



# Saint Mary's Primary School and Nursery Unit



May June 2024

[www.stmaryspsbellaghy.co.uk](http://www.stmaryspsbellaghy.co.uk)

## TERM 3 DATES

8<sup>th</sup> April – 28<sup>th</sup> June

## SCHOOL CLOSURES:

Mon 6<sup>th</sup> May  
May Bank Hol

Fri 24<sup>th</sup> – Tues 28<sup>th</sup> May  
*Inclusive. Mid term*

*Fri 28<sup>th</sup> June*  
*Please note: The school*  
*will close at 11am*

## UP-COMING EVENTS

Please see the full list of  
events in the newsletter

**Sat 18<sup>th</sup> May**  
Holy Communion 11am

**Thurs 23<sup>rd</sup> May**  
9.30am P4 Assembly

**Sat 1<sup>st</sup> June**  
PTA Coffee Morning

**Fri 7<sup>th</sup> June**  
P1 Assembly

**Thurs 13<sup>th</sup> June**  
Nursery Graduation

**Fri 14<sup>th</sup> June**  
Sports Day

**Mon 24<sup>th</sup> June**  
9.30am Leavers  
Assembly  
P7 Last Day

## NEW UNIFORM



The Board of Governors, PTA and children are excited to announce the new uniform option for Sept 2024.

The uniform half-zip and t-shirt will be stocked in O'Neill's Magherafelt branch from the end of June. We have opted for plain unbranded navy shorts for PE and good weather, navy plain unbranded track bottoms (no leggings), and blue/white gingham sundresses which are available from most retailers.

We realise that there will be an overlap in the year 24-25 with green uniform and new uniform. We wish to reassure parents that both options are acceptable for 2024-25. If purchasing track bottoms, we ask parents to stick with navy. We hope that by Sept 2025, all children will be wearing the new uniform pictured above.

The uniform for Nursery will be the same as the uniform for primary. O'Neill's cannot offer embroidered initials however the benefit of this will mean that uniform can be easily passed on to other families.

If you have any concerns with uniform options, please contact Mrs McCann.

# School Trips!



## It's School Trip Time!

The teachers are busy organising buses for trips. Parents, please note the date of each trip.

All classes need a packed lunch and drink in a labelled plastic bag if possible so that it can be binned afterwards.

In an effort to ease financial pressure on families, funds raised from events during the year will be used to part subsidise the cost of trips in an effort to keep cost down.

**Parent Volunteers** are needed to help out on the trips. If you are available to go, please contact your child's teacher. We promise it will be a fun day!

### **Primary 1-2 are going to Sperrin Fun Farm .**

Buses will be leaving at 9.15am sharp and returning for 2.00pm

**COST: £14**



### **Primary 3-4 will be travelling to W5 for a day of discovery and fun!**

Buses will be leaving at 9.15am sharp and returning for 3.00pm

**COST: £13**



### **Primary 5 will be visiting Belfast Zoo!**

Buses will be leaving at 9.15am sharp and returning for 3.00pm

**COST: £15**



### **Primary 6 will be travelling to the Ulster Museum**

School will open for all children at 8.30am.

Buses will be leaving at 9.15am sharp and returning for 3.00pm

**COST: £13**



### **Primary 7 are going to the Jungle Moneymore**

Buses will be leaving at 9.15am sharp and returning for 3.00pm

**COST: £25**



## FAN THE FLAME

On Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> June Primary 7 classes from all over the Derry Diocesan will gather to celebrate mass in the Cathedral Derry. The bus will be leaving at 9pm sharp and return for home time 3pm. Children will need sunscreen, hats and water if the weather is good and rain coats if it is wet.

## REPORTS

It is hoped to send written reports to parents on Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> June. You will receive two copies. We ask that you sign one and return it to school the following day. The other can be kept at home. Should you wish to discuss your child's progress with the class teacher, please contact Nicola to arrange an appointment.

