

# St. Mary's Primary School Cabragh

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

Telephone: (028) 8776 7356

Principal: Mrs Louise Quinn



22<sup>nd</sup> July 2024

Dear Parent/Guardian,

It is hard to believe that we are almost half-way through our summer holidays! I hope you and the children are all doing well and enjoying the summer break.

I would like to begin this update by paying tribute to the hard work and dedication of our school staff. I would also 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!

## **New School Term 2024-2025**

- ✓ School will reopen on **Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> August 2024** for **Primary 1 and Primary 7 ONLY** (Induction morning 9am – 11am)
- ✓ **School re-opens for All pupils on Friday 30<sup>th</sup> August 2024.**

## **Staffing Complement 2024-2025**

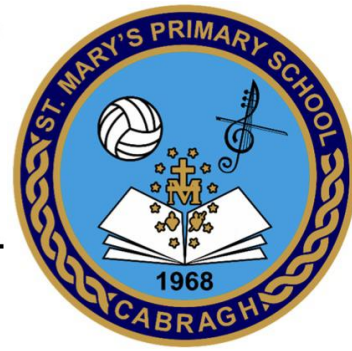
- **Principal** - Mrs Louise Quinn
- **Senior Leadership Team** - Mrs Eilís Kelly and Mrs Marie Poacher
- **Primary One** - Miss Lauren Cush (Class Teacher) and Mrs Sheila Donaghy (Classroom Assistant)
- **Primary Two** - Mrs Eilís Kelly (Class Teacher) and Miss Caoimhe Kelly (Classroom Assistant)
- **Primary Three** - Mrs Marie Poacher (Class Teacher), Mrs Jenna Quinn (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 Margaret Rafferty & one other (Classroom Assistant)
- **Primary Six** - Mrs Michelle McCann (Class Teacher) and Mrs Catherine Mc Elvogue (Classroom Assistant) and Mrs Kathryn Tierney (Classroom Assistant)
- **Primary Seven** - Mr Dermot Morrow (Class Teacher), Mrs Michelle Wallace (Classroom Assistant)
- **Secretary** - Mrs Paula O'Neill

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- **Catering** - Mrs Melissa Pike, Mrs Maureen Kelly and Mrs Rita McGlinchey
- **Caretaker** - Mr Damien Hamill
- **Cleaner** - Mrs Katrina Lasyk

## Holiday List

Please see the school website for school closures 2024-2025. This may be subject to change.

<https://www.stmaryscabragh.com/calendar/>

## Primary One New Entrants

The Primary One children will start school on **Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> August 2024 (9:00 am- 11:00 am)** as a whole class.

Friday 30<sup>th</sup> August – Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> 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 2<sup>nd</sup> September, then your child does not attend school on Friday 30<sup>th</sup> August, Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup>, Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> or Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> September. The whole Primary One class will come together again on Friday 6<sup>th</sup> September 2024. **The children will finish school early (12.30pm) 30<sup>th</sup> August – 27<sup>th</sup> September inclusive.** Commencing Monday 30<sup>th</sup> September 2024, the children will go home at 1.30pm.

## P1 and P2 Afterschool

The P1 and P2 Afterschool is optional for P1 and P2 pupils. The Afterschool Club runs from 1:30 pm - 2:45 pm each day.

The Afterschool for **Primary 2 pupils** will commence on Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> September 2024. This can be booked via the School Website. <https://www.stmaryscabragh.com/after-school/>

**We kindly request that payment is made on a WEEKLY basis.** It is the **responsibility of parents** to keep a note of the dates your child attends P1/P2 Afterschool. Please mark your child's name on an envelope, indicate the days your child attended and enclose payment for the days attended that week. Payment **MUST** be made to the school office on a weekly basis. The school is dependent on prompt payment so we can employ and pay the Afterschool Leader. Thank you for your support with this matter.

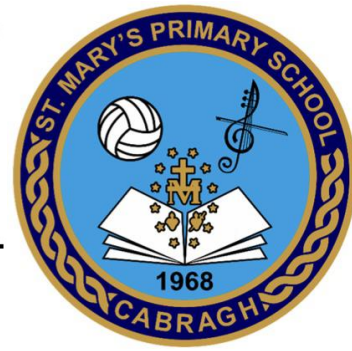
The Afterschool for **Primary 1 pupils** will commence on **Monday 30<sup>th</sup> September 2024.**

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## **Transport Application Form for September 2024**

If your child is going to be travelling to and from school by bus in September 2024, an application form must be completed online.

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

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

The online application for 2024 is now live. We encourage **all parents** to make an application **BEFORE 26 JULY 2024**.

