinduff on **Saturday 29th October** to celebrate the 'Do this in Memory' programme. Do This in Memory is a parish-based pre-sacramental programme designed to help children, parents and the parish community prepare for First Reconciliation and First Holy Communion.

First Confession- Primary 4

First Confession will take place on **Tuesday 14th March 2023** at 7.30 pm in Church of the Assumption, Tullyallen.

Confirmation- Primary 7

Confirmation will take place on **Thursday 11th May 2023** at 5.00 pm in Church of the Assumption, Tullyallen.

First Holy Communion- Primary 4

First Holy Communion will take place on **Saturday 20th May 2023** at 11.00 am in Church of the Assumption, Tullyallen.

REIM Coding Workshops- P6 & P7

St Mary's has secured funding for Coding workshops in P6 and P7. These workshops will be delivered by REIM on the following dates. Tuesday 4th October, 11th October, 18th October and 25th October. This initiative is funded by Extended Schools, so there will be **no charge**

St Ciaran's College Afterschool Clubs

We have partnered with St Ciaran's College, Ballygawley, to provide a Technology Club, Art Club and Gymnastics Club on Tuesday evenings. The children will be taken to St Ciaran's by bus after school finishes and will be returned back to school at 4.45pm, when they can be picked up by their parents at school.

The Club will run for 4 weeks for the Primary 6 children. (**Tuesday 4th October, Tuesday 11th October, Tuesday 18th October and Tuesday 25th October 2022**).

In Term 2 the Club will run for 4 weeks for the Primary 7 children.

(**Tuesday 17th January, Tuesday 24th January, Tuesday 31st January and Tuesday 7th February 2023**)

This initiative is funded by Extended Schools, so there will be **no charge**.

P1 and P2 Creative Music Afterschool

Primary 1 and 2 children will have the opportunity to attend a Creative Music After-School, commencing on Wednesday 5th October 2022. This Afterschool will run every Wednesday afternoon, this year. 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. The Creative Music After-School will be facilitated by a trained Music Specialist, Mr Donal Gormley, and will be offered to P1 pupils from 1.30 pm until 2.00pm and P2 from 2.00 until 2.30pm. This initiative is funded by Extended Schools, so there will be **no charge**.

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Multi-Sport/Basketball Afterschool Club

This after school club is funded by the Extended School's initiative, so there will be **no charge**. The Afterschool Club runs from 2.45 pm-3.45 pm on a Monday and will be facilitated by a trained professional. This afterschool will initially be offered to Primary 5 pupils for 6 weeks on the following dates. (**12th September, 19th September, 26th September, 3rd October, 10th October, 17th October & 24th October**) The Multi-Sport Afterschool will be offered to Primary 6 pupils commencing Monday 7th November 2.45 pm-3.45 pm. The dates for Afterschool for **P6** are – **Monday 7th November, 14th November, 21st November, 28th November, 5th December, 12th December and 19th December**. P6 children should bring their PE gear to school in a bag on these dates. The children will be permitted to change at home-time.

Relax Kids

Thank you to all the parents who completed the Relax Kids Pre-Class evaluation. We have reviewed the parental feedback and the Relax Kids coach, Mrs Paula Mc Gilligan, will advise staff and will use research-based mindful and relaxation techniques alongside values and positive psychology (positivity, strength-building, gratitude, resilience and compassion) to help support your children's emotional health and wellbeing. The children in P1, P2, P3 and P4 will attend Relax Kids on 6th October, 13th October and 20th October. The Relax Kids programme will also be delivered in Term 2 also for P1-4 children. There will be **no charge** for the Relax Kids programme. Please see the school website for a Relax Kids feature with further information.

Swimming

Swimming lessons for Primary 6 continue on Friday September 30th, October 7th & October 14th. Swimming lessons for Primary 5 commence on Friday 11th November. The dates for swimming lessons for P5 are 11th November, 18th November, 25th November, 2nd December, 9th December and 16th December. Swimming lessons are compulsory and part of our Physical Education Curriculum. More details will be provided in early November. Children with long hair **must** wear a **swimming cap**. All children must wear **goggles**. The children should wear their PE uniform into school on swimming days (Friday).

French Club

Le Club Français resumed in St. Mary's on Monday 12th September. The total cost for French Club is £12. This can be paid for in one instalment or in three termly instalments. (**£4 per term**). **The fee must be paid via School Money.**

Spooktacular Day

We will celebrate 'Spooktacular Day' on **Friday 28 October 2022** to celebrate Halloween! The children will take part in lots of Halloween themed activities and are encouraged to dress up in their Halloween costumes. We are also inviting entries for a 'Spooky Character' Art Competition. (More information to follow in due course) The School Council will judge the competition and there will be prizes for the winning entries.

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Virtual Reality Workshops

REIM were due to bring a fantastic new Virtual Reality (VR) experience to St Mary's on Monday 19th September. Due to the Bank Holiday, this has now been rescheduled for Monday 21st November 2022. REIM will deliver an exciting and experiential workshop to our P5, P6 and P7 pupils. REIM are the designated training provider for SchooVR. SchooVR is pioneering a new way to learn by providing teachers and pupils with tools that supercharge teaching and learning. SchooVR will enable teachers to bring the world to the classroom by taking pupils on a virtual field trip to a national park, historical landscape, or outer space.

Accelerated Reader (P4-P7)

As you are aware, your child was set an individual AR target at the start of the school year. 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 **Friday 9th December 2022**. Please encourage your child to keep reading and taking AR quizzes to ensure he/she reaches 100% by 9th December 2022.

Mathletics (P3-7)

Mathletics is an online learning platform that engages pupils through challenges and rewards. Linked to the National Curriculum, Mathletics supports children as they develop confidence in mathematics and allows them to practise key skills in a wide range of areas.

It is designed to provide pupils with a captivating and safe learning experience which combines targeted and adaptive curriculum content, structured and interactive support, with engaging games and rewards.

Mathletics and AR Parent Information Session

Mrs Poacher, our Literacy Co-Ordinator and Mrs Mc Cann, our Numeracy Co-Ordinator, will hold a Parent Information Session during the month of October, to explain both of these very valuable programmes. More information to follow soon.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you require further information. Thank you.

Kind Regards,

Louise Quinn