## SPORTS DAY

Weather permitting, sports day will be held on Friday 14<sup>th</sup> June at the school from 12.30pm



We would greatly appreciate some adult volunteers to help with activities on the day! If you can help in any way, please pass your names onto your child's teacher.

## POST PRIMARY INDUCTION/TESTING DAYS

**ST PAT'S MAGHERA – Thurs 13<sup>th</sup> June (full day)**  
**ST PIUS X – Mon 10<sup>th</sup> June (full day)**  
**ST MARY'S GRAMMAR – Thurs 20<sup>th</sup> June 1.50pm**

We realise St Mary's Induction event clashes with the Castle Cup football tournament. We ask parents to make arrangements to collect their child from Maghera at 1.15pm



## P6 GL TRANSFER TEST

All post-primary schools using academic selection (in Northern Ireland) have signed up to the SEAG and plan to use the results of that assessment as part of their admissions criteria.

The registration for the Entrance Assessment is now open and will run until **Friday 20 September 2024 at 11.59pm**. Whilst registration is completed by parents, directly through the SEAG website, we recognise that some families will be keen for more information and support in this process. Please contact St Mary's Grammar or Rainey Endowed College for more Information

Afterschool Transfer Test Club will run every Tuesday and Thursday afternoon 3-4pm.

## P1-6 PRIZE GIVING

Prize giving will be celebrated on Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> June. All children will receive certificates for participating or excelling in different areas of the curriculum.



## LEAVERS Assembly

**9.30am Friday 21<sup>st</sup> June**

Parents, family, friends of our P7 class are warmly invited to our P7 Leavers Assembly. Assembly will begin at 9.30am and will be followed by P7 Prize Giving. It is hoped that family/parents will attend.



**Primary 7's last day is  
Monday 24<sup>th</sup> June.**



**The class will finish at 1pm.**

We wish all our Primary 7s success and happiness in their new school and look forward to hearing about their adventures in the future.



**P1-6 LAST DAY**  
**School finishes**  
**Friday 28th June**  
**at 11am**

Childhood is a unique experience.

Respect it.

Enjoy it.

Protect it.

## **SAFETY IN THE SUN**

As we are entering the (hopefully) warmer months of May and June, children may be outside for longer periods. We would ask that your child has sufficient sun-screen applied and bring sun hats if they so wish.

Children may bring their own lotion to school to reapply themselves as the day progresses. Unfortunately, due to health and safety risks, school staff are not allowed to apply the lotion.

## **NEW PRIMARY 1 and NURSERY INTAKE** **September 2024**

All parents should have received placement emails from the Education Authority.

### **Primary 1 Sept 2024**

If your child is starting St Mary's Primary in Sept '24 you are invited to;

**Parent Information Meeting Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> June** to provide you with an overview of the curriculum and important practical details about starting in St Mary's. It is very important parents attend. Parents should come to the school hall for 9.15am and the meeting will last approximately 45 mins

Parents will receive an email this Friday 10<sup>th</sup> June with more details regarding your child starting primary school.

### **Nursery Sept 2024**

If your child is starting St Mary's Nursery in Sept '24 parents are invited to a Stay and Play session on either 20/21/22 May 12noon-1pm. Please check your email for more details of which session you attend.

## **NFER TESTING**

Primary 4-7 are currently completing Literacy and Numeracy standardised tests. These results will be included in your child's end of year report.

## **SCHOOL CLOSURES**

Please note the following dates for school closures.