<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) can apply if your son or daughter is in full-time education and if you are in receipt of 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 income of £16,190 or less;
- Universal Credit and have net household earnings not exceeding £15,000 per year.

Or:

- if you are an Asylum Seeker supported by the Home Office Asylum Support Assessment Team (ASAT); or
- if your child has a statement of special educational needs and is designated to require a special diet.

## **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/>

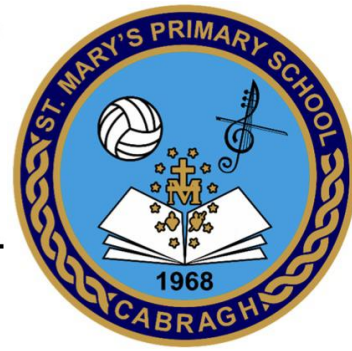
**PLEASE NOTE:** Uniforms are now available to buy in **Kelly's Drapery, Irish Street Dungannon** (**NOT** Horace Mc Mullan's Scotch Street- this shop is now closed)

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**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, M&S etc. The branded sweatshirt and polo t-shirt with the school logo can be purchased in **Kelly's Drapery, Irish 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.

I am pleased to announce that the "**School Uniform Exchange**" initiative will take place this summer. Please see the school website and School Facebook page for further information.

<https://www.stmaryscabragh.com/news/school-uniform-exchange--a-a/>

This brilliant initiative will help to cut down on the cost of purchasing school uniform. The back room at Killeeshil Community Centre will be open from **Wednesday 24th July to Sunday 28th July from 10am -8pm**. Uniforms can be viewed in privacy.

## Home/School Communication

St Mary's strives to maintain close liaison with parents, and we greatly value the close partnership we have with our parents. To keep parents informed of important updates, we regularly use the school's texting service, the school website, <https://www.stmaryscabragh.com/home/> and the school Facebook page. Each month parents will also receive a Calendar and Newsletter with key information and important updates. It is important that parents keep these safe and make note of important events, including dates and times of After-school Clubs etc.

**PLEASE NOTE:** The school mobile phone is primarily a **one - way system** and is used for sending important notifications to parents/guardians. The school mobile phone is not regularly monitored and we kindly request that parents who wish to contact the school avoid texting the school mobile and telephone the school office on 028 877 67356 instead. We thank you for your support with this matter.

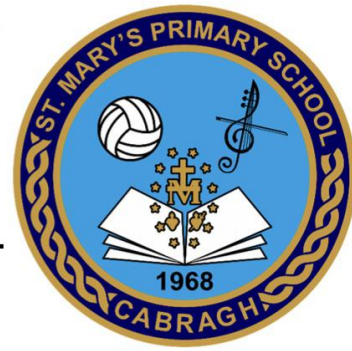


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***At St Mary's, appointments must be made if a parent wishes to see a class teacher or the school principal.*** Please contact the school secretary **028 877 67356** to make an appointment if you wish to see a particular class teacher or the school principal.

We also kindly request that phone calls to staff members are made **before 3:30 pm.**

## **Safeguarding and Child Protection**

In the interest of Child Protection / Security and to avoid unnecessary disruption to class teaching, parents and visitors **MUST** report to the Secretary's office. Parents should not go beyond the school entrance foyer unless accompanied by a member of staff.

## **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/fizzy 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>

**All children are allowed one small treat on a Friday. (EG- A fun size bar, Kit-Kat, Milky Way etc) **TO BE EATEN AFTER LUNCH.**** We do not permit the children to bring in fizzy drinks, lollipops or packets of chewy sweets. The dentist does not recommend children eating sugary snacks mid -morning and recommends that children eat their treat immediately after their lunch.

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.**

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## School Dinners

Please note that **dinners MUST be paid for on a weekly basis.** School dinners can be booked and paid for via the SchoolMoney App. The school secretary will speak with new P1 parents on 29 August 2024 to advise on setting up School Money.

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

## 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/fizzy drinks are **not** permitted. Children should bring their water bottle to school each day.

## 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. I would like to remind parents that **school begins at 8.45am.** 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.**

## 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 or young person 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. Holidays taken during term time will be categorised as an unauthorised Key Point 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.

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- 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.

**In the interests of safety, please telephone the school if your child is going to be absent or late before 9:00 am. We deem this to be a most important safety procedure.**

**A note / Absence Notification Form is always required on the child's return to school.**  
<https://www.stmaryscabragh.com/parent-area/attendance/>

Please note that the Education Welfare Officer regularly visits school to monitor attendance and punctuality.

Thank you for taking the time to read through this important newsletter and enjoy the rest of the summer holidays.

Yours sincerely,

*Louise Quinn*