



St Mary's Newsletter November 2025



Dear Parents and Carers,
We would like to express our thanks to all parents who joined us at our recent Parent Teacher meetings, please contact your child's teacher if you still require an appointment.

We are very grateful to the Sarsfields Senior GAA Team who made time to visit St Mary's following their win as Armagh County Champions. The whole school had a wonderful morning on 20th October 2025, celebrating this great occasion.
Mrs McAlinden



Dates For the Diary:

- 3rd November 'Bring your Scooter' for P3 & P4
- 10th-14th November Anti-Bullying Week -Power for Good
- 12th November – Sacrament of Reconciliation -P4
- 14th November – Malachy McGeeney GAA Tournament
- 18th -25th November – Travelling Book Fair
- 1st December – P7 Christmas Bake off & Coffee Morning from 9:30-11:00am
- 2nd December – Open Afternoon for Prospective New P1 Parents and Children 2:15-4:00pm
- 18th December - Christmas Play Performance by P1-P7 beginning at 10am
- 22nd December – 12 noon Finish - Christmas Holidays

Sustrans Active Program

Many thanks to Dave Wiggins for facilitating the bicycle workshop for P5/P6 & P7. Our P3/4 children enjoyed a great session, learning new scooter skills on Monday 10th November. We look forward to our 'Ditch the Dark' assembly on 28th November 2025. Link to Active School Travel.

<https://mail.sustrans.org.uk/7C/K6-A65V-32/sv.aspx>



Our P3,P5 &P7 children are participating in the DE 'RAISE Programme.' This new research study involves the children using Amira Learning, which is a reading support tool, aligned with research-informed approaches to early literacy and powered by AI.



18th- 25th November the Book Fair will be in school. Last year your generosity gained us £254.90 in Rewards. We have spent this purchasing 'decodable' books and resources to help with phonics.



We have started Anti-Bullying Week with Odd Socks Day in Primary 1!



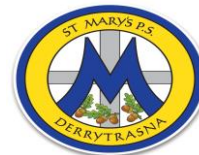
Thank you to Mr Colin Emerson for kindly donating the sand and wood bark for our Outdoor Learning Area. The children are enjoying playing in the sand and new bark outdoors.

Our Christmas Play BAH Humbug! will be on Thursday 18th December at 10:00am





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Links within our community



P7 enjoyed participating in an Inter-generational 'Living History Victorian School' session, in the Sarsfields Community Hall with the Senior Citizen group on 22nd October, P5,6 & 7 children had a cross community trip to Ardmore Hall on 15th October. Thank you to everyone for the hospitality shown towards the children and for inviting us.

Thank you to Portadown Wellness Centre and Westland Horticulture Centre for their incredible donation of seeds. We have already begun weeding and planting!



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

P5/6 enjoyed their trip to the Ulster Museum on 8th October as part of their Egyptian's Topic.



P7 enjoyed their visit to the War Museum in Belfast on 3rd October.



Thank you to the FOSM for organizing the 'Guess the Weight of the Pumpkin.' Congratulations to our winners, Shay and Charlie!



Thank you to our Firemen who paid a special visit on 21st October to Primary 5 & 6 to make them more aware of fire safety.



MONDAY 6 WEEKS
P1-P3 MULTI-SPORTS @ 2PM-3PM
P4-P7 BASKETBALL @ 3PM-4PM

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

We would like to acknowledge the huge effort made by our families by providing costumes for the children as part of the Sponsored Spooky Walk. A huge thanks to everyone for their generosity a total of £1270.50 for school funds.



Credit Union

Future savings dates are:
2nd December,
6th January,
3rd February,
3rd March,
14th April,
12th May and
16th June.

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.

NI Libraries Mobile Van will be back in school on Thursday 20th November

EA Music Pathways continues to provide tuition for all children in P5/P6 & P7 in violin and viola.

Ulster GAA football skills continues with Mr McCorry on Mondays for P5/6/7. Healthy Kidz continues for P1-P7 with Coach Mags on Thursdays.

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

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