



St. Mary's Primary School  
Caledon Road  
Aughnacloy  
BT69 6AJ  
Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> February 2026

Dear Parent/Guardian,

I hope you enjoyed a restful February mid-term break. Term 2A, although short, was both productive and successful for our children and the wider school community. We ended January with Grandparents' Day—a truly special and joyful occasion. As we continue into this term, we remain committed as a whole-school community to living out the theme of Catholic Schools' Week, "*Normal Lives, Called to Holiness*." During the week, the children reflected on how holiness is found in everyday moments of love, kindness, and care—values so beautifully exemplified by our grandparents.

This week also marks the beginning of Lent, a season that invites reflection, kindness, and a renewed focus on how we can support and care for one another. In school, we will be encouraging pupils to consider small but meaningful ways they can show compassion, whether through being a good friend or making positive choices in their daily routines.

Over the coming weeks, there will be many opportunities for learning, growth, and celebration across all year groups. We look forward to working together as a community, supporting our children to do their best and to approach the term with positivity and purpose.

The children continue to be empowered to fulfil their potential through a flexible, purposeful curriculum that builds their confidence as resilient learners, with equal emphasis on wellbeing, knowledge, understanding, and skills. It has been wonderful to celebrate achievement and success during our whole-school assemblies. As illustrated in our vision visual, Term 2B offered many enriching opportunities: our P7 class completing the Future Visions Project, participation in the NI Maths Fest, ongoing Roots of Empathy lessons, STEM trips and activities, Irish language development, Gaelic games competitions, traditional music practice, wellbeing initiatives such as the NSPCC Speak Out Stay Safe programme, the Roots of Peace Programme with Aughnacloy, and ongoing Shared Education experiences. Congratulations to the P7 pupils who took part in the Annual Credit Union Quiz—our victorious team will now progress to the next round.



We are also delighted to have transformed our outdoor learning space with the new lean-to area, incorporating high-quality outdoor learning resources. The children have expressed so much joy in engaging with outdoor learning, and it has been heartening to see them in their puddle suits embracing new experiences—even in the persistent wet weather that has been with us since the start of the year.



## Thank You

Thank you to the Friends of St Mary's team for organising a wonderful Pyjama Day fundraiser. The children thoroughly enjoyed the hot chocolate, shortbread, and sweet treats. It was a lovely way to bring Term 2A to a close.

## More Exciting Minor Works News

In January, I shared the excellent news that our minor works application has successfully progressed through both the feasibility and business case stages, and that all necessary Department of Education approvals are now in place. With an estimated project cost of £414,027.61, the Education Authority will now move forward to develop a detailed design and specification in collaboration with the school before submitting planning applications and tender packages.

In addition to this terrific development, our school has been selected—after an application submitted in September 2025—as one of only 20 primary schools in Northern Ireland to be included in the **Outdoor Covered Sports Space Provision** within the Curriculum Capital Programme. An official from the Department's Asset Management Team will be in contact regarding next steps.

We are also extremely grateful for our continued partnership with OHM Engineering, who constructed and delivered an outdoor storage container to our school over the mid-term break — a truly generous and thoughtful gesture that has greatly enhanced our storage and organisation for outdoor learning.

## Upcoming Events

Please see the 'Upcoming Events' calendar to stay up to date with what is happening in school. This is easily accessible on our school website homepage:

[www.stmarysprimaryaughnacloy.co.uk](http://www.stmarysprimaryaughnacloy.co.uk)

To view upcoming events in the remainder of Term 2B, simply click 'View Calendar' emboldened in yellow.

### Upcoming Events

Monday, 16th February 2026

School Closed for Mid - Term break (Re-opens on Tuesday 17th February)

Tuesday, 17th February 2026

School Open after Mid-term break

Afterschool Chamber choir (3pm-4pm)

Wednesday, 18th February 2026

Tír Eoghain Cumann na mBunscol Indoor Boys Qualifiers

Ash Wednesday (Beginning of Lent)

P1-P3 Afterschool Irish Dancing Class (3pm-4pm)

Thursday, 19th February 2026

AB Coaching (Afterschool P1-P3 from 2pm-3pm P4-P7 from 3pm-4pm)

Friday, 20th February 2026

Traditional Music

Whole School Assembly

Monday, 23rd February 2026

Tír Eoghain Cumann na mBunscol Indoor Girls Qualifiers

Hazlewood Drama lessons

EA Music (Strings) Tuition (9.15am)

Afterschool Lego Club (P1-P2: 2pm-3pm P3-P7: 3pm-4pm)

Tuesday, 24th February 2026

Afterschool Chamber choir (3pm-4pm)

Wednesday, 25th February 2026

P1-P3 Afterschool Irish Dancing Class (3pm-4pm)

Thursday, 26th February 2026

AB Coaching (Afterschool P1-P3 from 2pm-3pm P4-P7 from 3pm-4pm)

Friday, 27th February 2026

Traditional Music

P7 Swimming Lesson



## School App & Communication

We will continue to use **Class Seesaw** as our primary communication app.

You can also stay informed via:

- **School website:** <http://www.stmarysprimaryaughnacloy.co.uk>  
*(The homepage includes a calendar of upcoming events and activities. Bookings for after-school clubs will become available later this week.)*
- **Friends of St Mary's Facebook page**  
*(Updates on fundraising events, initiatives, and successes)*

It is vital that our **school app** is installed and operational on your mobile device. You can download it from your app store by searching *St Mary's Primary School* or using the following link:

School App on Google Play -

<https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.eprintinguk.stmarysps>

**Access Code:** 11111

The app will be used for:

- **Bookings** – Dinner, AB Coaching, Traditional Music, Swimming, Irish Language, Irish Dancing, 2–3 Club & 3–5 Club (and other after-school clubs)
- **Parent Area** – Absence reporting, communication, dinner menu, and holiday list
- **Forms** – Sims Data Collection Form
- **Notifications** – Letters and reminders

Please note: A letter was shared before February midterm break to enable bookings for the Lego Club. Registration is available through:

[St Mary's Primary School Aughnacloy | Burns Skills School](#)

If you book a service through the app and your child does not use it, please contact the school office. Our secretary can transfer or refund the booking.

Yours sincerely,  
Mr McCaughey

