



St. Mary's News January 2025

Tuesday 7th January 2025

Dear Parents,

I hope you all had a peaceful Christmas and family time together. From listening to the children, Santa was very good to everyone in Dunamore!! It is hard to believe the holidays are over but the children are now settling back into Term 2 and are encouraged to be at school every day and try their very best.

School Christmas Raffle

The Christmas Raffle was a great success. A sincere thanks to all who sold and bought tickets to help support the school. The profit raised was £3300!!! We hope to use the money to help buy ICT equipment/resources for the children. Congratulations to all our prize winners and our top sellers; Saoirse Mc Elhatton and Isla Mc Glinchey who both received prizes.

Health and Safety in Winter Weather

At this time of the year the weather can be unpredictable from day to day. I would ask you to remind your children to bring their coats to school so that they remain warm when playing outdoors at break and dinner time. We always try to do a risk assessment on the safety of the different school yards at this time of the year especially before outdoor play. Even with that, accidents can happen. I would ask you to remind your children to be mindful of safety when playing and running outside at school especially in winter weathers.

Open Enrolment for school year 2025/26

If you have a child who is due to start Primary One in September 2025 and would like them to attend St. Mary's Primary School, Dunamore, please make sure to apply online. The portal will open on Friday 10th January at 12 Noon
<https://www.eani.org.uk/parents/admissions>.



www.stmarysprimarydunamore.co.uk



The closing date for applications is Friday 24th January at 12 Noon. If you have any issues or questions about the application process or about the school, please do not hesitate to contact the school.

Supporting Documentation (e.g. Birth Certificate) must be uploaded this year to the Education Authority directly by Wednesday 29th January. Please remind any family members or friends who have children starting primary school. If anyone is experiencing any difficulties with the application process, please do not hesitate to contact me and I will endeavour to help and assist.

Swimming

Children in Primary 5 and 7 will have swimming lessons in Cookstown Leisure Centre this term, starting tomorrow, Wednesday 8th January. A separate letter has been uploaded on to the School App for the two classes.

After School Clubs

There will be after school club on Thursday 9th and 16th to finish off the block from last term.

The new block for After School Clubs will resume on Monday 13th January (P1/2 & P3/4) and Thursday 23rd January (P1/2 & P5-7). Please go on to abcoaching.ie to book a place for your child.

Important Dates to note:

Catholic Schools Week will be celebrated this year from Sunday 19th January to Sunday 26th January. The theme this year is 'Catholic Schools- 'Alive in Christ'. During this week, we will be participating in different activities to mark the week, reflecting on our contribution to the common good of society. The Primary 7 class will represent the school at a special Mass for all schools in the Armagh Diocese on Wednesday 21st January.

Mid Term Break (School Closed) Monday 10th-Friday 14th February inclusive.

Sacrament of Confirmation -Thursday 10th April at 5pm St. Mary's Church, Dunamore

Sacrament of the Eucharist (First Holy Communion) Saturday 17th May @11am in St. Mary's Church, Dunamore.



At any time if you have any concerns or queries about your child's progress or welfare at school, or indeed any suggestions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Thank you for your continued help and support. Wishing you all a happy and healthy 2025.



Prayer for January

God of new beginnings, we bless you in the month of January, it is the time of new beginnings, the time of promises, the time of hope. We place our hopes and dreams in the care of our loving God that we may become better people when our hopes and dreams come true. Amen

Kind Regards,

Eileen Ward
Principal