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

Telephone: (028) 8776 7356 Principal: Mrs Louise Quinn





Dear Parent/Guardian,

Please find below some information for your attention.

School Closures

- School will close at <u>12 NOON</u> on Thursday 2nd May 2024. (Confirmation)
- Bank Holiday Monday 6th May School Closed
- STAFF BAKER DAY- Friday 24th May School Closed
- Bank Holiday Monday 27th May School Closed

Confirmation- Primary 7

Confirmation will take place on **Thursday 2nd May 2024** at <u>5.00 pm in Church of the Assumption, Tullyallen.</u> School will close at <u>12 NOON</u> on Thursday 2nd May 2024. The school buses will be available to take the children home. All other children should be collected at 12 noon sharp. Thank you.

Post-Primary - Notification of outcome of applications

If you submitted an application through EA Connect an email will be issued to you on the morning of **Saturday**, **18**th **May 2024** notifying you of the outcome of your child's application.

Primary 7 - St Ciaran's College Induction Day

All those pupils who will be transferring to St Ciaran's College, Ballygawley, in September 2024, will be attending St Ciaran's on **Wednesday 5**th **June 2024** for their Induction Day.

Primary One Induction

We invite our new Primary 1 Entrants to an Induction Morning on **Wednesday 5th June 2024.** The children will have the opportunity to meet their new teacher, Miss Cush, view their classroom and play with their friends. (More information to follow)

'Choices and Changes' (Primary 6)

As part of our ongoing commitment to the personal development of our pupils, St. Mary's PS has invited **Love for Life** to deliver the **'Choices and Changes'** programme to our Primary 6 pupils on <u>Tuesday 7th May 2024</u>. This external input enhances what we already deliver in relation to Personal Development and Mutual Understanding (PDMU).

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Love for Life has a long-standing reputation for engaging effectively in the specific area of Personal Development and Mutual Understanding (PDMU). All of Love for Life's programmes are age-appropriate, offering accurate information in an engaging manner, helping children and young people to learn, reflect and develop in their knowledge, skills and attitudes in this important area.

The experienced and professional Love for Life team will create a safe and secure environment in which your child can have, engaging and respectful conversations about strong healthy relationships. Below is a short description of the programme, 'Choices & Changes' Choices & Changes - An introduction for 9-10 year olds to the physical and emotional changes they can expect during puberty, offering support as they explore and develop an understanding about the choices and changes in their lives.

'What's Inside' - Primary 7

As part of our ongoing commitment to the Personal Development of our Primary 7 pupils, the children will be attending a workshop delivered by Love for Life, called 'What's Inside' on **Tuesday 7th May 2024.** This interactive programme aims to equip pupils in P7 to deal with the changes that so often cause concern and anxiety at their age. We remind pupils that they are all unique by looking at the process of conception, the amazing construction of our bodies and the continuing process of growing up. The gender-specific puberty talk is often the most reassuring part of the day for pupils who are worried about changes in their bodies. Target setting, friendship and assertive behaviour skills are also addressed in the presentation.

The fun and interactive 'What's Inside' programme aims to equip the Primary 7 pupils to make healthy choices and is a vital part of their learning before their transition into secondary school. The workshop includes a separate boys and girls puberty talk, positive qualities in friendships, bullying and how to make good decisions. The main focus of the programme is to affirm the uniqueness of the individual and to encourage respect for themselves and others.

First Holy Communion- Primary 4

First Holy Communion will take place on **Saturday 18th May 2024** at 11.00 am in Church of the Assumption, Tullyallen.

The "Friends of Cabragh", Parent Support Group, warmly invite all our P4 children and their families to a special celebration in the Community Centre after First Holy Communion, where refreshments will be served.

A photographer has been booked. The photographer will take a class photo in the chapel and then individual/family photos back in the Community Centre after the ceremony.

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P1 & P2 Creative Music Afterschool

Primary 1 and 2 children will have the opportunity to attend a Creative Music After-School, commencing on Wednesday 10th April 2024. This Afterschool will run every Wednesday afternoon, this year until the end of June. 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.

Primary 4 Swimming Lessons

The dates for swimming lessons for P4 in Term 2 are on

<u>Friday April 12th, Friday April 19th</u> <u>Friday April 26th, Friday May 3rd, Friday May 10th.</u> Swimming lessons are compulsory and part of our Physical Education Curriculum. Children with long hair must wear a swimming cap. All children <u>must</u> wear goggles. The children should wear their PE uniform into school on swimming days.

