



St Mary's Primary Newsletter

May 2023



Dear Parents,

- We would like to congratulate our Primary 7 children who were confirmed by Archbishop Martin on 26th April 2023. A huge thank you to everyone who helped make this such a memorable occasion.
- Northern Ireland Water has informed the school that a lane closure will be in place on the Derrytrasna Road to facilitate the installation of a wastewater infrastructure. Traffic lights will be in place to manage the flow of traffic and access to the school will be maintained. They have asked for our co-operation in ensuring that the children do not play in or around the site or machinery for their own safety.

School Closure

- Thursday 18th May - Elections
- Monday 29th May (Bank Holiday) & Tuesday 30th May (Staff Development Day)

Dates for your diary

First Communion - On Saturday 20th May at 1.00pm, P4 will be making their First Communion in St Mary's Derrytrasna (P5, P6 & P7 children will be singing; they are asked to wear full school uniform & be seated for 12:45pm)
• **Outcomes for post primary applications** are available this Saturday 20 May 2023. EA Connect will send an email with the outcome to those parents who have applied via the system and letters will be issued to those where no email is held. Parents can also view the outcome by logging into EA Connect.

- **School Photographs** will take place on Friday 26th May
- The Credit Union saving scheme continues Wednesday 24th May
- **Transition Project Programmes** to help prepare P7 for moving to their Post Primary schools will take place over 4 weeks beginning on 31st May 2023
- 'Love for Life' for P7, will be delivered in partnership with St Patrick's on 2nd June
- The Bee Safe Event with the Policing & Community Safety will take place on 15th June
- GAA Camogie/Hurling coaching takes place for P3 on Tuesdays for six weeks
- Swimming continues for P5 to P7 on Wednesday afternoons
- Whole Class Pathways Music Lessons for P5 to P7 continues on Friday with the EA School of Music
- Lurgan Cricket Club are providing coaching for 5 weeks beginning on 24th April
- Healthy Kidz coaches – (Thursdays) are helping to keep all our children fit.



Following our visit to Hillsborough Gardens, we continue to work in partnership with Portadown Health & Wellness and Empower Garden Centre.



As part of the development of our 'Outdoor Learning space', our P5/6 class worked with their parents and grandparents to design a mural. We had a wonderful time watching and listening to artist Dean as he used our plans to create this beautiful artwork. We are most grateful to Armagh, Banbridge and Craigavon Policing and Community Safety Partnership, for facilitating this Intergenerational Programme.

On 5th May two representatives from our school were invited to read and make a presentation to Dr Marie O' Kane CEO of Southern Health & Social Care Trust and Mrs Jan McGall Director of Mental Health & Disability Services at a special event organised by Mr McDowell. Emmet Coaker read '*Desiderata*' by Max Ehrmann and Emma Rogers read '*Our Deepest Fear*' by Marienne Williamson. Both children were excellent ambassadors for our school.

As a result of our participation Mr McDowell is bringing his team to work with our children. Following the visit to Hillsborough the children designed their own plan for our Garden. Over the next few weeks, we will all be working together to create our new garden. If you are willing to help in any way, please contact the school office.



We were delighted to be able to present Fr Fitzpatrick with a cheque for Trocaire for £290. Thank you to everyone for their generosity.

Today, Tuesday 16th May, the North Armagh League Final was held at the Sarsfields. It is a very special occasion this year as a new cup in memory of Master McCullaugh was presented for the first time. Mr McCullaugh had a great love of GAA and was the co-ordinator of this tournament for many years. We would like to thank Mrs Aldridge for donating this cup. We are delighted that St Mary's Derrytrasna won the final and are the first recipients. We thank Mr McCullaugh's family who were there and made the presentation. We know Mr McCullaugh would be delighted with the result. Congratulations to Mr Lavery and both teams. A special thanks to all who helped in the Sarsfields today.



*Many thanks to you all for your continued support – Mrs U. McAlinden
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