

St. Mary's Primary School



Welcome Booklet 2017/18

www.stmaryspsmaghera.com

ST. MARY'S PRIMARY SCHOOL
47, Glen Road • Maghera • Co. Derry • BT46 5AP
Tel: 028 796 42712 Fax: 028 796 45066
Email: jhegarty220@c2kni.net
Principal: Mr John Hegarty

Dear Parents,

Welcome to St. Mary's Primary School

St. Mary's is in the parish of Maghera serving the community through the provision of a caring and effective Catholic education service, which enables children to make the most of their potential.

Our school is a happy family environment, hardworking and successful. The child is at the centre of everything we do. Our whole school community shares one common goal: - to do the very best for all the children in our care. Your child will be made most welcome and I trust the next seven years will be happy and rewarding.

I hope you find this Welcome Booklet informative. It is designed to provide you with information about our school to enable you to become familiar with our aims and how we work for and with our children.

Good relationships between home and school form the basis of school life. Please contact us with any queries you may have. We look forward to working with you. If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact myself directly.

Yours sincerely

Mr John Hegarty
Principal

Mission Statement

In St Mary's we work together, within a Catholic ethos, to foster a child-centred approach to the development of the individual as a valued member of the community.

We strive to enable children to achieve their potential in a secure and positive learning environment that equips them with life-long skills, knowledge, beliefs, values, attitudes and qualities that allow for continuing spiritual, emotional and intellectual growth.

School Aims

- To encourage each child in our care to grow towards maturity in a truly Christian sense in a flexible, happy and secure environment.
- To encourage each child to achieve maximum potential morally, emotionally, socially, intellectually, physically and spiritually.
- To lay special emphasis on the acquisition of self-confidence, independence and the development of caring & sharing attitudes, thus becoming a participating member of the school and community.
- To provide each child with a broad, balanced and cohesive curriculum appropriate to his/her needs and in keeping with the requirements of the Education Reform Order.
- To help children establish good relationships with staff and other children and to acquire an ability to interact in a disciplined way in society.
- To help realise the importance of, and to encourage the development of, interests and skills for leisure time.
- To involve parents and governors constructively in the life of the school and in promoting the ideals of the Trustees and CCMS.
- To encourage the children to respect and appreciate their environment.
- The staff, teaching and non-teaching, within St Mary's constantly promotes a child-centred approach to the development of each individual child, recognising this individuality and enabling each child to achieve his/her

maximum potential. The vision and values held by all staff ensure children are happy in a secure learning environment in which all children are valued and encouraged to become lifelong learners, equipped with the skills, knowledge, beliefs and attitudes leading to fulfilment in their future.

This is achieved with the continued commitment and support of the Board of Governors, parents and the community.



School Information

School Address: **St. Mary's Primary School,**
47, Glen Road,
Maghera
Co. Derry
BT465AP

Telephone: 028 79642712

Fax: 028 79645066

Email: info@stmaryspsmaghera.ni.sch.uk

Website: www.stmaryspsmaghera.com

STAFFING 2017/18

Principal – Mr John Hegarty

Vice Principal- Mrs Eileen Ward

Teaching Staff

Primary One - Ms Nicola Shaw & Mrs Anne Loughran

Primary Two- Ms Martine Mulholland

Primary Three- Mrs Anne Marie Mullin

Primary Four- Mrs Martina Bradley-Murray

Primary Four/Five- Mr Sean Mc Guckin

Primary Five – Mrs Eileen Ward

Primary Six- Mrs Bronagh Mulholland

Primary Seven- Mrs Siobhan Mc Kenna

LSC 1 – Mrs Caroline Burke

LSC 2 – Mrs Elaine Johnstone

Non-Teaching Staff

Mrs Patricia Coyle

Mrs Jennifer Mc Kenna

Mrs Noreen Griffin

Mrs Aoife Mc Clintock

Mrs Cathy Patterson

Mrs Paula Mc Nicholl

Mrs Louise Mc Crory

Mrs Cecilia Burke

Senior Clerical Officer

Mrs Rosemary Higgins

Building Supervisor

Mr Peter Mc Closkey

Lunchtime Supervisors

Mrs Mary Early

Mrs Alana Convery

Head Cook

Mrs Deirdre O Neill

Assistant Cook

Mrs Margaret Woods

Mrs A McGuigan

Ms Kelly Mc Nally

Cleaning Staff:

