



St. Mary's Primary School
Caledon Road
Aughnacloy
BT69 6AJ
Monday 13th April 2026

Dear Parent/Guardian,

I hope you all enjoyed a wonderful Easter break and had the chance to spend some precious time with family. Term 3 is set to be a busy and exciting one, filled with special events, celebrations, activities, and school trips.

Sacramental Celebrations – Key Dates

- Primary 7 Confirmation – Friday 8th May 2026 at 5pm in St Mary's Chapel
- Primary 4 First Holy Communion – Saturday 23rd May 2026 at 11am in St Mary's Chapel

School Trips – Key Dates

- P4 – P6 End of Year Trip – Friday 5th June to Funtasia Park
- P1 – P3 End of Year Trip – Tuesday 9th June to Pomeroy Forest Park
- P7 End of Year Trip – Tuesday 9th June to Todds Leap

Friends of St Mary's

A heartfelt thank you to the Friends of St Mary's for their continued proactive and enthusiastic efforts to enhance the learning environment for all our children. Their dedication has brought great joy to the pupils throughout Term 2.

We ended Term 2A with a wonderful Pyjama Day fundraiser, where the children enjoyed hot chocolate, shortbread, and sweet treats — a lovely way to bring the half-term to a close. To round off Term 2B, Friends of St Mary's organised an exciting Break the Rules Day, which the children embraced with huge enthusiasm.

The funds raised have already enabled us to enhance the curriculum and bring in visiting experts and services to deepen learning experiences. They have also supported improvements to our outdoor play provision, including new PE equipment and resources, updated playground markings, continued development of outdoor learning spaces, and contributions towards school trips and excursions.

Additionally, thanks to the expertise of Ciaran Collins (CiCo) in successfully applying for the Micro Community Investment Fund. We were able to purchase 10 new iPads with this grant.

These additions help us create memorable experiences, promote joyful learning, and live out our school vision that opportunities are plentiful in St Mary's — from academic learning to sport, music, and everything in between.

Celebrating Success and Living Our Values

We celebrated many wonderful individual and collective achievements across the school throughout term 2, with pupils shining in a wide range of activities and events. At the Dungannon Feis, our children took part in Speech and Drama, Irish, and Traditional Music sections, performing brilliantly and representing St Mary's with pride. A further standout achievement came from our P7 Credit Union



team, who made school history by reaching the National Finals, taking place on **Sunday 19th May** at the RDS in Dublin.

As outlined in the first line of our Ethos poem — **“S is for St Mary’s — we strive to share our Christian faith and values with everyone, encouraging each child to be the very best they can be.”** Our P4 children recently celebrated their First Confession, and we now look forward with great joy to their First Holy Communion — a deeply meaningful milestone in their faith journey and a cherished moment for families and the whole school community.

We also keep our P7 pupils very much in our thoughts as they prepare to celebrate the Sacrament of Confirmation on Friday 8th May at 5pm. This is a significant and special step in their faith and spiritual development, marking their commitment to living out their faith with maturity and confidence. A professional photographer will be in attendance, and further details will be shared with interested families closer to the time.

We remain committed to providing a caring, supportive, and safe environment where every child is valued for their unique talents and abilities, and where all our young people are empowered to fulfil their potential. The children certainly demonstrated this throughout Term 2.

STEM Innovate and Create Project

We held a wonderful celebratory morning on Friday 20th March to acknowledge the achievements of our pupils and partners involved in the STEM Innovate and Create Project. Through this initiative, our P4–P6 pupils helped design a brand-new lean-to for our school, bringing their ideas to life through Minecraft Education and hands-on prototyping. This achievement was made possible through the support of MEGA, OHM Engineering, McElhatton Joinery and the James Kane Grant — secured by Ciaran Collins (CiCo) — and we are incredibly proud of what our pupils have created.

School Development Updates

In February, I shared a progress update on the excellent news that our minor works application had successfully progressed through both the feasibility and business case stages, and that all necessary Department of Education approvals were now in place. The Education Authority has recently been in contact to confirm that they are now working on the planning application and will move forward to develop a detailed design and specification in collaboration with the school before submitting planning documents and tender packages.

As I have previously shared, our school has also been selected—following 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. We are now awaiting further communication regarding the next steps.



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

To view upcoming events in the remainder of Term 3, simply click 'View Calendar' emboldened in yellow.

Upcoming Events
Monday, 13th April 2026
P1/2 Introduction to Traditional Irish Music
Hazlewand Drama
P1-P4 Tyrone GAA Coaching
P2/3 Trip to Oxford Island
School Re-opens after the Easter holidays
Final Primary 5/6 class swimming lesson
P5-P7 Tyrone GAA Afterschool Gaelic Football Coaching (3pm to 4pm)
Tuesday, 14th April 2026
Digital Skills Parent Workshop (7pm at St Mary's Primary School, Aughnacloy)
Afterschool Lego Club (P1-P2: 2pm-3pm P3-P7: 3pm-4pm)
Wednesday, 15th April 2026
P7 Trip to Navan Fort
P4-P7 Afterschool Irish Language Class (3pm-4pm)
Afterschool Irish Dancing (P1-P3 from 3pm-4pm)
Thursday, 16th April 2026
AB Coaching during the school day (Afterschool P1-P2 from 2pm to 3pm & P3-P4 from 3pm to 4pm)
Friday, 17th April 2026
Traditional Music lessons
Sunday, 19th April 2026
National Final of the Credit Union Quiz (Team Registration 12 noon to 12.45pm)
Monday, 20th April 2026
P1-P4 Tyrone GAA Coaching
Hazlewand Drama
P5-P7 Tyrone GAA Afterschool Gaelic Football Coaching (3pm to 4pm)

[View Calendar](#)

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, P1-P4 AB Coaching, P5-P7 Tyrone GAA, Traditional Music, 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 Easter break to enable bookings for the Lego Club, now taking place each Tuesday. 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