Mon 7<sup>th</sup> May

Fri 24<sup>th</sup>- Tues 28<sup>th</sup> May

Ban

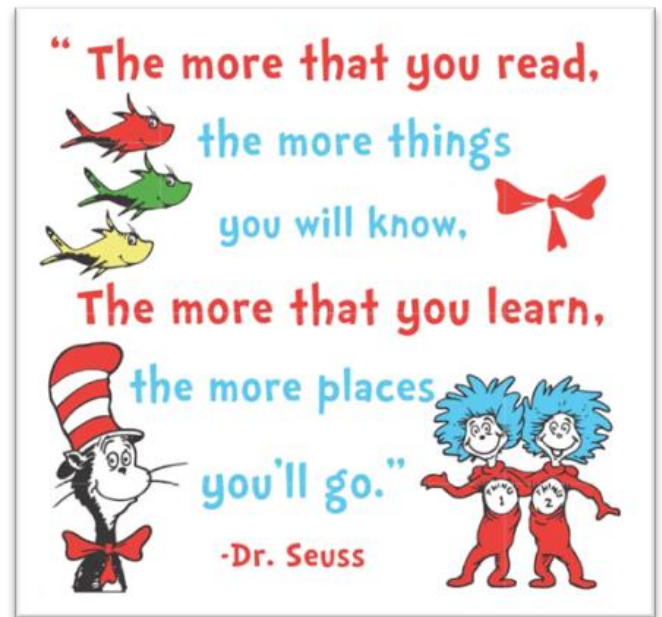
Mid Term



## **RELATIONSHIPS EDUCATION**

This term, most classes will have home their Relationships Education booklet for parents. We ask you to read over the information with your child.

## **ACCELERATED READER**



We had a super amount of Accelerated Reader Prizewinners in P4- P7. Children received an Easter egg or chocolate treat as well as a certificate. Well done everyone!

P4-7 recently completed their Star Reading Test and we ask parents to ask their child about their reading levels. Many have made great progress.

The new target for this term is to read

**13 million words.**

If the children reach the target we will book the Ice-Cream Van to help us celebrate!

Keep reading boys and girls!  
and girls!



# HEALTHY BODY HEALTHY MIND

## JUNE DAILY MILE

Exercise and walking makes our children healthier and happier! Not to mention it keeps the planet happier too! There are cars everywhere you look polluting the air and increasing carbon emissions so by cutting down our fuel use the world says greener too. Right now it is estimated that only half of 7-10 year olds do the recommended hour of exercise a day so St Mary's have decided to promote exercise!



During the month of June every class will be completing a short fun one mile circuit each day of the week. Parents, please ensure your child is wearing appropriate footwear (trainer/school shoes) to take part. Thank you



## OUTDOOR CLASSROOM DAY Thursday 23rd May 2024

Each class will have at least one lesson taught outside (weather permitting!!). Outdoor learning **improves children's health, engages them with learning and leads to a greater connection with nature.** Play not only teaches **critical life skills** such as **resilience, teamwork and creativity**, but is central to children's **enjoyment of childhood.**



## Athlete of the Year 2024

We are busy organising our fun sports day for Friday 14<sup>th</sup> June.

We don't want to forget about the traditional events! Over the next few weeks each class will be running off the egg and spoon race, long jump, sprint, relay and sack race. The overall boy and girl winner will be announced on Prize Day.



## Healthy Eating Week 10-14 June 2024

All classes will be encouraged to eat healthy snacks and drink water throughout the day. We will be looking at how much sugar is in our favourite snacks and drinks and discussing healthy choices.



## My Money Week 10-14 June 2024

This year's #MyMoneyWeek theme is Mind Over Money – across NI children will be exploring risk and reward and learning how to make informed choices, manage their emotions, and how to ask for help and source advice when it comes to money matters.





Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> May until

Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> May

Open during the school day  
for classes

2.00-3.30pm for  
parents/guardians.

### FIRST HOLY COMMUNION

Primary 4 will make their First Holy Communion on Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> May at 11am.



St Mary's and St John Bosco children will be seated together at the front of the chapel. There will be no reserved seating for parents or family. Please arrive early to ensure you have a good seat! We wish them the best of luck!

### **PRIMARY 4 ASSEMBLY Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> May**

We invite the children in Primary 4 to wear their holy communion outfits to school on Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> May for a whole school assembly. The boys and girls are to bring their own clothes for changing into afterwards.

### TROCAIRE

It is so important that we educate our children of the importance of helping others who aren't as fortunate as us.

