



Saint Mary's Primary School and Nursery Unit

www.stmaryspsbellaghy.co.uk

September/October 2025



TERM 1 DATES

Thursday 28th August –
Monday 22nd December

CLOSURES

Mon 29th Sept

School closure for
all classes
(staff training)

Mon 27th October–

Fri 31st October inclusive

School closed for
Halloween Break

EVENTS

Sun 7th Sept

Opening Year Mass 11am

Fri 26th Sept

European Day of Languages
Dress Up

Wed 8th Thurs 9th Fri 10th

October

1pm finish P1-7

Parent Teacher Meetings.
Times will be sent out by
teachers. If you have a
preference for a particular
day, please let the class
teacher know.

Wednesday 15th October

School Photographer
Nursery, P1 & P7

Fri 24th October

Halloween Dress Up
All classes (P1-P7) will
finish at 1pm

WELCOME BACK!

Welcome back to all our boys and girls, and a special welcome to our new pupils who have joined St Mary's Primary School and Nursery Unit. We know they will love St Mary's!

It is wonderful to see all the classes back at school with lots of stories to tell about their summer fun. We are delighted to welcome new staff to the school: Mrs L McAteer (P5 teacher) Mr C Lynch (P7 teacher) Mrs A Hearty & Miss M Convery (P1 teachers) and Ms Seon McCloskey and Miss Emma Craig (Assistants). We trust they will be very happy at St Mary's.

We are all so proud to see all the classes looking so smart in their new school uniform. We hope to encourage and reward full school uniform as the year progresses.

We ask that uniforms be **clearly marked with the child's name and class**. There is a white band on the inside collar of the half-zip which is very suitable for writing the child's name with a permanent marker.

WELCOME TO PRIMARY 1





Primary 1/2
Primary 4
Primary 7

NUT FREE POLICY

We have staff and pupils in school with severe nut allergies.

As a result St Mary's is a 'Nut Aware – Nut Free School'.

Please be vigilant when packing snacks and lunches to ensure that no nuts come in to the school.

Please **DO NOT** send your child into school with any nut-based products – this includes:

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Peanut jelly • Nutella based products • Spreads, e.g. chocolate spread • Cereal bars 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Some types of biscuit containing nuts • Condiments, e.g. satay sauce • Cakes containing nuts • Some snack pots containing nuts
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It is important that you check the labelling of food products before sending these to school as it is not always apparent that products contain nuts or traces of nuts. We also ask that, if your child consumes any nut-based product before school, they wash their hands thoroughly and rinse their mouth before entering the school grounds.

Due to allergies in school, we ask parents to remind children that they are not allowed to share food.

Thank you for your continued support.

A PRAYER FOR OUR NEW SCHOOL YEAR

Bless our school
 Let trust, respect and love live here.
 Trust in one another,
 Show respect to one another,
 And love for life itself.

Let us remember...
 It takes many hands to build a school,
 But it takes many hearts and minds,
 To make it a happy place in which to
 work.
 Amen.



HOME/SCHOOL COMMUNICATION



Our school website has a communication app which allows messaging, letters and links to be sent directly from the class teacher.

It allows each pupil to have up to two contact numbers who will receive the information.

CONTACT INFORMATION

This week all parents will receive a copy of the contact information the school holds for their child(ren). Please ensure these forms are returned to the school by Friday of this week. All children need at least 3 contacts that can be used in case of emergency. Please return your data sheet ASAP

MESSAGING SERVICE

New parents will receive a text message with a verifying link to download the app for their child(ren)'s class. This is a secure platform to send reminders and notifications directly related to the class or whole school events.

If any of your details have changed from last year, please amend your data information accordingly. If your details change during the course of this year, please let the office know as soon as possible.

MEDICAL DETAILS

Also, please inform us of any new or relevant medical details which should be amended or added to your child's records.



TEACHER/PARENT COMMUNICATION

Please be reminded that parents can contact the class teacher by phoning the office, writing a note and sending it to school, or passing messages onto Mrs McCann at the front door each morning.

