



# St Mary's Newsletter October 2025



## Dear Parents and Carers,

We would like to remind you that the school will be closed for staff training on 6<sup>th</sup> October. Our school is a member of the Lakeside Area Learning Community (LALC) and we have been successful in our application to the Department of Education to hold a research informed conference, 'Making Best practice, Common Practice.' We are continuing to develop the children's reading skills. NI libraries are hoping to visit the school every two weeks for the children to change library books and we would encourage you to continue to read stories/rhymes to your children. The book exchange inside the front foyer is open for everyone to select a book, read and return. We welcome the new members to our PTA-FOSM and thank all our past members for their contributions towards St Mary's.

Mrs McAlinden

## Reminder of Important Dates:

- 2<sup>nd</sup> October Bike Skills Active Travel for P5& P6
- 3<sup>rd</sup> October – 'Bring your Scooter' for P3 & P4
- 3<sup>rd</sup> October – P7 WW2 School Trip
- 6<sup>th</sup> October -School Closed Staff Training
- 17<sup>th</sup> October -St Ronan's College Football Tournament
- 20<sup>th</sup> October – P7 Bake off & Coffee Morning
- 20<sup>th</sup> -24<sup>th</sup> October -Parent Meetings
- 24<sup>th</sup> October – Sponsored Spooky Walk

**As part of our involvement in the Sustrans Active School Travel programme, we are offering a scooter skill session to P3 & P4 pupils, which will be led by Dave Wiggins, our Sustrans Active Travel Officer. The session will take place outdoors on the school playground and centre on fun scooting skills games aimed at improving co-ordination, balance and road safety awareness as well as developing an understanding of scooter safety checking. For P5 & P6 we will be running a bike skills/games session, which will take place outdoors, during the school day, on the school playground and focus on fun skills games (aimed at improving co-ordination, balance and awareness). If your child is not wearing a helmet, we will require a note from the parent.**

Link to Active School Travel  
<https://mail.sustrans.org.uk/7CK6-A65V->

Healthy Kidz Afterschool Gymnastics is on Monday's from 2-3pm for P1,P2 & P3 and Hyrox Kidz for P4,P5,P6 & P7 is from 3-4pm.

Booking is through the  
<https://activities.bookpebble.co.uk/supplier/healthy-kidz-9f67b5cd-d92c-4ba8-81ff-4803db289a70>

EA Music Pathways provides tuition for all children in P5/P6 & P7 with the violin and viola.

Ulster GAA football skills with Mr McCorry is on Mondays for P5/6/7

Healthy Kidz for P1-P7 is on Thursdays

STEPS into History Workshop was enjoyed by P5, P6 & P7 on Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> September.

## St Mary's P.S Safeguarding Team



**Mrs McAlinden**  
Principal



**Mr Lavery**  
Designated Teacher  
Safeguarding  
Child Protection



**Mrs Chambers**  
Deputy  
Designated Teacher



**Mrs K. Doherty**  
Designated Governor  
for Safeguarding &  
Child Protection



**Mr G Smyth**  
Chair of Board  
of Governors

Please visit the school website for our policies or contact the school office for a printed copy.

Thank you to the school nursing team for delivering the Flu Vaccination on 30<sup>th</sup> September.





# St Mary's Newsletter October 2025



Reminder: School uniform-Please ensure all items are labelled. There are a number of items in lost property which can be collected.

## Allergy Aware

**Please be aware that some children in school have peanut/hazelnut/gluten allergies.**

Reminder to please keep checking your child's head. Head lice and nits are very common in young children and their families. They are not caused by dirty hair and are picked up by head-to-head contact.  
<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/head-lice-and-nits/>

**'Eat Smart Week' 29<sup>th</sup> Sept -3<sup>rd</sup> October will focus on a different food or topic each day. Monday to Thursday is based around the Eatwell guide and the four main food groups associated with it.**  
**Monday – Fruit and Veg**  
**Tuesday – Carbohydrates**  
**Wednesday – Protein**  
**Thursday – Dairy**  
**Friday will focus on sustainable eating.**  
**Each day, a main course and a taster pot will be served associated with that day's topic. Kitchens will still serve the main course option from that week's menu.**



Thanks to everyone who saved with us last year. Your savings earned the school £300. Future savings dates are: 7<sup>th</sup> October, 4<sup>th</sup> November, 2<sup>nd</sup> December, 6<sup>th</sup> January, 3<sup>rd</sup> February, 3<sup>rd</sup> March, 14<sup>th</sup> April, 12<sup>th</sup> May and 16<sup>th</sup> June. We would also like to thank the Credit Union for their grant to the FOSM which helped purchase a new music trolley.

We would like to remind you that the children's attendance continues to be closely monitored by the Department of Education. Please see the Information below:

- Tips for parents on how to help their child with their education. <https://www.nidirect.gov.uk/campaigns/give-your-child-helping-hand>
- Your learning is key to your future success- let nothing hold you back.  
<https://www.nidirect.gov.uk/campaigns/try-and-stop-me>
- Attendance at school is not just essential, its good in many ways.  
<https://www.nidirect.gov.uk/campaigns/miss-school-miss-out>



## 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.

**SCHOOL SAVERS!**  
Savings reward scheme

9<sup>th</sup> September  
7<sup>th</sup> October  
4<sup>th</sup> November  
2<sup>nd</sup> December  
6<sup>th</sup> January  
3<sup>rd</sup> February  
3<sup>rd</sup> March  
14<sup>th</sup> April  
12<sup>th</sup> May  
16<sup>th</sup> June

\*Dates may be subject to change

For every £1000 the children of your school save, we will donate £100 to your school!  
\*Up to the value of £300 per year

Lurgan Credit Union

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

191 Derrytrasna Road, Lurgan, t: 028 38340295

[info@st.marys.derrytrasna.ni.sch.uk](mailto:info@st.marys.derrytrasna.ni.sch.uk)

[www.stmarysderrytrasna.org](http://www.stmarysderrytrasna.org)