



# St. John's Primary School May Newsletter



## May is the Month of Mary

During the month of May we remember Our Lady. This year we pray especially for peace and justice in our world.



## Reminder - School Closures

The school will be closed on the following dates:

- Monday 4<sup>th</sup> May and Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> May
- Monday 25<sup>th</sup> May, Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> May and Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> May

## First Holy Communion

First Holy Communion takes place for the P4 children **on Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> May @11.00am**. The children have worked really hard in preparation for this sacrament and on behalf of everyone at the school, we wish them the best of luck. First Communion is always a special event within our school community and we hope that the P4 children have an enjoyable day with their families and friends.

Tea and Coffee will be served after the Mass in the school. Thank-you to the PSG. for organising this - Everyone welcome!

A photographer will also be available in the Church after the Mass for those who wish to have professional photographs taken.



## P5/6/7 - Holy Communion Choir

Thank-you to everyone who responded to the attendance questionnaire for the Holy Communion Choir. We kindly ask that all children are seated **no later than 10.45am and are collected from 12 noon at the front of the Church.** Children **do not** need to wear their uniform.

*Thank-you for your support and cooperation!*

## Moy Credit Union – School Lodgements

Staff from Moy Credit Union will visit the school on **Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> May** to deposit money into the children's accounts. Anyone wishing to complete a lodgement should bring their Credit Union Books and money to school on this day.

## **P7 – Post Primary School Placements**

Parents will receive the outcome of their child's Post Primary application on **Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> May** via the email provided via EA Connect. For further information, please visit: <https://www.eani.org.uk/parents/admissions>

## **P6 Parents Only**

### **SEAG Transfer Test – Information Evening**

An information evening on the SEAG transfer procedure for entry to the local grammar schools in September 2027 will take place on **Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> May @ 6.00pm** in the following schools: St. Patrick's Academy, St. Joseph's Grammar School, The Royal School Dungannon.



## **P7 - Bring and Buy Sale**

The P7 children are busy organising their annual 'Bring and Buy Sale'. This takes place on **Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> May**. They would still appreciate any donations of toys, jewellery and games etc. Cake and buns (nut free) can also be brought in on the day.

All the classes will be given the opportunity to buy items at the sale. Please ensure your child has their money in a purse/wallet and brings a large, strong bag to carry their wonderful purchases home!

## **P7 – End of Year Arrangements**

The Leavers' Mass for the P7 children and their families will take place on **Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> June at 12.30pm** in St. John's Church. Light refreshments will be served in the school hall after the Mass – everyone is welcome! The P7 children will finish school on this day after the Mass.

## **Parent Support Group – Non-Uniform Day Fundraiser**

**Friday 29<sup>th</sup> May** is a P.S.G Non-Uniform Day - £1 voluntary contribution to PSG. This can be brought to school or paid via the pay pal link below.



Remember to use the friends and family option.

[https://www.paypal.com/paypalme/stjohnsprimarymoypsg?country.x=GB&locale.x=en\\_GB](https://www.paypal.com/paypalme/stjohnsprimarymoypsg?country.x=GB&locale.x=en_GB)

## **St. John's – Active Travel Policy**

Please refer to the school's Active Travel Policy at the end of this newsletter. It provides guidance on school rules for children walking and cycling to school. Thank-you!

## Dates for the Diary

The following dates have been confirmed:

<b>Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> May</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• School Closure</li></ul>
<b>Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> May</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• School Closure</li></ul>
<b>Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> May</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• First Holy Communion</li></ul>
<b>Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> May</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Credit Union Lodgement</li></ul>
<b>Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> May</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• P7 Annual Bring and Buy Sale</li></ul>
<b>Monday 25<sup>th</sup> May</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• School Closed</li></ul>
<b>Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> May</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• School Closed</li></ul>
<b>Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> May</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• School Closed</li></ul>
<b>Friday 29<sup>th</sup> May</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• P.S.G. non-uniform day</li><li>• Moy GAA Primary School Tournament</li></ul>
<b>Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> June</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Induction Morning for P1 (Sept 2026 intake)</li></ul>
<b>Monday 8<sup>th</sup> June</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• PSG Funday</li></ul>
<b>Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> June</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• P7 Trip- Jungle NI</li></ul>
<b>Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> June</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• P7 Leavers Mass @ 12.30pm</li></ul>
<b>Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> June</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• P4, 5 and 6 Trip – Leisureplex Lisburn</li></ul>
<b>Friday 26<sup>th</sup> June</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• P1, 2 and 3 Trip – Peter Pan Portadown</li></ul>
<b>Monday 30<sup>th</sup> June</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• School closes for summer break</li></ul>

- **Designated Teacher for Child Protection - Mrs McKnight**
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- **Deputy Designated Teachers for Child protection - Mrs Hughes and Mr Gormley**



## **St. John's Primary School – Active Travel Policy**

**At Saint John's Primary School, we proudly promote active travel - encouraging our pupils and their families to walk, cycle, or scoot to school whenever possible.**

We believe that the journey to school is more than just a routine - it's an opportunity to support children's physical health, boost their mental well-being, and foster independence and confidence.