'The Birds & the Bees' Parent Workshop (P6 & P7)

Love for Life believe that parents and carers have a really important role to play in helping young people navigate their way through the tricky world of relationships. How can we ensure that we are equipping our young people with the values, skills and information necessary to make healthy choices in the area of relationships? In the current context of immense media and peer pressure, this programme seeks to empower parents, carers and those working with young people to tackle the sensitive issues, to explore practical methods of communication and to understand healthy boundaries for relationships. This seminar is a great opportunity for parents and carers to explore some of the topics and ideas that can sometimes leave parents feeling embarrassed, ill-equipped and anxious. Research continues to suggest that parents are the greatest influence on young people so programmes like this are very important. We highly recommend parents of P6 & P7 children attend this workshop. Please see your emails for the Zoom Link.

Chester's Challenge

Jessica from NI Chest, Heart and Stroke will visit St Mary's on the following dates to deliver the Chester's Challenge programme for P5. Wednesday 1st May, Wednesday 8th May and Wednesday 15th May. Chester's Challenge is a fun, interactive three-week health promotion and education programme. Chester's Challenge is adapted to tie in with the curriculum, with workshops focusing on healthy eating, keeping active, screen time and sleep.

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Primary 5 Trip to Nugent Engineering

Primary 5 will travel to Nugent Engineering as part of their World Around Us topic "Magnificent Machines" on <u>Tuesday 14th May.</u>

Boundaries and Transitions Programme – Primary 7

To help support our Primary 7 pupils as they prepare to transition to Post-Primary, we have booked REIM to deliver a Pupil Workshop 10:30-12:30 on **Wednesday 22nd May 2024**

The 'Boundaries and Transitions' programme is aimed at children in their final year of primary education. The programme will provide a space where the experience of making the transition to second-level education can be explored.

The 'Boundaries and Transitions' programme promotes communication, resilience and positive mental health for young people who are transitioning to post primary education. The interactive workshop will help to prepare our P7 pupils for transitioning to Post Primary and give them the tools and skills to deal with any stress or anxiety that this may bring.

SEAG-Information for P6 Parents

The assessment being used by all selective post primary schools in N Ireland changed last year. Every one of the 62 schools that use academic selection within their admissions process will now use the outcomes from an assessment provided by the Schools' Entrance Assessment Group (SEAG).

If your child is transferring to post-primary education in 2025 and you would like your child to sit the SEAG Entrance Assessment in November 2024 then the following information may be helpful:

- You will need to register on the SEAG website
- Having registered you will be able to complete an online Pupil Application for your child to sit the Assessment.
- The Parent Registration and Pupil Application period will run from 8:00 am Monday 20th May 2024 until 11.59pm on Friday 20th September 2024.
- Only pupils who are registered can sit the Entrance Assessment.
- The 2024 SEAG Entrance Assessment consists of two papers. The first will be held on Saturday 16th November 2024 and the second on Saturday 23rd November 2024
- Each paper has 28 English and 28 Maths questions.

For more detailed information about SEAG and the Entrance Assessment please go to: https://seagni.co.uk

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Primary 6 Trip to the Planetarium

The Primary 6 children will be travelling to the Planetarium on **Friday 17th May 2024** as part of their World Around Us topic. The children should wear their school uniform and bring a packed lunch. Children in receipt of Free School Meals will be provided with a lunch from the school kitchen. Please note that the children will be back in time for the school buses.

The cost of the trip is £13 and should be paid for via the School Money app.

P5 Multi-Sport/Basketball Afterschool Club

Primary 5 children commenced the Multi-Sport/Basketball Afterschool Club on Monday **8**th **April 2024.** P5 children should bring their PE gear to school in a bag on the dates below. The children will be permitted to change at home-time.

The children should be collected at 3:45 pm sharp.

Multi-Sport/Basketball Afterschool Dates for Primary 5.

- Monday 8th April
- Monday 15th April
- Monday 22nd April
- Monday 29th April

P7 Multi-Sport/Basketball Afterschool Club

Primary 7 children will commence the Multi-Sport/Basketball Afterschool Club on Monday **13**th **May 2024.** P7 children should bring their PE gear to school in a bag on the dates below. The children will be permitted to change at home-time. The children should be **collected at 3:45 pm sharp**. Multi-Sport/Basketball Afterschool Dates for <u>Primary 7</u>.

- Monday 13th May
- Monday 20th May
- Monday 3rd June
- Monday 10th June
- Monday 17th June
- Monday 24th June

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

Kind regards,

Louise Quinn