



St. Mary's Primary School

Parents' Newsletter

May 2018 Issue 69

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Testing Times Ahead

The annual end of year assessments commences week beginning **Monday 21st May**. Pupils from P.3-6 will sit their end of year assessments in their year bands in the sports hall. We hope for full attendance all of this week as there is a busy schedule ahead for the children. Each pupil will sit 1 assessment per day. Results of these assessments will form part of the written Annual Report issued week beginning 25th June.

SCHOOL HOLIDAYS

School will be closed on **Monday 7th May**
And **Monday 28th - Friday 1st June**

School closes **Friday 29th June @11am** for the summer term

May Altar

Come and pause and say a prayer at our May Altar in the front porch which has been created and maintained by the youngest in school - our P1 children.

An Inspector Calls.... Again

It seems to be every year we get a visit from the Education and Training Inspectorate – whether it's for Shared Education or Extended schools. This time their focus was on whether we could sustain the high standards of education that they saw in February 2015. The Governors and Staff are very pleased to state that the school achieved a glowing report in its recent 'Sustaining Improvement' inspection on Literacy. The ETI stated that the school continues to demonstrate this high level of capacity for sustained improvement in the interest of all the learners. The report is available by a link on the front page of the school website.

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION

The Primary 4 children will make their First Holy Communion on **Saturday 19th May at 11.00am** in St. Mary's Church. Immediately after the service there will be a **group photograph** of all the P4 pupils at the altar, and following this a reception for the children, their parents, families and friends in St Mary's Parochial Hall. PJ Campbell (photographer) will set up a studio in the hall to take individual photographs of the children and/or family groups. Parents of our Primary 3 children will be asked to make a contribution to the Holy Communion reception by providing either biscuits or buns. As this is a very small year group any donations from our parents will be greatly received. Please leave the donations in the school office on the days prior to Holy Communion.

Budget Cuts

Difficult times are ahead of us at St Mary's. Like all schools we are facing huge reductions in our funding. This undoubtedly places a strain on the school striving to maintain and sustain the high standards spoken of above with less and less resources to avail of. I have been Principal here for ten years and our next school year 2018-19 is unprecedented in terms of the budget available. This undoubtedly will affect all staff at all levels in our school. We will continue to do our very best to reduce expenditure with as little impact as possible on the educational experience of the children.

Unfortunately, we have received word that the school will not get funding for Extended Schools activities for the 2018-19 school year. This is a big blow for the school. That means a loss of after school's clubs, the Musical Pathway Programme for P4/5, school transport on trips, the drumming workshop, Literacy support for KS2 pupils and the list goes on.

As you know the vast majority of the visits, visitors, resources, after school clubs, bus trips are funded entirely by external sources of funding. As a school we apply for these 'pockets' of money to enhance the experience of children in our school. These sources of funding too are reducing, in fact dwindling!

Last year we made a change in how funding was allocated to programmes. We asked you, our Parents, to support us through the sponsorship in Term 1 to pay for the 'Healthy Kidz' programme on Thursdays. Although we raised a substantial amount with this fundraiser we still had to supplement the cost with £500 of Extended Schools funding. A questionnaire will go live on our website soon for you to complete. It will gauge your opinion on paying for external coaches and for After School activities. **Please do complete and return the questionnaire and include any comments/suggestions that you may have.**

Birthdays Celebrations

Conan McCullagh
Kian Bleeks
Fiontan Coyle

Sports Day at St. Mary's

We have provisionally booked one day (*the best day!*) during the week beginning 4th June as our Sports Day... here's hoping the sun shines for us!

We will keep you posted of the arrangements.

Confirmation

We were so proud of our P7 pupils who received the gifts of the Holy Spirit at their Confirmation ceremony on Thursday past. One more important milestone in their journey to becoming confident young adults. Professional photographs are available of the class please see school website and class porch for proofs.

Grateful thanks to Mr Reilly, Clodagh and Sinead for all their work in the preparations.