Mrs Anne Merron

Mrs Lesley Pitts

Board of Governors

Representing

Department of Education:	Mrs O Kelly
Education Authority:	Mr S McKenna
The Parents:	Mr D McMullan
The Staff:	Mrs A Quinn
The Trustees:	Rev Fr P Doherty PP
	Mr S McKenna
	Mrs S McGirr
	Mr G Harkin

The School Principal acts as Secretary to the Board of Governors who meet regularly throughout the year and have responsibility for the management of St Mary's.

All contact with the Board of Governors is through the school.



Admissions Information

The following criteria will be applied in the order set down by the Board of Governors of St Mary's in selecting children for admission to P1 in September 2016/17. Priority will be given at all times to pupils regarded by the Board of Governors on the basis of supporting evidence of parents and/or statutory agencies as having special circumstances (medical, social, security factors).

Admissions criteria to be used in the event of the school being oversubscribed. The criteria are listed in order of priority.

1. Children of compulsory school age who normally reside in the town of Maghera or in the catchment area of the former Tirgarvil Primary School at the time of enrolment.
2. Children of compulsory school age from other areas.

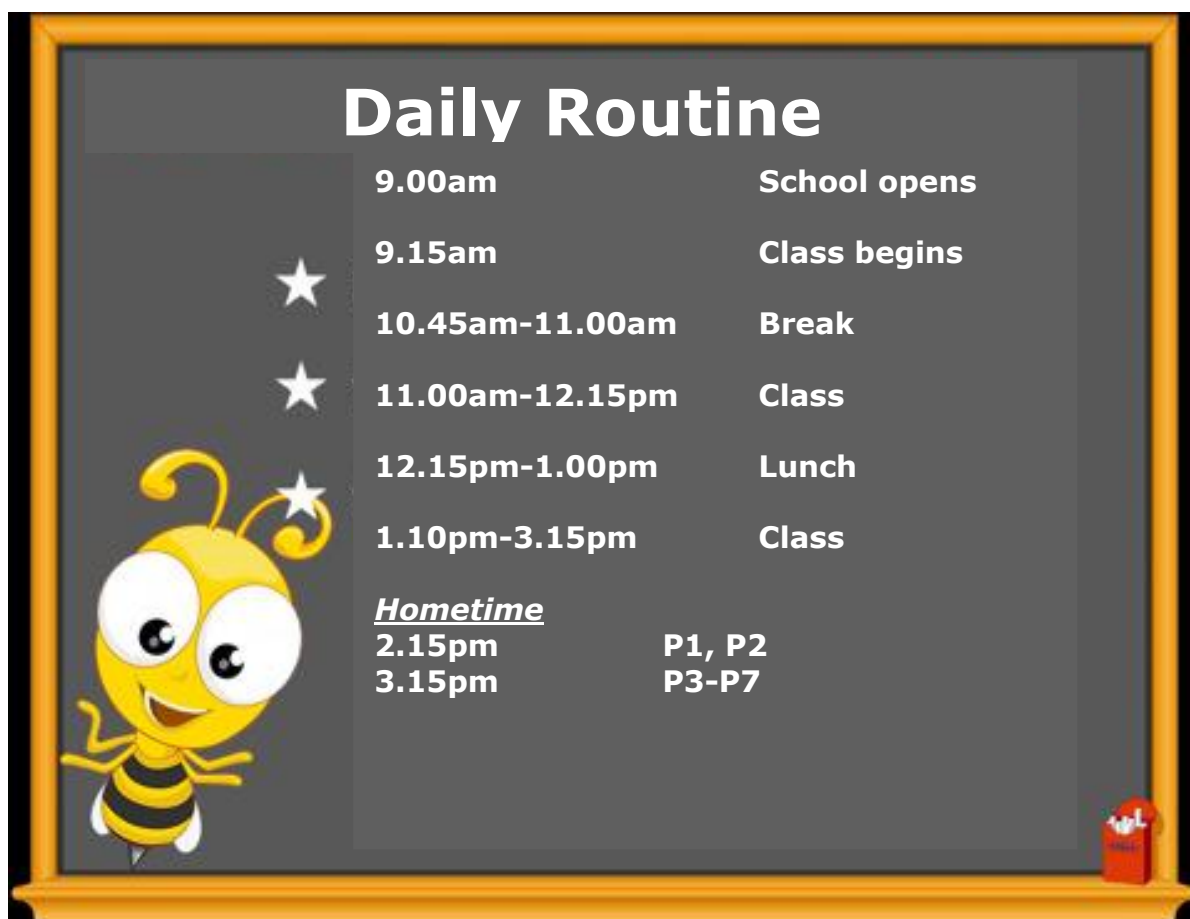
In the event of over-subscription in any of the above criteria taken in order the following sub-criteria will be applied in the order set down.

