



Saint Mary's Primary School and Nursery Unit

www.stmaryspsbellaghy.co.uk



January & February 2025

TERM 2 DATES

Mon 6 Jan – Thurs 17th April
(School will close at 11am
on this day)

Term 2 SCHOOL CLOSURES

Mon 10th Feb – Fri 14th Feb
inclusive (Mid-term Break)

Mon 17th March

St Patrick's Day Break

Fri 18th April – Fri 25th April
inclusive. Easter Holidays

*Please note: The school will
close at 11am 17th April*

UP-COMING EVENTS

19th January – 25th January
Catholic Schools Week

Thurs 23rd January

P7 Grandparents Day

Mon 27th January

Tempest Photographer
Nursery, P1&7 class photos

Fri 7th February

Number Day Dress Up

Fri 7th February

P6 Assembly

Fri 14th March

P3 Assembly

Fri 21st March

P5 Assembly

NEW YEAR RESOLUTIONS!!

Welcome back after a lovely Christmas break. We hope Santa was good and 2025 brings lots of blessings to us all. Many of the children are setting targets for themselves in Literacy and Numeracy. We ask parents to get involved in helping them reach their goals.



ST MARY'S PS AND NU

25 Mullaghboy Road Bellaghy

028 79 386360

NURSERY AND PRIMARY ENROLMENT

DIGITAL APPLICATION PROCESS.

Please log on to: www.eani.org.uk/admissions

for more information.

NURSERY PLACES

for those born between
2nd July 2021 - 1st July 2022

PRIMARY PLACES

for those born between
2nd July 2020 - 1st July 2021

www.stmaryspsbellaghy.co.uk

Digital Application closing date:

24th January 2025 at 12noon



Childhood is a unique experience.
Respect it. Enjoy it. Protect it.

FUNDRAISING

A huge thank you to all those families who supported us in our fundraising this year. We were so pleased with the extra lengths many families went to collect sponsorship. Thank you too to the PTA and the many businesses that donated to our Christmas and St Patrick's Day raffles.



Fundraising Activities raised a total of £6241!!!

Along with our development of the outdoor area and wellness path, the governors are investing in development of our Sensory Room facilities. We hope to have more information on that in the Easter newsletter.

eSAFETY DAY 2025

The February mid-term break coincides with eSafety Day 2025. We will promote eSafety in school during the week beforehand, and we would encourage parents to take time to talk to your child about staying safe online. There are a number of excellent websites that provide information for parents.



www.thinkuknow.co.uk

<https://learning.nspcc.org.uk/online-safety/online-safety-for-schools>

<https://www.internetmatters.org/schools-esafety/parent-online-support-pack-teachers/>

<https://saferinternet.org.uk/guide-and-resource/parents-and-carers>

Keeping Our Children Safe Online

Top Tips

- **Talk to your child about what they're up to online.** Be a part of their online life: find out what sites they visit and what they love about them. If they know you understand they are more likely to come to you if they have any problems.
- **Watch www.thinkuknow.co.uk films and cartoons with your child.**
- **Encourage your child to go online and explore!** There is a wealth of age-appropriate sites online for your children. Encourage them to use sites which are fun, educational and that will help them to develop online skills.
- **Keep up to date with your child's development online.** Children grow up fast and they will be growing in confidence and learning new skills daily. You need to keep up!
- **Set boundaries in the online world just as you would in the real world.** Think about what they see, what they share, who they talk to and how long they spend online.
- **Keep all equipment that connects to the internet in a family space.** For children of Primary School age, it is important to keep internet use in family areas so you can see the sites your child is using and are aware if they see something they don't want to see.
- **Know what connects to the internet and how.** Nowadays even the TV connects to the internet. Make sure you're aware of which devices that your child uses to connect to the internet, such as their ipad or games console. Also, find out how they are accessing the internet – this will affect whether the safety settings you set are being applied.
- **Use parental controls on devices that link to the internet, such as the TV, laptops, computers, games consoles and mobile phones.** Parental controls are not just about locking and blocking, they are a tool to help you set appropriate boundaries as your child grows and develops. They are not the answer to your child's online safety, but they are a good start, and they are not as difficult to install as you might think.

CATHOLIC SCHOOLS WEEK

19th Jan -25th Jan



Catholic Schools Week takes place from
Sunday 19th to Saturday 25th January

The theme for Catholic Schools Week is 'Alive in Christ' and the theme for the Jubilee Year which Pope Francis has declared is 'Pilgrims of Hope'. We focus on our school, Alive in Christ, as a beacon of hope to others.