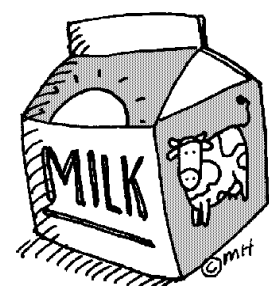
DECLARATIONS

On Monday 15th September parents will receive a text with a link for each of their children to grant permission for data protections, photographs, policies and procedures etc.

All Nursery and Primary 1 families will receive paper copies of the policies. Policies are all on the school website for P2-7 parents to view. If you wish to receive a paper copy, please notify the office.

Milk Money

Term 1	Term 2/3	Total
£16	£19	£35 for the year



SCHOOL DINNERS

The price of school dinners is £2.60 per day.

Children should bring their dinner money to school in a **labelled wallet or envelope** to ensure money does not go missing. Each classroom has a box for storing the wallets during the school day. The canteen staff collect dinner money directly from the children.

The menu is on the school website. If you have any queries or concerns, please contact the office to speak to Joanne Glasgow (School Cook).

FREE SCHOOL MEAL FORMS

Applications must be renewed annually or if circumstances change.

Forms are available from the school office or online: www.eani.org.uk/financial-help/free-school-meals

HEALTHY EATING POLICY

St Mary's is part of the Healthy Eating School Initiative. We try to encourage the children to make healthy choices for snack and lunch. We ask that all parents/guardians support us in the implementation of this policy at lunchtimes.

Children are encouraged to eat their sandwiches/bread items first before yoghurts and fruit. No crisps, chocolate (including small chocolate bars/chocolate spread, fizzy drinks) should be part of a child's snack or lunch. We ask for your full co-operation please.

The Student's Council introduced 'Everything in Moderation' Treat Day on Mondays.

Lunch children are allowed to bring one small treat such as a fun-sized bar in their lunch. No crisps are allowed. The Student's Council have agreed a list of suggested foods which is visible in all classrooms.

All children are encouraged to bring a **WATER BOTTLE** to school every day as the water fountains require a cup/bottle. They are welcome to refill them throughout the day.

SNACK

Children should bring one *small snack* to school each day such as a plain biscuit or piece of fruit to have at break time. Please do not send sandwiches as break time is very close to lunchtime when the children have more time to eat something more substantial.



AFTER SCHOOL CHOIR

For Sept and Oct Afterschool Choir for P4-7 is on each Monday **3-4pm**

New members are very welcome
Choir will start on Monday 6th October

MUSICAL TUITION!

Musical tuition has started.

Violin Fridays
Clarinet Thursdays

Any queries, please speak to Mrs Fegan or Mrs McCann



EUROPEAN DAY OF LANGUAGES

We celebrate European Day of Languages on Friday 26th Sept. Each class will research fun facts and information about a country in the EU. The children are invited to dress up in the country's colours.

- P1 France
- P2 Italy
- P3 Germany
- P4 Portugal
- P5 Ireland
- P6 Netherlands
- P6/7 Spain



SCHOOL PHOTOGRAPHER



Tempest will be in the school on **Wednesday 15th October.** Please ensure children are in full uniform.

Childhood is a unique experience.

Respect it.

Enjoy it.

Protect it.

11 - 19 OCTOBER mathsweek.ie
Maths Week 2025



MATHS WEEK IRELAND

Miss Elliott is co-ordinating Maths Week 2025. They have special Maths Challenges for all classes to complete. We look forward to lots of fun activities and competition!

Children will receive a code to register with their class. Target Boards will run every Friday until Maths Week. Miss Elliott will visit the classes with more information.

PUPIL MATHS CHALLENGE:

To help get us started, try to solve the challenge below... Write the answer on a piece of paper with your name and class and we will draw out a lucky winner in assembly on Friday.



PRIMARY 6 SWIMMING

Swimming lessons for Primary 6 and Primary 7. For 5 weeks until week commencing 30th Sept. After this, the swimming pool will close for 6/8 weeks for repairs.

COST: £3 per week payable weekly or as one lump sum.

FUNDAMENTAL MOVEMENT COACHING

We are delighted Michael Gerard Doherty will be coaching classes on Tuesdays. This coaching has been arranged and paid for by Bellaghy WolfTones GAC.

We are very grateful for this funding as we know as well as strengthening muscle and bones, exercise builds confidence, inspires positivity and improves social skills in our children.