If oversubscribed in any of the sub-criteria or the main criteria taken in order final selection will be made on the basis of the closeness of the home to the school measured by the shortest walking distance.

- (a) Children who have brothers/sisters(half-brothers/sisters) presently enrolled in the school
- (b) Children whose parent/guardian, brother/sister(half-brother/sister) are former pupils of the school.
- (c) Children whose parent/guardian is presently a member of the school teaching/ancillary/auxiliary staff.

	Total Applications	Total Admissions
2013/14	40	40
2014/15	39	39
2015/16	28	28
2016/17	42	42

Admissions to the Learning Support Centres are made in consultation with Special Needs Branch following the issue of a Statement of Special Educational Need that identifies placement in an LSC as being in the best interests of the child.



School Terms

Autumn Term – September to December

Spring Term – January to April

Summer Term – April to June

We would ask that your child is in school for 9.15am for morning prayers and collected at 2.15pm promptly.

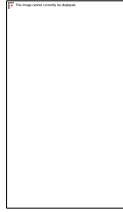
We are required to keep detailed records about a child's attendance in school. If for any reason, your child is sick, please inform the school explaining the reason for this absence. The Education Authority's Education Welfare Officer (EWO) also keeps a very close eye on children's attendance and punctuality. Where there is a concern about a child's attendance, the EWO will make further inquiries concerning the reason for the absence.

In the event of your child becoming sick in school it is essential that the school office has at least two contact numbers for someone who can collect your child from school if s/he is unwell.





Food in school



Th St Mary's is a Health Promoting School, with Healthy Breaks for all children. Water is also available for all children. We also have a Healthy Break in the canteen and milk is available daily. The children are encouraged to take a healthy break to school each day, including fruit or bread based product. The school also offers the option of cartons of milk which is paid for in the first week of every month. Children are encouraged to drink water throughout the school day.

St. Mary's Primary School has its own kitchen and Deirdre, our cook ensures that dinners are served fresh daily and to the highest standards. The cost of school meals is £2.55 per child, per day. Alternatively, lunches can be brought to school and eaten in the school dining hall.

Parents may wish to apply for free school meals and uniforms. The Education Authority issue these forms, and are available in the school office.



Religion

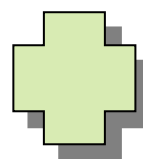
The Catholic ethos in St. Mary's Primary School is valued and central to everything we do. In St. Mary's, we pride ourselves on being an inclusive school and always reflect the teachings of the Catholic Church.

Please teach your child to bless him/herself, and go over the morning and night prayers we learn in school and say every morning and at bedtime.



