



ST. MARY'S PRIMARY SCHOOL

Principal: Mrs Eileen Ward B.Ed (Hons) M.Ed, PQH (NI)

eward387@c2kni.net

www.stmarysprimarydunamore.co.uk



Wednesday 27th August 2025

Dear Parents,

I hope everyone is keeping well and that you have all had a chance to relax and enjoy the summer months. It is hard to believe that we are into a new school year. I am sure many are filled with a mixture of nerves and excitement as we embark on September, but I have no doubt by the end of the first week, the children will be well into a routine and settled.

Children in Primary One will start school, tomorrow, Thursday 28th August. Miss Mc Flynn, Edel and Sabrina are ready to welcome you all to St. Mary's Primary School. The children in P1 will go home every day at 12Noon until Thursday 11th September.

Children in Primary Seven will start their last year of Primary school on Friday 29th August and will go home at 12 Noon on this day.

ALL pupils will return to school on Monday 1st September and will go home at their normal times. EA Transport will be in operation as normal.

Breakfast club will resume again this term, every day from Monday 8th September. It will operate from 8.00-8.30am. Children who wish to avail of the breakfast club must book on Parent Pay for the week/days ahead (similar to booking dinners). Breakfast will be priced at £1 per day per child. Only children who have registered on Parent Pay for breakfast club will be allowed to enter the school from 8.00-8.30am.

As in previous years, the school will open at 8.30am. **Any child who comes between 8.30 and 8.45am MUST come in the front door and go to the assembly hall and wait for their class teacher to collect at 8.45am.**

Children should not be dropped off any earlier than 8.30am for supervision.

From 8.45am to 9.15am, all children will enter the school and go directly to their classrooms where they will be supervised until formal lessons begin at 9.15am.

It will be wonderful to see all the children in their new school uniform. The uniform is worn with pride and I would remind you that children are to wear **plain black shoes** to school, and not trainers. Leggings, jogging bottoms, hoodies and colourful trainers are not part of the school uniform. PE uniform and trainers may be worn on

PE days and the class teacher will inform their class of the days in question. Your efforts are very much appreciated. Please make sure all items of clothing are labelled.

We would also ask that children come to school with their own pencil case/stationery. Stationery includes: Pencil, rubber, sharpener, ruler, colouring pencils (e.g. Twistables) and glue.

We have been informed by the Education Authority that school dinners will still cost £2.60 for this school year.

Parent Pay is operating very well and it is very important that dinners are booked/paid for on a Sunday evening for the week ahead. Parents are encouraged to get into this routine. **This applies to ALL children taking dinner, whether you are paying for them or entitled to Free School Meals.** The office staff do not have time to update the system retrospectively this year and your cooperation in this matter will help Ann and Niamh when payments have to be made to the Education Authority. This year, letters will be sent out on every Friday if anyone is in arrears.

Primary One will finish school at 2.00pm (from Thursday 11th September). Primary Two will go home at 2.10pm. Miss Mc Flynn and Mrs Crossley will walk the children to the gate and dismiss each child to their parent/childminder. **Parents are asked to wait behind the gate and to follow the directions of the staff.**

For the rest of the pupils in Primary 3-7, children will go home at 3.00pm The children will be brought to the correct gates in the playground where they can be collected, one gate for children getting the bus and another gate for children who are collected. To ensure maximum safety, parents are encouraged to park in the Chapel Car Park and walk down at the specified time and collect their child/ren. Please leave the limited number of spaces in the school car park for parents of very small children or people who may have mobility issues. Your cooperation in this is extremely important and appreciated.

It is strongly encouraged that school transport is used if parents have no other means of getting your child to and from school and if your child meets the eligibility criteria set by the Education Authority.

I would be most grateful if you would adhere to our Healthy Eating Policy and give your child fruit or a healthy alternative for break. Please make every effort to keep sweets and chocolate to a minimum in lunch boxes. We are very much an ALLERGY AWARE school so I would ask that no nut products/foods containing sesame seeds are brought into school.

Furthermore, it is important that no jewellery be worn in PE lessons. In fact, for health and safety reasons, jewellery should be kept to a minimum at all times.

I would like to stress the importance of full attendance and punctuality. The children are expected to be in school for 9.15am as lessons begin. Parents are encouraged to have their child in school on time; any child in after 9.30am will be marked late for the morning session.

Dental/medical/hair appointments/extra-curricular activities/swimming lessons should all be made outside of school hours. If this is completely unavoidable, please ensure that you inform the school by phone or letter and that children are signed out of the office. Their absence will also be recorded on the attendance register.

As in previous years, family holidays are strongly discouraged during term time. Parents are reminded that they must email the Principal (eward387@c2kni.net) providing a reason for and duration of the absence.

The school requires a birth certificate for each child in attendance. If you have not forwarded the necessary birth certificates, please do so as soon as possible. We also require baptismal certificates from children who were baptised outside the parish. Dates for First Holy Communion and Confirmation will be issued in due course.

If your child requires an Epipen, we would ask that all Epipens/medication are brought into the school on Monday 1st September. Parents are required to complete an AM2 Form also.

The first date for the SEAG Assessment/Transfer Test will take place on Saturday 15th November 2025. The second paper will take place on Saturday 22nd November 2024. The deadline for registration closes on Friday 19th September.

I trust that I will have your full support on all these matters. If you need any further information on school practices or policies, do not hesitate to contact the school. Parents are reminded not to enter the school building and walk throughout the school. However, during the course of the year, if there is anything that you would like to discuss about your child, please contact the school and I will be happy to arrange a time for you to speak to the class teacher, or myself. Teachers cannot take calls during teaching time.

The teaching staff for this year are as follows: - P1- Miss Mc Flynn, P2- Mrs Crossley, P3- Mrs Mc Allister, P4- Mrs Gallagher, P5- Mrs Mc Crory, P6- Mr Herbert and P7- Mrs Mallon.

A holiday list for the year ahead will be posted on the website. With your support and commitment, I look forward to a happy and successful year in St Mary's Primary School. To mark the beginning of the school year, we will have Mass in St. Mary's Church in September. A date and time will follow. All parents/grandparents are very welcome to attend.

Please continue to look after yourselves and your loved ones.

*Heavenly Father, as we start anew,
Guide our hearts and minds to You.
Grant us wisdom, patience and grace.
Bless our teachers and this place.
Keep us safe, both near and far,
Shine through us, like a guiding star.
Help us learn, grow and care.
In Jesus' name, this is our prayer.
Amen.*

Kind Regards,

Eileen Ward

Principal