By choosing active travel, we're not only helping our children stay fit and focused, but also contributing to a cleaner, greener environment for everyone. The health and welfare of our pupils is at the heart of everything we do, and the way we travel to school plays a vital role in that commitment.

**This Active Travel Policy outlines how we will promote and support active travel to school, along with the safety guidelines that accompany it.** We will engage pupils in discussions about the policy and review it regularly to ensure it remains relevant and effective. For pupils unable to travel to school actively, we encourage use of public transport (if appropriate) or car sharing.

### **Some of the benefits of active travel:**

- Improving both mental and physical health through physical activity.
- Establishing positive active travel behaviour.
- Promoting independence and improving safety awareness.
- Reducing congestion, noise and pollution in the community.
- Reducing the environmental impact of the journey to school.

### **To encourage pupils to walk, cycle or scoot to school frequently, the school will:**

- Actively promote walking, cycling and scooting as a positive way of travelling.
- Celebrate the achievements of those who travel actively to school.
- Provide a place for bikes and scooters to be stored on the school site. **(only P6 & P7)**
- Provide opportunities to practice cycling and pedestrian skills for all pupils who wish to participate.

### **For the well-being of our pupils, we expect parents and carers to:**

- Encourage their child to walk, cycle or scoot to school whenever possible. ***(refer to guidelines below)***
- Encourage their child to take up opportunities to develop their competence and confidence in cycling or scooting.
- Consider walking, cycling or scooting with their child on the school run; possibly joining with other families as a 'walking bus' or 'bike bus'. ***(refer to guidelines below)***
- Provide their child with equipment such as a bike helmet, high-visibility clothing, lights, and a lock as appropriate.
- Ensure that the bicycles and scooters ridden to school are roadworthy and regularly maintained.
- If in a vehicle, switch off engines whenever their vehicles are stationary.

## Walking Guidelines for Pupils (P1–P7)

To support pupil safety and independence, the following guidelines apply to children walking home from school:

- **Primary 4 to Primary 7 (P4–P7):** Pupils in P4–P7 may walk home without an adult, provided their parent or guardian has given permission. Children must inform their class teacher if they are walking home alone. They are expected to behave responsibly, showing respect for others and representing themselves and the school positively while using footpaths and moving through the local community.
- **Primary 1 to Primary 3 (P1–P3):** Pupils in P1–P3 must be accompanied by an adult when walking home. Older siblings are not considered appropriate escorts for children in this age group.

## Cycling to School Guidelines for Pupils (P6 & P7)

- **Primary 6 and Primary 7 (P6–P7):** Pupils may cycle or scoot to school without an adult and can store their bikes/scooters at the school.

### **We expect pupils who ride or scoot to school to:**

- Ride sensibly and safely and to follow the Highway Code.
- Check that their bicycle or scooter is roadworthy and regularly maintained.
- Behave in a manner which shows them and the school in the best possible light and to consider the needs of others when cycling or scooting.
- Wear a cycle helmet.
- Ensure they can be seen by other road users, by using lights and wearing high-visibility clothing, as appropriate.
- All bicycles must be left in the approved parking area within the school grounds.
- Dismount their bike as soon as they approach the school gates and push their bicycles into the school grounds and designated parking area.
- If travelling to and from school via the Moy Village – children should dismount from their bicycle at the Church entrance and push it along the church disabled ramp, through the carpark and enter the school grounds at the back gate.
- If travelling to and from school via the GAA grounds area – children should dismount from their bicycle before the carpark entrance, push it through the car park and enter the school grounds at the back gate.

### **Please note:**

- The decision as to whether a child is competent to cycle, scoot or walk safely to and from school rests with the parent(s)/carer(s). The school has no liability for any consequences of that decision.
- This policy covers the journey to and from school where the school has no responsibility or liability.
- Parents are advised that the school's insurance does not cover any loss or damage to pupil's bicycles and scooters left on the premises.