MATHS CHALLENGE

I decided to save ten pounds in January, then double the amount each month thereafter.

How much will I need to save in June?



Answers on a piece of paper with your name/class and post in the box outside Miss Elliott's room



ATTENDANCE

Please remember to notify the school if your child is absent. The school has a responsibility to monitor attendance and notify support agencies when necessary.

Parents should send a note to the class teacher or call the office if a child has been off sick.

PE Tuesday



PARENT TEACHER MEETINGS

Following on from Parent Feedback in June, we are arranging two parent teacher meetings for the year 2025-2026.

The first set of settling in meetings are in October.

The second meeting will be progress meetings in February.

In term 3 all parents will receive their child's school report.

To facilitate these meetings, school will close at 1pm

Settling In Meetings P1-7

Wed 8th Thurs 9th Fri 10th October
1pm-3pm

Progress Meetings P1-7

Wed 25th Thurs 26th Fri 27th February TBC
1pm-3pm



- Parents of pupils within P1-7 will be invited to attend Parent/Teacher meetings
- School will close early on both days 1pm for all classes.
- We ask parents to collect children promptly on each day as there are no teachers available to supervise the children.
- Teachers will distribute times nearer the date.
- Meetings are strictly 10 minutes long.

Progress Parent Teacher Meetings in February - Dates will be confirmed nearer the time.

SCHOOL HOLIDAY LIST

All families have been given a copy of the school 2025-26 holiday list, which is also available on the school website. We would ask parents to arrange holidays during school closures.



ECO NEWS

Recycle Week 2025

Classes will be focusing on Recycling, Conserving Energy, Protecting the Planet.

We always appreciate adult helpers to help with small green projects. If you have time and would like to volunteer, please pass your name to the School Eco Co-ordinator or school office.

We say a huge thank you to the children who looked after the classroom plants over the summer months. The plants returned healthy and happy from their holidays!



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TWO TO THREE
CLUB
2.00-3.00pm
P1-3

Mon-Fri
Cost: £3 per child



MORNING CLUB
8.05-8.45am
P1-7

Mon-Fri
Cost: £1 per child



St. Mary's PS NU Who's Who 2025-2026



Nursery	Mrs Fiona McGill	Mrs Cathy McPeake
Primary 1	Mrs Angela Hearty Miss Molly Convery (Mrs Katie Carey)	Mrs Liz Logan
Primary 1/2	Miss Lauren Elliott	Mrs Pamela Donnelly Miss Hannah Byrne
Primary 3	Mrs Claire McWilliams	Mrs Megan Hanson Miss Sadie Cleary Ms Seon McCloskey
Primary 4	Miss Ciara Monaghan	Mrs Mary Curran Mrs Cathy McErlean
Primary 5	Mrs Leona McAteer	Mrs Diane Evans
Primary 6	Mrs Margaret Fegan	Mrs Zara McKeague Mrs Pauline Cullen
Primary 7	Mr Chris Lynch (Mrs Aileen McLea)	Ms Emma Craig

WELCOME TO PRIMARY 1



<p>Mrs Mary McCann Principal</p> 	<p>2025-2026</p> 	<p>Mrs Claire McWilliams Designated Teacher and eSafety Co-Ordinator</p> 
<p>Mrs Margaret Fegan Deputy Designated Teacher and First Aider</p> 	<p>Joe Diamond Chair of the Board of Governors</p> 	<p>Mrs Fiona McGill Deputy Designated Teacher</p> 
<p>Mrs Tracy Scullion Child Protection Governor</p> 	<p>Mrs Cathy McPeake First Aider (Nursery)</p> 	<p>Mrs Cathy McErlean First Aider (Primary)</p> 

Article 19 of UNCRC “Every child has the right to be protected from harm”



St Mary's PS and NU

Academic Year Planner 2025-2026

2025-26	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M			
August					1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28 P1 N	29 P1 -7	30	31				
September	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30									
October			1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31						
									Parent Teacher Meetings																														
November						1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30				
December	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31								
January				1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31					
February						1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28						
March						1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31			
April			1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30							
May					1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31				
June	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30									
		Holidays						Teaching Days											This calendar is subject to change. School will endeavour to notify parents of any changes ASAP																				

