



St. Mary's News

January 2026

Wednesday 7th January 2026

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.

Christmas Cash Call

The Christmas Cash Call was a great success. A sincere thanks to all who took part and congratulations again to Claire Mc Crory who won the £250 prize money!! The profit raised for school funds was £1150. This will help towards buying resources for the children. We hope to repeat this again before the end of the school year.

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 2026/27

If you have a child who is due to start Primary One in September 2026 and would like them to attend St. Mary's Primary School, Dunamore, please make sure to apply online. The portal will open on Wednesday 7th January at 12 Noon <https://www.eani.org.uk/parents/admissions>.

The closing date for applications is Wednesday 21st 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 also be uploaded to the portal with your application. 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 on Wednesday 14th January. A separate letter has been uploaded on to the School App for the two classes.

After School Clubs

The new block for After School Clubs will resume on Tuesday 20th January (P1/2 & P3/4) and Thursday 22nd January (P1/2 & P5-7). A separate flyer will be posted with details and link to book online with 33Activities.

Important Dates to note:

Catholic Schools Week will be celebrated this year from Sunday 18th January to Sunday 26th January. The theme this year is 'Catholic Schools- Normal Lives-Called to Holiness. 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 Tuesday 13th January.

Mid Term Break (School Closed) Monday 9th-Friday 13th February inclusive.

Sacrament of Confirmation -Tuesday 21st April at 5pm St. Joseph's Church, Kileenan

Sacrament of the Eucharist (First Holy Communion) Saturday 16th 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 2026.



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