Morning Prayer

Father in heaven you love me,
You're with me night and day.
I want to love you always
In all I do and say.
I'll try to please you Father
Help me through the day
Amen



Evening Prayer

God Our Father
I come to say
Thank you for your love today.
Thank you for my family
And all the friends you give to me.
Guard me in the dark of night
And in the morning send your light.
Amen



Grace Before Meals

Bless us O Lord as we sit together,
Bless the food we eat today,
Bless the hands that made the food,
Bless us O Lord.
Amen

Grace After Meals

Thank you God, for the food we have eaten.
Thank you God, for all our friends.
Thank you God for everything
Thank you God
Amen.

Children are taught the Alive O Religious programme and they are prepared thoroughly for their sacraments. Monthly assemblies reflect the Christian dimension of our school with all children from P1 to P7 taking part fully.

The school has also undertaken extensive work in the areas of Pastoral Care and Bullying. The school administers batteries of questionnaires to all pupils annually and uses the information to inform staff and parents on existing findings as regards bullying and self-esteem levels among pupils. The results are very positive and benchmark extremely favourably against the findings of the recent DE funded research undertaken across the five Board Areas of NI. The school intends to continue to strive to improve this area of excellence in order to ensure children learn in a safe and secure environment.

About Our School

St Mary's Primary School (Glenview) is a Catholic Maintained co-educational primary school (4 – 11 years) situated in the town of Maghera, being one of three primary schools located in the parish. It has a current enrolment of 240 including 15 inter-denominational pupils in two Learning Support Centres for children with a range of Special Needs drawn from an extensive area across south Derry.

Currently 26% of the pupils are in receipt of free school meals. In addition to the 17 statemented pupils in the LSCs, there are a further 6 children with statements in mainstream classes and another 47 pupils currently on the special needs register at various stages - giving a mainstream figure of 28% of pupils on the special needs register.

At its last inspection the school was graded as Very Good and no follow up was required. Instead the school was invited to take part in a pilot inspection process called Sustaining Improvement which only involves those schools found to be very good or outstanding. The most recent inspection process (Sustaining Improvement May 2014) summarised the school as follows:

"There was clear evidence of continuing progress being made against the key priorities of the School's Development Plan. The ETI could see the journey school had taken. Staff were focused on tracking using a wide range of assessment tools, including PIE, PIM, Accelerated Reader, Alta and PIPS. Information is being used and evaluated well to set targets and early interventions in place, such as Paired Reading, Better Reading Partnerships, Literacy Club, Numeracy Club and withdrawal support which were proving effective. Effective use is being made of digital technologies such as I Pads and Accelerated Reader. Children were observed discussing Accelerated Reader during a lesson. The whole school approach to the teaching of writing is leading to significant improvement in the quality and range of children's writing. ETI commented on the wide range of genres in P6/7 with opportunities for children to plan, draft and redraft and write in chapters. Significant improvement was noticed in this area from March 2011 with children's ability to write being extended. Thinking Skills and Personal Capabilities were a key feature in lessons observed and cross-curricular skills were embedded through topic approaches. In the lessons observed, there was self-assessment, peer assessment, self-evaluation and effective questioning evident, reflecting the priorities in the SDP. Children were engaged and encouraged to be reflective learners through strategies such as Edward de Bono's Thinking Hats. Children worked co-operatively in groups. P7 children were recognised as being reflective, critical and independent learners.

Leadership

SLT were reflective and focused on improving quality of educational and pastoral experiences for children. There is a wide range of evidence which clearly outlines the priorities including those for Newcomer children and children with Special

Educational Needs. Co-ordinators are involved in an effective primary school cluster which supports moderation, supporting the sharing of effective practice. Staff development is well established and focused on building capacity.

ETI commented on the delightful children, the high standards of behaviour and excellent manners.

In Conclusion, St Mary's PS continues to demonstrate its capacity for sustained self-improvement"

The Principal is now in his twenty-third year at the school, having previously been a teaching principal for five years in a small rural primary school and having earlier taught for nine years in a large urban school in Derry City. His main duties include overall co-ordination of the curriculum, professional development, assessment and the financial management of the school. He leads an SMT, which includes the Vice-Principal and two other senior teachers with two additional responsibility points. Their main duties are the co-ordination of Literacy, Numeracy, ICT, KS1 and KS2. The LSC teachers both receive two additional points for their involvement in teaching statemented children.