DATES FOR THE DIARY: MAY

Date	Event
4 th	Mrs Duffy's class assembly
7 th	School closed
8 th	Ulster Museum trip Mr Reilly's class
9 th	Gaelic Football Tournament
10 th	Gaelic Football Blitz Mr McGahan's class
19 th	First Holy Communion
21 st -25 th	SCHOOL ASSESSMENTS
22 nd	Shared Education lesson No5- Mrs Duffy's class
23 rd	Mrs McBride's class assembly
24 th	Ulster Museum trip Mr McGahan's class
25 th	Farm Safety Presentation
28 th - 1 st June	School closed

ONLINE APPLICATION FOR HOME SCHOOL TRANSPORT

The EA has introduced a new, online process for any new parents applying for home to school transport assistance (Parents of P1 pupils). Application should now be completed at

www.eani.org.uk/transportapp

The qualifying distance is three miles for Post Primary and two miles for Primary.

POST PRIMARY SCHOOLS

Parents of P7 pupils transferring to their Post Primary school will be informed of the decision on **Saturday 19th May** by first class mail.

A note detailing contingency measures if this post fails to arrive, will be issued to P7 parents shortly. This will provide telephone numbers of personnel you will be able to contact in the Education Authority.



MAY SCHOOL MEALS



	Week commencing;7 th May	Week commencing: 14 th May	Week commencing:21 st May	Week commencing;28 th May
Monday	School Closed	Savoury Mince Butchers Burgers Peas/Carrots Mashed Pots/Pasta/Gravy Fruit Sponge Cake and Custard	Irish Stew Fish Fingers Peas/Carrots/Pasta Mashed Pots/Gravy Chocolate Sponge and Custard	School Closed
Tuesday	Fish Fingers Chicken Wrap Sweetcorn and Peas Chips and Mashed Pots Shortbread Biscuit and Custard	Chicken Curry and Rice Fish Fingers Chips/Mashed Pots/Gravy Beans/Sweetcorn/Gravy Swiss Roll and Chocolate Sauce	Chicken Nuggets Oven Baked Chicken Wrap Chips/Mashed Potato Sweetcorn/Savoury/Rice Apple Crumble and Custard	School Closed
Wednesday	Cottage Pie Butchers Burgers Peas and Beans Mashed Pots/Pasta/Gravy Swiss Roll and Custard	Roast Chicken/Stuffing Carrots /Broccoli/Pasta Mashed Pots/Gravy Jelly and Fruit	Grilled Bacon Cheese and Tomato Pizza Beans/Peas/Pasta Chips/Mashed Pots/Gravy Shortbread/Fruit/Custard	School Closed
Thursday	Roast Chicken/Stuffing Carrots and Broccoli Mashed Pots/Pasta/Gravy Fruit Sponge and Custard	Pasta Bolognaise Butchers Burgers Peas/Corn Mashed Pots/Gravy Cookies/Fruit and Custard	Roast Turkey and Stuffing Cauliflower/Broccoli Mashed Potatoes/Pasta/Gravy Krispie Square and Custard	School Closed
Friday	Chicken Nuggets Oven Baked Tuna Wrap Salad/Pasta Chips/mashed Pots/Gravy Frozen Mousse and Custard	MAY MADNESS Cocktail Sausages Mini Pizza/Chips Pasta/Mixed Salad Artic Roll and Fruit	Home-made Veg or Chicken Soup Steak Burger and Bap Mixed Salad Cheese/Onions Chocolate Cookie Milk Shake	School Closed

Milk & Water available daily

Fruit and Yoghurt & Bread available daily

Menu subject to deliveries

HEALTHY KIDZ Programme with Stephen each Thursday		
I think St Mary's P.S. should:		
continue with the Healthy Kidz programme next year 2018-19	Yes	No
IF YOU ANSWERED YES PLEASE CONTINUE		
continue this programme using the sponsorship money raised in Term 1 and 2	Yes	No
I think Parents should pay the amount per child for Healthy Kidz (£20 total per child for three terms)	Yes	No

AFTER SCHOOL Programme in Term 1. I think St Mary's P.S.		
should offer After School clubs for children	Yes	No
IF YOU ANSWERED YES PLEASE CONTINUE		
I would be willing to pay for each After School activity	£2	£2.50
Payment in advance		
Six week programme		