"Christ is alive! He is our hope, and in a wonderful way he brings youth to our world, and everything he touches becomes young, new, full of life. The very first words, then, that I would like to say to every young Christian are these: Christ is alive and he wants you to be alive!"

– Pope Francis, *Christus Vivit*, Section 1.

Reflecting on the theme, Catholic schools will explore what it means to be fully alive as a human being – living life to the full in Christ. The theme will explore how we exist for one another in Christ, building from the wellbeing of the individual, extending the notion of true wellbeing to others, to our families and communities, and to The Other, in God. The theme will mediate on hope, the true purpose and meaning of human life.

HEALTH CHECKS!!

TREADWORM

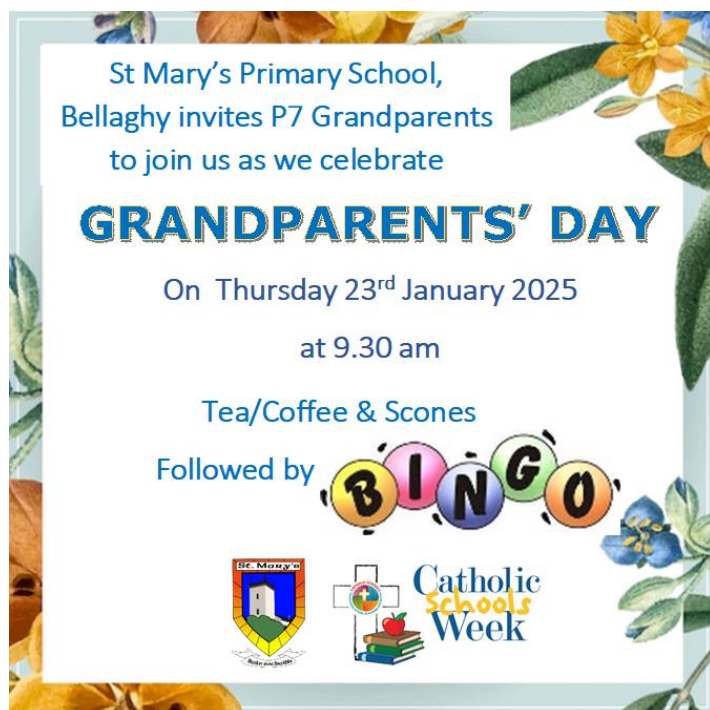
Threadworms (pinworms) is a very common issue for young children. Threadworms are tiny white worms that can live in your intestines. They are most common in children, and cause itching around the anal area.

You can catch threadworm if you get worm eggs on your hands and put your hands in your mouth. They're common in children and spread easily. You can treat them without seeing a GP.



Alive in Christ: Living Life to the Full in Our Families

Primary 7 will have their annual Grandparent's Day, at 9.30am on Thursday 23rd Jan, with a Prayer service, bingo and refreshments.



We thank God for our Grandparents:

We thank our grandparents, down through the ages, for telling us about God, showing us how to pray and for loving us as we are. Today, we thank God for you, our grandparents!

If you suspect your child has threadworms, call into your local chemist for over-the-counter medication. To prevent threadworms and avoid the opportunity of re-infection, please teach good hygiene, and keep fingernails clean and short.

HAIR LICE

We encourage parents to check children's hair regularly to prevent the spread of lice. Lice can spread easily in classes.

See the pharmacist for advice and treatment.



REMEMBER
ONCE A WEEK,
TAKE A PEEK

PRIMARY 6 AND PRIMARY 7 POST PRIMARY INFORMATION

Over the last few weeks many of the post-primary principals have visited the Primary 6 and Primary 7 classes to talk to the children about life in secondary school. DENI have published a link to information on the Post-Primary Transfer Process which contains relevant information for both Primary 6&7. [Information for Parents](#)



SECONDARY SCHOOL OPEN DAYS FOR PRIMARY 6 & 7

Please note dates below and check the individual secondary school's website for details on how to book.