Thank you for your support for our Charity Bun Sale which was organised and managed by our Eco and School Council. The boys and girls made a timetable for sales, were very good at helping the young children select a bun and organise change. The Bun sale raised an amazing **£509.44!**



### **ECO COUNCIL GREEN DAY**

The Eco Council organised and hosted our annual Green Day. The children wore all shades of green and took part in an additional outdoor play session and daily mile. Miss Corey taught each class some conversational Irish to coincide with St Patrick's Day. Green Day raised £138.10

### **ECO AND SCHOOL COUNCIL FUND RAISING**

The Eco and School Council organised and managed the 'Guess the Number of Sweets in the Jar' and 'Name the Bunny' competitions. The whole jar of sweets was won by Maria Clarke. Ída Brown named the bunny! Well done girls £127.46 was raised!



A total of **£772** was raised by  
the school for Trocaire!!!

# Outdoor Playground Development

St Mary's Board of Governors are keen to improve facilities for our pupils. We plan to develop the outdoor area to include an outdoor classroom and walking path, extend the wooden gym trail, and purchase new football nets and ball stop. There will also be a sensory path, outdoor library nook and music station. This is quite an ambitious project and so fundraising may span over a few years.



**Outdoor Classroom**



## Proposed Costings:

- £1500 per gym piece
- £7500 outdoor classroom
- £3000 library nook
- £13,000 path and gravel work

+costings for football nets, shrubs, planting boxes



## PTA FUNDRAISER

We are very grateful to our school community for all their support over the years.

The PTA Friends of St Mary's have organised a Coffee Morning Sing Along. Each family will receive tickets costing £5 each. We encourage parents to sell tickets wide and far to raise funds towards the proposal. Even if you are not able to attend the event, your donation will be very gratefully accepted.

PTA Fundraiser Outdoor Play Equipment



St Mary's Primary School & Nursery Unit

## PTA FUNDRAISER

### Coffee Morning Sing Along

Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> June  
10am- 12 noon

Enter your cake for the Cake Decorating Competition! Tickets £5

PTA Fundraiser Outdoor Play Equipment

### Cake Decoration Competition

Show off your cake decorating skills! Send all entries to school on Friday 31<sup>st</sup> May.

### Donations of Buns and Scones Needed.

Please send any donations to the school by Friday 31<sup>st</sup> May. Thank you once again for your support



## CONFIRMATION

On Friday 26<sup>th</sup> April our Primary 7 pupils celebrated the Sacrament of Confirmation in St. Mary's Church, Bellaghy, amongst family, friends and staff. It was a beautiful service in which the children prepared for so diligently in the months previous.

A special thanks to Bishop McKeown for celebrating the sacrament. Thanks too to our Parish Priest Fr. Pat O'Hagan and Rev. Juan Jesús González Borrallo, Magherafelt concelebrating the mass and providing pastoral support to the children.

We ask that our parish community continues to pray for our p7s as they prepare to transition to secondary school.



St Mary's Primary School and  
Nursery Unit



Staff have been busy creating our new website and Facebook page. The site is very accessible and should provide lots of information to parents and children.

The site is almost ready to go launch in the next few days. We will let you know as soon as it does!!



## St Mary's May/June Events 2024

As you can see below we have a packed diary until the end of the year. Late event invites have been arriving in our inbox this week and we have had to juggle dates around continuously. There may be additional changes over the next few weeks, but we will endeavour to notify you as soon as possible.

