

St. Mary's Primary School Cabragh

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

Principal: Mrs Helen Lavery



31st March 2026

Dear Parent/Guardian,

Please see below for upcoming important dates and events.

Attendance and Punctuality

It is very important that your child arrives at school on time. Each day begins with prayer and helps children settle for learning. Consistent lateness can disrupt the class and impact other children's learning.

Easter Holidays

St. Mary's will be closed for the **Easter holidays (3rd April – Monday 13th April inclusive)**.

School closes at 12:00 noon on Thursday 2nd April 2026. School buses will **NOT** be available for those children who normally travel home on the bus. Children should be collected at 12 noon. School will re-open on Tuesday 14th April 2026. *(Please note there is a change to the original holiday calendar due to an additional TransformEd day on Monday 13th April.)*

Dungannon Feis

A huge congratulations to all the pupils who took part in the Dungannon Feis over the past few weeks! We are incredibly proud of you for representing our school with such talent and enthusiasm.

First Holy Communion- Primary 4

First Holy Communion will take place on **Saturday 9th May 2026** at 11.00 am in Church of the Assumption, Tullyallen.

April-May After Schools Programme (P3-P7)

We are starting a range of after school activities for children in P3-P7. These will run on a Thursday afternoon from 2.45pm-3.45pm and due to limited spaces will be on a first come first serve basis. There will be a Lego Club, ICT Club, Netball and Football Club. This is something we are trialling with a view to extending it further in time. **The dates for these are 23rd, 30th April & 7th, 14th, 21st May.**

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Chester's Challenge (P5 & P7)

Chester's Challenge is a fun, interactive three-week health promotion and education programme aimed at Primary 5 and 7 children. The workshops, delivered by NI Chest, Heart & Stroke, focus on healthy eating, keeping active, screen time and sleep. The P5 class will have three 60-minute fun and interactive workshops delivered over three weeks.

Week 1 – Ten Gems of Knowledge (**Wednesday 15nd April 2026**)

- Healthy eating
- Eatwell Guide quiz
- Importance of breakfast
- Packing a healthy lunch box

Week 2 – The Jungle (**Wednesday 22nd April 2026**)

- Physical activity guidelines – aerobic/strength
- Hydration
- Movement flow exercises

Week 3 – Evening Time at the Tree House (**Wednesday 29th April 2026**)

- Screen time
- Fast food though food labels
- Relaxation & sleep

NICHS will also deliver a **P7 workshop** on the 'Dangers of smoking/e-cigarettes' (**Wednesday 22nd April 2026**)

Multi-sport/Basketball After School Club (P6)

Funding from the Extended Schools Programme has been secured for an Afterschool Multi-sports/Basketball programme for Primary 6 pupils. At St. Mary's, we believe all children should have the opportunity to lead healthy, active lives. This programme will be led by a trained professional and offered to Primary 6 pupils for five weeks on Mondays from 2:45pm–3:45pm on the following dates: **13th April, 20th April, 27th April, 11th May, and 18th May.**

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Multi-sport/Basketball After School Club (P7)

Funding has also been secured through the Extended Schools Programme for an Afterschool Multi-sports/Basketball programme for Primary 7 pupils. The Afterschool will take place on the following dates. **(Monday 1st June, 8th June, 15th June and 22nd June.)**

Primary 1 Health Appraisals

The school nurse will visit St Mary's on Monday 27th April, Tuesday 28th April and Tuesday 5th May for the P1 Health Appraisals. Please see the nurse's letter for your child's date.

Accelerated Reader (P4-P7)

Congratulations to all the children who reached their AR target in Term 2!
New individual Accelerated Reader (AR) targets will be set in April. These are based on two things: your child's Star Reading Test result at the start of the term and the teacher's estimate of how much daily reading they can complete.

After the Star Test, each child receives a ZPD level, which guides them to choose books that match their reading ability. Reading within this range helps build fluency and comprehension, so please encourage your child to use the AR programme regularly.

Term 3 AR targets must be completed by **Friday 12th June 2026.**

Please support your child in reading at home and taking AR quizzes independently to help them reach 100%. Prizes will be awarded to those who meet their target.

Parents can help by encouraging regular reading, chatting about the book, and checking quiz scores.

Important: Children must read a mix of AR books and articles—not articles only. Teachers are monitoring this rule.

Mathletics (P3-7)

St. Mary's has invested significantly in Mathletics, and we encourage all children to continue using it throughout Term 3. Unfortunately, some pupils are not engaging with the programme.

Mathletics is an online learning platform that builds confidence in maths through interactive tasks, challenges, and rewards. It helps children practise key skills across many areas and offers a safe, motivating, and adaptive learning experience.

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PTE/PTM

P3–P7 pupils will complete their annual English and Maths assessments during the weeks beginning **11th and 18th May 2026**. Please ensure your child is well rested for these assessments.

Finally, I wish to inform you, on behalf of the Board of Governors, that I will be off school for personal reasons. During this period, Mrs Louise Quinn will be taking over.

Wishing you and your families every blessing for Easter, and hoping that the break brings peace, rest and time together. We look forward to welcoming the children back for a happy and successful final term.

Kind regards,

Helen Lavery