



St Mary's Newsletter April 2024



Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome to Term 3. We would like to wish our Primary 7 children best wishes and blessings on their Confirmation night. The Primary 4 children are working hard in preparation for their First Holy Communion on the 11th May 2024. A special word of thanks to Primary 5 for their diligence in recording the bulb measurements as part of the Edina Trust Bulb Project. We have noticed an increase in the use of IXL Maths & English throughout the school. We are delighted the children are taking this opportunity to reinforce their knowledge and skills especially our P1, P2 & P3 children. Thank you for your support.

Mrs McAlinden

Reminder of Important Dates:

- 6th May & 7th May 2024- School Closed for Bank Holiday
- 8th May is now a normal school day for all year group
- 27th May 2024- School Closed for Bank Holiday
- 28th May 2024 – School Closed for Staff Development Day

- 17th April at 7.00pm P7 Confirmation in St Patrick's Church
- 20th April 2024 FOSM TESCO Bag Pack - Please support us
- Saturday 11th May at 11.00pm First Communion for P4 in St Mary's
- 22nd April 2024 Gaelic Football for P4 & P5 on Monday with Liam McCorry
- 23rd, 24th & 25th April 2024 Primary One Visit by the School Nursing Team
- 25th April 2024 Cricket begins for P4-P7
- Swimming continues in South Lake Leisure Centre on Wednesday afternoon for P5,P6 & P7



Fr Fitzpatrick was delighted to receive £200 on behalf of Trocaire. Thank you for your generosity towards our Easter raffle which raised this amount.



19th April 2024 Cookery Demonstration from LMC. The Livestock and Meat Commission (LMC) have kindly provided a cookery demonstrator for our Primary 6 & 7 pupils on Friday 19th April. They will get the opportunity to sample some delicious local produce, and they will also be encouraged to think about the origin of food, the 'farm to fork' journey and the importance of farming and local food production in NI.

Primary One Applicants can check the online portal from 25th April 2024

<https://www.eani.org.uk/parents/admissions/placement-notification#section-16426>

Forthcoming School Trips

11th June 2024- Emerald Park (Tayto Park) -P5,P6 & P7

21st June 2024- Forevergreen - P1,P2,P3 & P4



P1, P2 & P3 had a very enjoyable time at Oxford Island. We are continuing to develop the children's knowledge of biodiversity.

We are looking forward to Portadown Empower Wellness Centre working with us as we continue to develop our Outdoor Learning.



Credit Union
collection dates 16th April
& 14th May 2024



Final orders are being taken for a reprint of 'Our Grandparent's Special Recipes.' The book sells at £3.50 for anyone interested in purchasing.

We would like to remind you that the children's attendance continues to be closely monitored by the Education Authority



EVERY SCHOOL DAY COUNTS –

Every single day a child is absent from school equates to a day of lost learning.

Attendance percentages can be misleading.

100% Attendance	0 Days Missed	Excellent
95% Attendance	9 Days of Absence 1 Week and 4 Days of Learning Missed	Satisfactory
90% Attendance	19 Days of Absence 3 Weeks and 4 Days of Learning Missed	Poor
85% Attendance	28 Days of Absence 5 Weeks and 3 Days of Learning Missed	Very Poor
80% Attendance	38 Days of Absence 7 Weeks and 3 Days of Learning Missed	Unacceptable
75% Attendance	46 Days of Absence 9 Weeks and 1 Day of Learning Missed	Unacceptable

For some parents, 90% may seem like an acceptable level of attendance, but the reality is that 90% attendance means that your child will miss half a school day each week or 19 days of school during the school year – that's nearly 4 school weeks.



Give your child the best start in life – every school day counts.



P4 & P5 loved experiencing life in the Medieval Times when they visited Carrickfergus Castle on 12th April 2024.

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

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