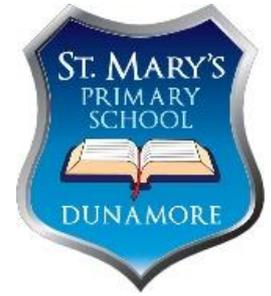


St. Mary's News March/April 2026



Tuesday 3rd March, 2026

Dear Parents,

What an unforgettable few weeks it has been at St. Mary's! Our school production of *The Lion King* was nothing short of spectacular, with three completely sold-out shows and wonderful comments pouring in from the local community and far beyond. We are so incredibly proud of our children, their dedication to rehearsals, their commitment to learning lines, songs and dances, and the confidence they showed on stage were truly inspiring. Many of them stepped far outside their comfort zones, and the growth we witnessed was remarkable. They have created memories that will stay with them for a lifetime. In addition, a huge heartfelt thank you to all the magnificent staff of St. Mary's, whose hard work, creativity, and sheer enthusiasm ensured the children were so well prepared. They are simply fantastic, and we are blessed to have such a great team!

We are now well into the Lenten Season and 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.

There has been a lot of sickness since Christmas, including vomiting bugs, 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



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email eward387@c2kni.net notifying of the absence, providing details of reason and dates of absence. This should be done before the holiday.

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.

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 the week ahead and settle accounts. There are also some outstanding accounts for dinners, swimming and non uniform days (e.g. Santa Day). Unfortunately, this prevents Anne and Niamh in the office from reconciling accounts at the end of each month.

Internet/Media Safety/Mobile/Social Sites

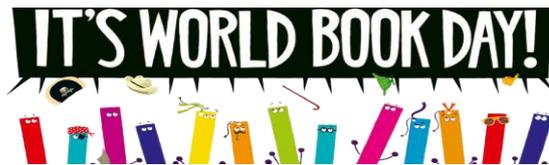
In our school, every possible effort has been made to ensure the safety of all pupils while on the internet. The school has an Internet Safety Policy and the pupils are aware of the procedures within this policy. Children under the age of 13yrs should not be using the vast majority of Apps as they are not suitable. 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.

IT'S WORLD BOOK DAY!



This Thursday, March 5th marks World Book Day and a great opportunity for children to dress up as their favourite character or discuss their favourite book, wearing their onesie or cosy pyjamas!! There is no pressure to buy expensive costumes. Children can wear their own clothes if they do not want to dress up.

P1 Class Assembly will take place on Thursday 12th 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- Thursday 12th 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.

Green Day/Ceili

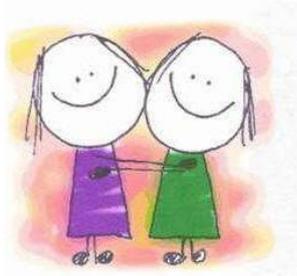
-To celebrate St. Patrick's Day, we are having a 'Green Day' on Friday 14th March. The children have been practising their ceili dancing and we will all have an opportunity to watch each class perform. Children are asked to wear something green the day and are asked to contribute £2 on Parent Pay.



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The school will be closed on Monday 16th March (School Development Day), and Tuesday 17th March (Bank Holiday) and Wednesday 18th March (School Closure).

The Ceremony of Light for the P7 pupils will take place on Saturday 21st 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.



P5 Class Assembly will take place on Tuesday 31st March at 10am in the school hall. All parents/grandparents of the P5 children are warmly invited to attend. Refreshments will be provided afterwards.

School will be close for the Easter holidays for all pupils on Thursday 2nd April at 11am. There will be no buses on this day.

School will reopen for all pupils on Tuesday 14th April.



-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 Tuesday 21st April at 5pm in St. Joseph's Church, Kileenan. Children who will be singing in the choir are asked to be seated by 4.45pm

P3 Class Assembly will take place on Tuesday 28th April at 10am in the school hall. All parents/grandparents of the P3 children are warmly invited to attend. Refreshments will be provided afterwards.



Sacrament of First Holy Communion - The children in Primary Four will celebrate the Sacrament of the Eucharist, a very special day, on Saturday 16th May in St. Mary's Church Dunamore at 11.00am.



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

Thank you, once again, for your continued cooperation and support.

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

Kind Regards,

Eileen Ward

Principal

