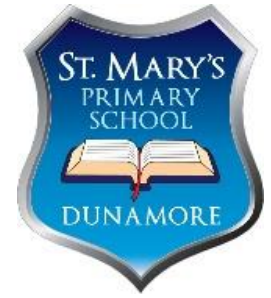


St. Mary's News March/April 2025



Tuesday 4th March, 2025

Dear Parents,

As we approach Easter there is a lot of excitement in the school. The children are all working very hard, completing class work, trying their very best and enjoying the many elements of school life.

Can I commend the children for looking so smart in their full school uniform. Skinnies/Half Zips/Hoodies/Football tops must not be worn and trainers only during PE lessons. Every other day, children should be wearing full school uniform and black shoes. Should the weather improve, children can wear plain navy shorts with their polo shirt. Gingham dresses are also not part of the school uniform.

There has been a lot of sickness over the past number of weeks, including vomiting bugs, chicken pox, colds and chest infections. If your child is not well in the morning, has a temperature or has been vomiting, it is advisable to keep them at home so that they can recover fully and prevent any illness from spreading. If your child is fit, they can continue with their homework books, reading books, Reading Eggs and AR. Work will only be sent home if the child is off long term, i.e. absence of a week or more.

Work will not be sent if a child is on holiday during term time, an unauthorised absence.

****Holidays are discouraged during school time. It is disrupting for the class and the child. If you are planning a holiday during the school calendar, you must email eward387@c2kni.net before the holiday, providing details of the absence including relevant dates. ****

All parents continue to use Parent Pay to book dinners and pay for all school related activities. Please be reminded that if you are entitled to Free School Meals, you must still book the dinner for your child/children. If you are having any difficulty or would like to discuss this, please do not hesitate to get in touch. It is recommended that parents log on a Sunday and book dinners for



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the week ahead and settle accounts. There are also a lot of outstanding accounts for dinners, swimming, breakfast club and our Mental Health Day. . Unfortunately, this prevents Anne and Niamh in the office from reconciling accounts at the end of each month. Please log on and settle accounts as soon as possible.

Internet/Media Safety/Mobile/Social Sites

In our school, every possible effort has been made to ensure the safety of all pupils while on the internet. We marked Internet Safety Day recently with the children and they are more aware of the uses and dangers of the Internet. Please be extra vigilant at home when your child is on particular sites or Apps.



SCHOOLS NI

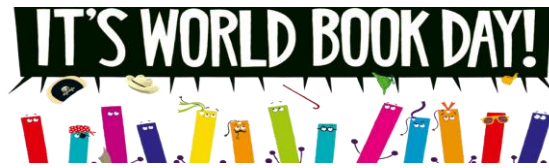
It is important that you notify the school if you have changed your address or mobile number or if you are aware that the school has sent out a message and you haven't received it. As you are aware, our Newsletters are uploaded onto the Website App (SCHOOLS NI) instead of sending out paper copies. As an ECO School, we are trying to cut down on the amount of paper that is being used.

SHARED EDUCATION

Shared lessons have begun with the children in Primary 1, 4 and 7. Other classes will benefit from the programme next year. This is an excellent opportunity for the children to work with children in Orrotor P.S. and develop skills and friendships.

Well done to all the children in Primary 6 who presented their class assembly today on Resilience, an important value in our school. They prepared so well and were fantastic. Well Done!

Today was a very busy day as we had Mark Wilson, a P1 Parent and Chef who spent the whole day in school, making pancakes with the children. The children all learned about the ingredients and how to make the perfect pancake. The children enjoyed a variety of toppings on their pancake! A huge thanks to Mark for giving of his time and expertise for the children of St. Mary's!!



Thursday, 6th March marks World Book Day and a great opportunity for the children to dress up as their favourite character or discuss their favourite book. There is no pressure to buy expensive costumes. Children can wear their own clothes if they do not want to dress up. A special word of thanks to everyone who donated books. Children will be able to purchase preloved books on Thursday and continue their love of reading.

Green Day/Ceili

To celebrate St. Patrick's Day, we are having a 'Green Day' on Friday 14th March. The children have been practising their ceili dancing and we will all have an opportunity to watch each class perform. Children are asked to wear something green on the day and are asked to contribute £2 on Parent Pay.



The school will be closed on Monday 17th March (Bank Holiday) and Tuesday 18th March (Optional Closure)

The Ceremony of Light for the P7 pupils will take place on Saturday 22nd March at 6.30pm in St. Mary's Church, Dunamore. Children are asked to be seated with their sponsor for 6.20pm. Children are asked to wear their own clothes.

P1 Class Assembly will take place on Wednesday 26th March at 10am in the school hall. All parents/grandparents of the P1 children are warmly invited to attend. Refreshments will be provided afterwards.



-Sacrament of First Penance- Wednesday 26th March at 1.30pm in St. Mary's Church Dunamore. The P4 Class will walk up to the chapel with their teacher and will have a designated seat. Parents/guardians will sit with their child for the ceremony. The children will be able to go home with their parents afterwards.



-The children in Primary Seven will be receiving the Sacrament of Confirmation with the Primary 7 boys and girls of St. Joseph's, Kileenan on Thursday 10th April at 5pm in St. Mary's Church,

Dunamore. Children who will be singing in the choir are asked to be seated by 4.45pm

School will be close for the Easter holidays for all pupils on Thursday 17th April at 11am. There will be no buses on this day.

School will reopen for pupils on Monday 28th April.

Sacrament of First Holy Communion - The children in Primary Four will celebrate the Sacrament of the Eucharist, a very special day, on Saturday 17th May in St. Mary's Church Dunamore at 11.00am.



Finally, a reminder that no one should be on school grounds in the evenings or the weekends, unless it has been approved by the Principal. A number of past pupils have been reported to be entering the school and playing football on the top pitch. Over recent weeks, we have had to fill many bags of rubbish including empty bottles, cans, crisp packets etc just thrown on the grass and around the P1 play area. There has also been a lot of toys and equipment damaged and broken, which is unfair and disappointing for everyone. We all work very hard to make sure the children enjoy their school and we remind the pupils to respect our resources. We would ask for your full cooperation in this matter. We will have to report it to the authorities if the trespassing on school grounds and damage to property happens again.

Thank you for your continued cooperation and support. If you have any concerns or queries about your child's progress or welfare, please do not hesitate to contact me at the school.

Wishing you a very pleasant St. Patrick's Day and Easter break with your families.

Kind Regards,

Eileen Ward
Principal

