

St. Mary's Newsletter

November 2023



Dear Parents,

We have had a very busy and successful new term. The children have been involved in many different events, a flavour of which are included in this Newsletter.

We are continuing to use our digital packages to complement our teaching and learning. All children from P1-P7 have logins for IXL English and Maths www.ixl.com/signin/stmarysprimary. We have also recently renewed our subscription to Accelerated Reader for Primary 4 to Primary 7 children. It is beneficial in encouraging and motivating the children to become independent readers. These digital packages are available for the children to use and form part of our 'Remote Learning' program in the event of school closures.

To facilitate Staff Development Training, we are changing the Staff Development Day of the 8th May 2024 to Friday 8th December 2023 which is the Feast Day of the Immaculate Conception. The school will be closed to the children on the 8th December.

Thank you very much for your generosity and support to the school and to the fundraising events of the Friends of St Mary's (FOSM). All of this is a huge benefit to our children.

Mrs McAlinden

• Important Dates:

- **27th & 28th November** - Final two days of the Travelling Book Fair in the school hall.
- **29th November 2023 -12:30 pm start for all pupils** (dinners available) due to Strike Action
- **29th November -1:00pm** – Whole school Performance by Mr Hullabaloo (Thanks for their generosity)
- **1st December** Santa Daily Mile - Children may come to school in their Christmas Jumpers
- **1st December 2023** -Switching on of the Christmas Lights at the Sarsfields, all children from P4-P7 will be singing Christmas Carols. The children may wear warm clothes and be at the Sarsfields for 6:45pm
- **4th & 11th December** Primary 4 & 5 are participating in EA Creative Music iPad workshops
- **8th December 2023 – School Closed for Staff Development Training**
- **19th December 2023** our Christmas Performance of '**Bethlehem Ballroom**' will be at 10:00am. The performance will involve all children from P1-P7 and everyone is welcome.
- **22nd December 2023** - 12noon finish for Christmas Holidays



A Special Word of thanks to the Sarsfields for providing the Intergenerational Halloween party on Wednesday 25 October. The children were able to play some old-fashioned games, do craft activities and received treats. We had a very enjoyable morning.

Religion

Congratulations to Primary 4 as they made their First Confession on 22nd November 2023. A special word of thanks to Fr Murphy and Fr Fitzpatrick. The **Sacrament of First Communion** will be on **11th May 2024 at 11:00am in St Mary's Church**

The **P7** children will be receiving the **Sacrament of Confirmation on 17th April 2024 at 7:00pm in St Patrick's Derrymacash**

Thank you for your continued support. Please follow 'St. Mary's Primary School, Derrytrasna' Facebook and 'Friends of St Mary's FOSM' Facebook for more information.

We were delighted to be the NI Winners of the Translink 'Life Better Connected Campaign' where the prize was a Master class with the NI based Australian street artist Danni Simpson. Danni commented on the enthusiasm of our pupils: "It was great fun to meet the young people and chat to them about art and creativity. They all have their own unique artistic talents, and it was fantastic to help encourage them to try different approaches. The visit also brought to life some of the key themes from the recent Life Better. Connected mural roadshow and helped illustrate the important role public transport plays in each of these, from climate to education." A special word of thanks to our FOSM who entered us for the competition.



Information for Parents



On 9th November 2021, Education Minister Michelle McIlveen launched a new app for schools to safeguard children and young people when online. We would encourage all families to download this Safer School App which is provided to our school by the Department of Education and INEQE Safeguarding Group. The app continues to offer support and reassurance in keeping children safer when online. The app can be downloaded on either the App Store or Google Play. Landing Page <https://saferschoolsni.co.uk/>

Our Safeguarding Team

Designated Teacher: Mr I Lavery
Deputy Designated Teacher: Mrs B Chambers
Principal: Mrs McAlinden
Designated Governor: Mrs K Doherty

Christmas Musical Performances

On Friday 1st December the P4, P5, P6 and P7 children will be singing at the 'Lighting up the Community' Event at the Sarsfields. The children should be there at 6.45pm to perform for the switching on of the lights. They may wear their 'ordinary clothes' so they are warm at nighttime.

On Tuesday 19th December at 10.00am there will be a whole school performance of 'Bethlehem Ballroom' in the Assembly Hall and all are welcome to attend.

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Credit Union Saving Scheme

The Credit Union continues to collect saving books from the school on the following dates:

5th December; 9th January; 6th February; 12th March; 16th April; 14th May; 11th June 2024



Primary 7 Post Primary School Transition Programmes

As part of the preparation for Post Primary School, P6/7 attended Lismore College's new school on 24th November for their 'Taster Sessions'.

P6/7 have been invited to the St Ronan's production of 'Frozen' on 14th December 2023.

Library Books

Our school library van has been in school on Thursday 23rd November. Future dates are: 21st December; 18th January; 14th March; 11th April and 9th May 2024.

RISE NI (Regional Integrated Support for Education in N.I.)

is a service jointly funded by Health and Education, Information for Parents can be viewed on <https://view.pagetiger.com/RISENI/parents>

Anti Bullying Week was 13th-17th November and this year's theme was 'Make a Noise about Bullying.'

Music

All the children from Primary 5, 6 and 7 have begun their music lessons with the School of Music. Every child is learning to play a string instrument- viola or violin and to help meet the costs a small weekly donation is required, payment is through the school app. We are delighted to inform you that FOSM have successfully applied to the Credit Union for a grant to purchase more music stands. We would like to thank the Credit Union for their sponsorship.

P.E

We will be continuing with our P.E programs. Primary 6/7 have been participating in GAA coaching with Mr Liam McCorry on Mondays. All classes have availed of Healthy Kidz on Thursdays. Please ensure you wear the St Mary's P.E uniform only. Well done to our football team on their recent performances in the Football Tournaments.

Healthy Kidz

Healthy Kidz Afterschool continues on Monday afternoons, bookings can be made through the link <https://healthy-kidz.com/product/healthy-kidz-afterschools-st-marys-ps-derrytrasna-term-1-2023-24/> Coach Mags is also facilitating a Healthy Kidz Netball club on a Wednesday afternoon for P4-P7.

Healthy Break – Nut Free School

The school promotes healthy break and lunches. The children are encouraged to drink water during the day. Please send water only in the children's water bottles. We currently have members of our school community who have allergies including an allergy to nuts. Please do not send any food products that contain peanuts with the children to school. Thank you for your consideration.

Reminders:

Please remember to check your child's hair regularly for head lice. [Head lice and nits - NHS](#) (www.nhs.uk) or [Head lice | nidirect](#)

Parent Meetings

We were delighted the Parent - Teacher meetings. Thank you very much for your attendance at our recent parent-teacher meetings. We appreciate the opportunity to meet and discuss your children.

Thank you for your continued support. Please follow 'St. Mary's Primary School, Derrytrasna' Facebook and 'Friends of St Mary's FOSM' Facebook for more information.