Date	Event	Location
Wed 1 <sup>st</sup> May	P.7 Football- Eamonn Coleman Tournament	Ballymaguigan
Wed 8 <sup>th</sup> – Tues 14 <sup>th</sup> May	Bookfair Whole School	
Thurs 9 <sup>th</sup> May	P.7 -Mid-Ulster Soccer Blitz-	Meadowbank
Tues 14 <sup>th</sup> May	P4 Holy Communion Rehearsal	St Mary's Chapel
Fri 17 <sup>th</sup> May	All County Camogie	Ballinascreen
Fri 17 <sup>th</sup> May	St Pius X Boys Football Tournament	Rossa GAA Grounds
Fri 17 <sup>th</sup> May	P5 School Trip to Belfast Zoo	Belfast
Fri 17 <sup>th</sup> May	P5 School Trip to Ulster Museum	Belfast
Saturday 18 <sup>th</sup> May	Holy Communion 11am	St Mary's Chapel
Mon 20 <sup>th</sup> May	P1&2 School Trip Sperrin Fun Farm	
Mon 20 <sup>th</sup> – Wed 22 <sup>nd</sup> May	Nursery Induction Sessions (See email for invite details)	
Wed 22 <sup>nd</sup> May	Boys' Football Championship	Glen
Wed 22 <sup>nd</sup> May	P5/6 Poetry Workshop	
Thurs 23 <sup>rd</sup> May	P4 Assembly	
Fri 24 <sup>th</sup> May	<b>SCHOOL CLOSED</b>	
Mon 27 <sup>th</sup> May	<b>SCHOOL CLOSED</b>	
Tues 28 <sup>th</sup> May	<b>SCHOOL CLOSED</b>	
Thurs 30 <sup>th</sup> May	Whole School Photograph	
Fri 31 <sup>st</sup> May	Nursery Sports Day 9.30 (weather permitting) Parents invited	
Mon 3 <sup>rd</sup> June	St Mary's Grammar Gaelic Blitz	St. Mary's Grammer Magherafelt
Tues 4 <sup>th</sup> June	P1 Induction Talk (Parents invited 9.15am)	

Wed 5 <sup>th</sup> June	P3&4 School Trip W5	
Thurs 6 <sup>th</sup> June	P7 Fan The Flame	Celtic Park Derry
Fri 7 <sup>th</sup> June	P1 Assembly	

Fri 7 <sup>th</sup> June	Aaron Devlin Football Tournament (Girls and Boys)	Derrycrin
Mon 10 <sup>th</sup> June	St. Pius X – Year 8 Induction Day	St. Pius X Collage Magherafelt
Mon 10 <sup>th</sup> June	Sept 24 New P1 Induction Session 9.30-10.30	
Thurs 13 <sup>th</sup> June	St. Patricks- Year 8 Induction Day/Testing	St. Patricks Collage Maghera
Fri 14 <sup>th</sup> June	Whole School Sports Day 12.30pm	
Mon 17 <sup>th</sup> June	Castle Cup Tournament – Camogie	Glen GAA Grounds, Maghera
Mon 17 <sup>th</sup> June	Sept 24 New P1 Induction Session 9.30-10.30	
Tues 18 <sup>th</sup> June	P.7 The Jungle Trip	The Jungle NI Moneymore
Wed 19 <sup>th</sup> June	P.7- Meadowbank Sports Day	Meadowbank
Thurs 20 <sup>th</sup> June	St Mary’s Grammar- Year 8 Induction Day	St Mary’s Grammar Magherafelt
Thurs 20 <sup>th</sup> June	Castle Cup Boys Football	Glen GAA Grounds, Maghera
Mon 24 <sup>th</sup> June	Leavers Assembly 9.30 P7 Last Day	
Mon 24 <sup>th</sup> June	Sept 24 New P1 Induction Session 9.30-10.30	
Tues 27 <sup>th</sup> June	Nursery Last Day	
Fri 28 <sup>th</sup> June	Whole School Finish 11am	



**Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> May –  
Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> May**

**Open during the school day for classes and  
2-3.30pm for parents/guardians.**



# PTA Friends of St Mary's Fundraising Coffee Morning

Ticket sets will be sent home to each family on Monday 13<sup>th</sup> May.  
Donations of buns/scones/biscuits would be much appreciated.  
Why not get creative and enter the cake decorating competition!

PTA Fundraiser Outdoor Play Equipment



St Mary's Primary School & Nursery Unit

## PTA FUNDRAISER

### Coffee Morning

### Sing Along

Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> June

10am- 12 noon

Tickets £5

PTA Fundraiser Outdoor Play Equipment

Enter your cake for the Cake Decorating Competition!