St Mary's Grammar -Saturday 18th January BOOK ONLINE
Rainey Endowed Grammar -Thursday 23rd January BOOK ONLINE
St Pius X College -Saturday 11th January 11.30am
Sperrin College -Wednesday 15th & Thursday 16th January 5.30pm
St Patrick's College Maghera -Saturday 25th January 10am
St Conor's College (Kilrea site) -Saturday 11th January 9.30am & 12.30pm

PRIMARY 7 INFORMATION AND EVENTS

P7 CONFIRMATION RETREAT: The children have completed an online retreat led by Derry Diocesan Staff. They are currently researching the lives of saints and selecting their confirmation name. We ask for your continued prayers as they complete their Confirmation preparations.

PRIMARY 7 WILL HAVE THEIR ANNUAL GRANDPARENT'S DAY on Thursday 23rd January, with a prayer service followed by bingo and refreshments.

POST PRIMARY SCHOOL VISITS

Local post-primary principals and senior staff have been visiting the P6 and P7 classes to tell them a bit about life in their school. We encourage P6 and 7 parents to discuss school options with their child. Primary 6 and 7 are welcome at all open days listed on the Open day information Sway.

PRIMARY 7 POST-PRIMARY SEAG TRANSFER TEST

On Saturday 25th January 2025 parents / guardians will be able to see the SEAG Outcomes for their child(ren) by logging on their Dashboard. SEAG aims to have Results available by 8.00am. We wish the children every success.

P7 POST-PRIMARY ONLINE APPLICATIONS.

Post-Primary School Applications are completed online using the EA Admissions Portal. All parents received a Sway with lots of details last week. Criteria for applications is published on the EANI Admissions website. If you would like to discuss your child's options or application concerns, please telephone Mrs McCann at the school.

Tuesday 28 January 2025 - at 12noon - EA Connect opens for online applications for Post Primary.

Thursday 20 February 2025 - at 12 noon - EA Connect closes for online applications for Post Primary.

Saturday 10 May 2025 -Parents/carers will receive application outcome via email.

CONFIRMATION: Friday 28th March at 11am in St Mary's Church.

Primary 7 do not attend school on this day. School will be open as usual for all other classes.

CREDIT UNION

The Credit Union Saving Scheme is a great way to encourage the children to save the pennies to make pounds!

Any child who wishes to join the Credit Union Savings Scheme, contact the Bannvale office for forms 02825821001

CREDIT UNION ART COMPETITION

The judges said that yet again, the standard was very high. Congratulations to all those who entered the competition and special congratulations to our winners.

Under 7 Category

1st - Hollie McCoy (P4)
2nd - Jack Lockhart (P4)
3rd - Katie Gallagher (P3)

8 to 10 Year old Category

1st - Alannah Duffy (P6)
2nd - Naoise McGuckin (P4)
3rd - Cathan Diamond (P6)

11 to 13 year old Category

1st - Caodhán Milne (P7)
2nd Lilly Diamond (P7)
3rd Ciarán Diamond (P7)



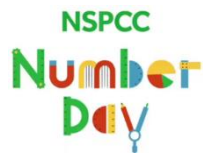
MILK MONEY
Milk Money is
Due for Feb-June
Cost: £19



CUMANN NA MBUNSCOL FIXTURES/EVENTS & POST PRIMARY SPORTS AND QUIZ INVITATIONS

As you can see from the list below, the school is invited to a lot of events. Money raised from the Christmas show is used to fund buses. An average large bus trip from Bellaghy to Magherafelt is round £230 and a 16-seater mini bus around £100. Children are transported where possible by car to reduce the costs. Cars used are insured on teachers' personal insurance for business use. We are very grateful to our teachers for providing this additional support.

SD 5-a-side Indoor Girls Football Meadowbank	• Wednesday 15th January
St Mary's Grammar Cross Country	• Thursday 16th January
SD Cross Country St Patrick's College, Maghera	• Friday 17th January
St Pius X College Basketball	• Tuesday 21st January
Girls Camogie Skills Test Meadowbank	• Wednesday 22nd January
SD 5-a-side Indoor Camogie & Boys Football Meadowbank	• Wednesday 29th January
Bannvale Credit Union Quiz	• Friday 7th February 10am
All County CNB Quiz Owenbeg	• Thursday 20th February
BOYS Holy Family Tony Fitzpatrick Memorial	• Thursday 6th March
AC 5-a-side Indoor Camogie Finals Meadowbank	• Friday 7th March
AC 5-a-side Indoor Boys & Girls Football Finals Meadowbank	• Thursday 13th March
Ulster Indoor Boys & Girls Football Finals Meadowbank	• Wednesday 19th March
Ulster Indoor Camogie Finals Meadowbank	• Thursday 20th March
St PIUS X COLLEGE Spring into Maths Quiz	• March
BOYS St Trea's PS Ballymaguigan Eamon Coleman Memorial	• Wednesday 7th May
All County Camogie Championships BALLINASCREEEN	• Friday 9th May
BOYS & GIRLS Derrycrin PS Aaron Devlin Memorial	• Friday 16th May
SD Boys Football Championships Div 1 Glen	• Thursday 22nd May
SD Girls Football Championships Glen	• Thursday 5th June
SD Sports Day Meadowbank	• Tuesday 10th June
AC Girls Football Championships Owenbeg	• Friday 13th June 10am – 12.30pm
Francis Lagan Football Finals Owenbeg	• Friday 13th June 7.00pm-9.30pm