There is a middle management tier, which has responsibility for Music, Art & Display and Health and Community Links. All teachers participate in the development of subject areas in conjunction with management as detailed in the School Development Plan. (A copy of the SDP may be obtained for inspection by contacting the school.)

All pupils in the school have direct transfer rights to St Patrick's College, Maghera and are not required to sit unregulated tests for entry to secondary education. The school works closely with the College and three other local primary schools – St Brigid's Tirkane; St John's, Swatragh and St Brigid's Mayogall – sharing and benchmarking data on pupil attainments in GL tests in May and in NINA and NILA, the Northern Ireland Numeracy and Literacy Assessments, administered in October. This practice has been highlighted as best practice by DE and ETI.

The school enjoys widespread support from the community and involves parents in their children's education through the provision of regular parent teacher meetings & reports and though information evenings regarding issues such as Pastoral Care, Literacy, Numeracy and ICT developments and through participative schemes such as Paired Reading, the MIST programme and a P1 induction programme.

The school also enjoys links with Maghera Day Centre and SVP.

The Curriculum

Here in St. Mary's PS, all pupils receive their full entitlement under the Northern Ireland Curriculum. It is our aim that we will empower young people to develop their potential and to make responsible choices and decisions throughout their lives.

There are 7 Areas of Learning:

- Communication
- Using Mathematics
- Information and Communication Technology
- The World Around Us
- The Arts
- Personal Development and Mutual Understanding
- Physical Development and Movement

Communication



Communication includes Talking and Listening, Reading and Writing. There are a lot of skills that a child needs to have in place before s/he begins to read. Again you can help this process in many ways.

- Talk to your child and answer questions
- Encourage your child to listen to you and answer your questions
- Read and share books with your child.
- Make your child aware of print everywhere... in shops, road signs, posters and newspapers.
- Teach your child nursery rhymes; they are a great help in spelling.

Your child will be given pre-reading books in September. Talk about the pictures and the stories they tell. Look at the front cover and talk about the title. Basically do anything you can to help your child enjoy and develop an interest in learning to read.

Using Mathematics

'Using Mathematics' is the skill of applying mathematical concepts, processes and understanding appropriately in a variety of contexts. Ideally these should be in relevant real life situations that require a mathematical dimension. As Mathematics and Numeracy are one of the core subjects in the NI Curriculum, great emphasis is

placed on it. There are many ways you can help your child develop the early skills in this Area of Learning, for example;

- Point out colours
- Point out numbers around us
- Give your child items to count and sort, e.g. socks, cutlery, beads, money, sweets, items in the shopping and so on.

123456
78910



Information and Communications Technology

Pupils will develop the skills of Using ICT (Information and Communications Technology) by engaging in meaningful research and purposeful activities set in relevant contexts. They will use ICT to handle and communicate information, solve problems, pose questions and take risks. They will process, present and exchange their ideas and translate their thinking into creative outcomes that show an awareness of audience and purpose. The classrooms have all been equipped with Interactive Whiteboards, and new computers. A wireless ICT suite has been established and there are fourteen Ipads available to classes. The school has attracted Extended Schools funding over the last four years and this has provided an Afterschools Club for P1/2 pupils, as well as Literacy and Numeracy clubs for older pupils.



Physical Education



Extra-curricular activities include Gaelic football for boys and for girls, camogie, hurling, netball, athletics, choir and cycling proficiency. The school also works with DE to organise a series of coaching sessions for KS1 children coached by Eoghan Bradley. The school has a well-established pupil council and enjoys the support of The Friends of Glenview who lead a very successful campaign to attract £22K Big Lottery Funding for a Sensory Playground which is now complete. Congratulations and thank you to everyone involved.

School Visits

Formal parent-teacher meetings take place in the middle of the first school term. However you are very welcome to come and see your child's teacher at any time during the year. You can ring the school office to make an appointment.

**We look forward to seeing you in
September!**

