



# ST. MARY'S NEWSLETTER

October 2020

Term 1

## Dear Parents/Guardians

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you all for your support as we have returned to school under the Department of Education 'Restart Guidance' and for the very generous voluntary contributions that you have made towards our school 'Restart' Programme.

A note of great appreciation to 'Derrytrasna and Derrymacash Mothers and Toddlers Group' for their generous donation of £800 to School Funds.



Over the next week 'Settling – In' Parent-Teacher Phone calls will be taking place.

**Midterm break for the children is 26<sup>th</sup> October – 30<sup>th</sup> October.**

We hope everyone has an enjoyable break.

Mrs U McAlinden

**FOSM** - The Friends of St Mary's PTA Sponsored Spooky walk takes place on Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> October in our 'class bubbles.' We ask that the children wear fancy dress that is comfortable enough to be worn all day. No additional 'props' are to be brought in.

We are looking forward to a 'Pumpkin Carving Contest' on Monday 18<sup>th</sup> October.



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### Celebrating Our Achievements

Congratulations to our 'old' Primary 7 children on receiving their Confirmation on 3<sup>rd</sup> September. We wish them every success in their new schools.



Congratulations to our Primary 5 children who made their First Communion on 12<sup>th</sup> September.



We are delighted to let you know that during 'Lockdown' the school was awarded its 'ECO Flag'. A special word of thanks and congratulations to Mrs Dargan and the ECO committee for all their hard work.





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Many thanks to our School's Specialist Diabetic Nurse Mrs Ingram who renewed training for staff and contributed to us receiving our Good Diabetes Care in School Award.



### **Library Books**

Our school library van has asked that any library books that are at home, be returned to the boxes within the school and they will collect them over the next few weeks. The children are not visiting the library van currently but books from the school may be borrowed. All books will be held in 'quarantine' for 72 hours before being re-issued.

Please return any textbooks or reading books that you still have at home from previous years as soon as possible.

### **Numeracy**

Maths Week takes place on 10<sup>th</sup>-18<sup>th</sup> October.



Lurgan Credit Union are not in a position to operate their school saving scheme in the present circumstances. However the children can continue to save by visiting the office in Lurgan.

### **School Uniform**

Please ensure all items are labelled. There are a number of items in Lost Property which can be collected.

### **ICT**

We are continuing with our development of the children's skills in ICT. Our P6/P7 class have just been linked to a school in the USA as part of their JDO project. They will be able to use the Google Platform to meet new friends.



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**'Blended Learning'** - As part of the 'Blended Learning' approach we have subscribed to the 'IXL programme' this access is available from Primary one –Primary seven.

### **Literacy**

In a continuation of our Reading Programme we have signed up to the Accelerated Reading Programme for this incoming year for Primary 4 - Primary 7.

### **Personal Development & Mutual Understanding**

P4, P5, P6/7 have enjoyed a zoom session about 'Healthy Me' delivered by the MensSana team from the Southern Trust Area.

Parents are encouraged to talk to their children about keeping safe especially if they are using the internet. To get help with parental controls the NSPCC website is [www.nspcc.org.uk/controls](http://www.nspcc.org.uk/controls) or the helpline is 0808 8005002.

### **Our Safeguarding Team**

**Designated Teacher: Mr I Lavery**

**Deputy Designated Teacher: Mrs B Chambers**

**Principal: Mrs McAlinden**

**Designated Governor: Mrs K Doherty**

*Many thanks to you all for your continued support.*

**LET'S ALL KEEP OUR SCHOOL SAFE**

We need your help! We want everyone to be safe, healthy and enjoy school. So, make sure you follow these new rules...

**IF YOU ARE SICK YOU MIGHT HAVE TO STAY AT HOME**

Going to school is really important but if you have a bad cough or feel very warm, tell a grown up right away.

**GIVE EACH OTHER SPACE**

Keep a safe distance from your teachers and friends as much as you can. You should try to stay in your bubble.

**WASH YOUR HANDS**

Wash your hands lots of times during the day. (Make sure you wash them as soon as you get to school too!)

**CATCH YOUR COUGHS & SNEEZES**

Cover your face with your elbow or use a tissue. (Don't forget to put used tissues in the bin!)

**HOLD ONTO YOUR OWN ITEMS**

You shouldn't share things like pencils, food and drinks with your friends.

**IT'S OK TO HAVE QUESTIONS! YOU CAN ALWAYS ASK A PARENT, CARER OR TEACHER.**

**EDUCATION RESTART**

**WE ALL MUST DO IT TO GET THROUGH IT**

Department of Education  
[www.education-ni.gov.uk](http://www.education-ni.gov.uk)

STAY SAFE. MAKE SPACE.