NUMBER DAY FRIDAY 7th FEBRUARY

The annual N.S.P.C.C. Number Day will take place on Friday 7th February. Children are invited to 'wear numbers' to school. Miss Monaghan and Mrs McNamara our Maths co-ordinators will be organising a fun-filled day of maths activities and games, while raising support for services such as Speak out Stay safe and Childline.

ACCELERATED READER CERTIFICATES

The Accelerated Reader Programme continues to be a true success in promoting reading fluency from P4-7. Congratulations to those who received certificates at our assembly.

ASSEMBLY DATES:

TBC dates for your diaries!

Dates will be confirmed by class teachers nearer the time.

P1 Miss Walls	Fri 6 th June
P2 Mrs Fegan	Fri 11 th April
P3 Mrs McNamara	Fri 14 th March
P4 Miss Monaghan	Fri 16 th May
P5 Mrs Dooley	Fri 21 st March
P6 Mrs Mulholland/Miss Cassidy	Fri 7 th February
P7 Mrs McWilliams	Leavers assembly Fri 20 th June



YOUNG WRITERS COMPETITION

Huge congratulations to Leah Graffin, Marcie Rocks and Fionntán Boyle who were winners in the 'Young Writers Competition'. Their work will be published in a real book!! Well done boys and girls!

UNIFORM

We are proud of our uniform at St Mary's and we would like to remind parents that we expect the correct uniform to be worn every day in school. Children have the option of a trousers, jog-bottoms, or skirt.



During this term, P.E shorts cannot be worn as daily uniform and should only be used during P.E lessons. The children are required to change into their uniform after the PE lesson.

When a child moves to secondary school then the uniform becomes much more formal. We must establish good routines now, in primary school, so that children understand expectations as they move through life.

SWIMMING ARRANGEMENTS

Primary 4 & 5 SWIMMING

Swimming lessons will start for all Primary 4 & 5 pupils from week commencing 27th January.

Primary 4 lessons swim on Tuesdays

Primary 5 swim on Wednesdays

All children need swimming goggles.

Cost £3.00 per week

This is payable weekly, or in monthly sums.



SACRAMENTAL DATES

First Confession

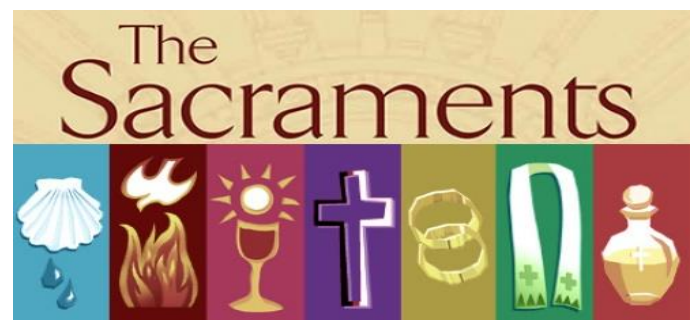
Tuesday 25th March 7pm

Confirmation

Friday 28th March 11am

Holy Communion

Saturday 10th May 11am



FMS COACHING

Wolfe Tones Baile Eachaidh GAC continue to provide super support for our children. Michael Gerard Doherty who is a fully qualified primary teacher and sports coach has revitalised our PE lessons for both staff and pupils. We are very grateful for this support.

ECO & STUDENT COUNCIL NEWS

Book Swap

Bring a Book

Thursday

6th February

Take a Book

To promote recycling and reading, the Eco & School Council have decided to host a Book Swap on Thursday 6th February. We would greatly appreciate donations of books (or children's magazines/comics). The books/magazines must be in a decent condition with no rips. The books will be collected daily and stored in the P1 room until the event.

We hope we get a good response from all classes.

