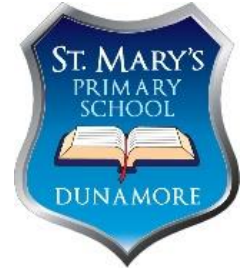


St Mary's News November 2024

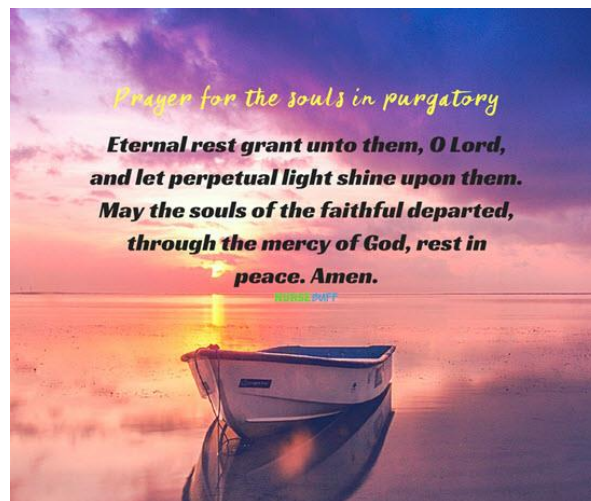


Friday 25th October 2024

Dear Parents,

I hope everyone has a chance to recharge over the Mid-Term Break, enjoy some Halloween activities and that you and your families are all keeping safe and well.

November is usually a month when we pause and take time to remember all the special people in our lives who are sadly no longer with us on earth. Let us continue to pray for them and think about all they taught us about life. We remember Ronan every day in school and continue to pray for all his family and friends.



BREAK THE RULES DAY

Monday 23rd September was a very difficult day as we marked the first anniversary of Ronan. A Break the Rules Day was organised in Ronan's memory. The children thoroughly enjoyed breaking the school rules and raising a fantastic amount of money. £1300 was raised and will be split evenly between AWARE NI and CRUSE Bereavement Services, both of which supported the children following the loss of Ronan. Thank you so very much for your generosity.



PARENT/TEACHER MEETINGS

Parent Teacher Meetings for all children took place today, Friday 25th October. Progress was discussed and targets set for all children. Thank you for attending and continuing to support your child at home.

PARENT PAY

Every child is now on the Parent Pay system which is working very well. Can I remind you that if your child takes dinner to go on and book and pay for the dinner before 9.30am.

If you are entitled to Free School Meals, you still have to go on to Parent Pay and book the dinner for your child/children. You can book for weeks at a time if it is more convenient for you.

BUS SAFETY

The bus journey to and from school should be a pleasant one for all concerned. Please have a word with your child about the importance of good behaviour and wearing their seat belt on the bus journey to and from school.



AFTER SCHOOLS

The children really enjoyed the After school activities which started in September. The new block of After School activities will commence on Monday 11th November (Monday-Multi Skills and Thursday, Movement Games). Please go on to www.abcoaching.ie and book your place for your child for the next half term.

FLU VACCINE

The school nursing team will be in school on Wednesday 13th November to administer the Flu Vaccine (Nasal spray) to those children where consent was given.

ANTI BULLYING WEEK 2024

From the 11th-15th November the school will participate in an Anti-Bullying Awareness programme. The theme of this year's Anti Bullying week is
'Choose Respect'

Children will participate in suitable classroom activities, discussion groups and presentations showing how best to deal with issues surrounding bullying.

We will have an 'Odd Sock Day' on Tuesday 12th November and we encourage every child to participate. This year schools across Northern Ireland wanted a theme that empowered children to do something positive to counter the harm and hurt that bullying causes.



SNOW WHITE

We are very fortunate to have the West Midlands Children's Theatre Touring Company returning to our school On Wednesday 13th November to perform 'Snow White' for all the children in the school. This will be a fun packed show with lots of pupil interaction and enjoyable for all. We would be most grateful if all pupils could contribute £3 on Parent Pay to help with the cost.

CHRISTMAS RAFFLE

Tickets for our Christmas Raffle in aid of ICT equipment will go on sale on Monday 25th November. Tickets are £4 each or a book of 6 for £20. If you are in a position to donate a prize, please contact the school and we would be most grateful. The winning tickets will be drawn out on Thursday 19th December in school. As in previous years, there will be more prizes along with prizes for those who sell the most tickets! Thank you so much for supporting this cause.

SANTA DAY

We are going to have a SANTA DAY in school on Thursday 5th December. More details to follow after the Mid Term break.

CHRISTMAS PLAY P1 & P2

The children in Primary 1 and 2 are going to perform 'The Cheeky Cherubs' for all their parents/grandparents on Thursday 12th December at 10am in the school hall. It will be a show that you will not want to miss!!

CHRISTMAS CAROL SERVICE P3-7

Everyone is very welcome to join us on Thursday 12th December at 7pm in St. Mary's Church, Dunamore for our annual Carol Service. Carols will be performed by pupils in Primary 3 to Primary 7. Please join us in what is always a very special night.

SACRAMENTS 2025

Confirmation will take place on Thursday 10th April, at 5pm in St. Mary's Church, Dunamore

First Holy Communion will be Saturday 17th May at 11am in St. Mary's Church Dunamore.

I know the next half term is a busy time for all the staff and pupils, and for you too, in the run up to the Christmas season. However, if you have any concerns or queries about your child's progress or welfare, please do not hesitate to contact the school. Everyone is committed to ensuring the children in St Mary's are happy and learning to reach their full potential.

Thank you for your partnership and for your support and cooperation.

Kind Regards,
Eileen Ward
Principal