

Oct News 2025



Important Dates:

Whole school Mass Friday 3rd October 1.30pm
Friday 24th October school will close 1pm for Staff Training.
Friday 10th October Coffee Morning for Aware NI at 10am.
Monday 27th October - Friday 31st October school closed for Halloween Break.
School re-opens Monday 3rd November.
Shoe Box Appeal - donations/boxes should be returned to school before Monday 10th November.

Annual Flu Immunisation Programme.

Our pupils whose parent's consent to their children having the flu vaccine will receive it on Thursday 6th November. Permission letters will be sent by Child Health Department before this date.

Sacraments:

Confirmation Saturday 14th March @11am
St Patrick's Church Dungiven
First Holy Communion Saturday 30th May at 11am St Matthew's Church Drumsum

October is the month of the Holy Rosary

October is the month of the Holy Rosary. Children will pray a decade of the Rosary every day in school assembly. If your child has rosary beads, they are welcome to bring them into school.

How to Pray the rosary:

Starter Prayers: Our Father, 3 x Hail Mary, Glory be to the Father.

For each story, think about what was happening.

While you are thinking, pray Our Father, 10 x Hail Mary, Glory be to the Father.

The Joyful Mysteries

The Annunciation - when the Angel Gabriel told Mary she would have a baby boy and he would be called Jesus.

The Visitation - when Mary went to see Elizabeth to tell her the news. Elizabeth shared the news that she was also going to have a baby! This son would later be known as John the Baptist.

The Nativity - the great story of Christmas!

The presentation of the Lord Jesus in the temple - as a very young baby, Mary & Joseph brought Jesus to the temple. A wise man told them that he would bring great joy and great sadness.

The finding of Lord Jesus in the temple - At the age of 12 Jesus went missing. He was found talking to the wise men. When Mary said she was worried, Jesus said, "Did you not know I would be in my Father's house?"

Why not pray a decade at home? The children should be able to tell you a little about what they know.





After School Clubs

Mondays

Skill School Multi-Sport Club Pre book with Orla

Monday 15th September

P1 - P3 2pm - 3pm

P4 - P7 3pm - 4pm

Gardening Club £2 per child per week

Monday 22nd September

P4 - P7 3pm - 4pm

Tuesdays

Cross Country Club P4 - P7

Tuesday 23rd September

P4 - P7 3pm - 4pm .

Wednesdays

Gaelic Club P4 - P7 £2 per child per week

Wednesday 23rd September

P4 - P7 3pm - 4pm .

Thursdays

Skill School Dance Club Pre book with Orla

Thursday 18th September

P1 - P3 2pm - 3pm

P4 - P7 3pm - 4pm

All children should be collected from the Front Door. Please ensure you collect your child promptly as the coaches need to leave promptly.



Schools NI App

Please Note: Our school monthly newsletter will now be uploaded to our school website and Schools NI App- please download the App and follow our school.

As part of our Eco - friendly goals we no longer print our newsletter.

School Day

All children should be dropped off to school between 8.45am and 9am. Children should be dropped on and picked up at the school foyer. Our children's safety is our first and main priority.

P1 children finishing time is 2.30pm from Monday 29th September.

Friends of St Matthew's PTA

The links with our PTA are very important to us. We rely on them for fundraising activities to provide extra resources help with transport costs etc for all of our children. If you would like to join the Friends of St Matthew's PTA please email: akealey695@c2kni.net

Our AGM will be held the date will be sent out soon.



The new term started today, but it's not too late to apply for Free School Meals and Uniform Allowance.

The EA website has lots of useful information on eligibility and how to make an application.

You can apply through EA Connect <https://connect.eani.org.uk/parent/>

FREE SCHOOL MEALS & UNIFORM ALLOWANCE
How do I apply?

- 1 Log on to/register with EA Connect
- 2 Check your eligibility on EA Connect
- 3 Add each child you wish to claim for
- 4 Start your application
- 5 Upload supporting documentation
- 6 Confirm all info is correct and submit your application

For more info visit www.eani.org.uk/tsm



Breakfast Club.

Breakfast Club runs daily from 8.15am - 8.45am. The cost is £1.50 per child per day.



EVERY SCHOOL DAY COUNTS

Every single day a child is absent from school equates to a day of lost learning.

Attendance percentages can be misleading.

100% Attendance	0 Days Missed	Excellent
95% Attendance	9 Days of Absence 1 Week and 4 Days of Learning Missed	Satisfactory
90% Attendance	19 Days of Absence 3 Weeks and 4 Days of Learning Missed	Poor
85% Attendance	28 Days of Absence 5 Weeks and 3 Days of Learning Missed	Very Poor
80% Attendance	38 Days of Absence 7 Weeks and 3 Days of Learning Missed	Unacceptable
75% Attendance	46 Days of Absence 9 Weeks and 1 Day of Learning Missed	Unacceptable

For some parents, 90% may seem like an acceptable level of attendance, but the reality is that 90% attendance means that your child will miss half a school day each week or 19 days of school during the school year – that's nearly 4 school weeks.



Give your child the best start in life – every school day counts.