



St. Mary's News January 2024



Tuesday 9th January 2024

Dear Parents,

I hope you all had a peaceful Christmas and family time together. From listening to the children, Santa was very good to everyone in Dunamore!! It is hard to believe the holidays are over, but the children have now settled back into Term 2 and are encouraged to be at school every day and try their very best. Children are to wear their full school uniform every day unless they have PE. Hoodies and jogging bottoms/skinnyies are not part of school uniform.

The Christmas Story

The Christmas Carol Service on the 19th December was a beautiful event celebrating the true meaning of Christmas, especially after a very difficult term. A big thank you to all the staff and pupils for their preparations and hard work to make the night so meaningful. We are so proud of all the children for their reverence and behaviour on the night.

School Christmas Raffle

The Christmas Raffle was an outstanding success. Sincere thanks to all who donated prizes, sold and bought tickets. The profit raised was £3270 which is fantastic for our school. Congratulations to everyone who won a prize, and thank you again for your support, it is very much appreciated.

Attendance and School Procedures for Signing out

If your child is absent from school, it is important that you contact the school explaining the absence and when they may return to school. If your child has to leave the school early during the school day, it is important the class teacher receives a note from the parent/guardian stating this. When the child is being collected, the parent/guardian must report to the General Office and sign the pupil out.



www.stmarysprimarydunamore.co.uk



Parents are not to go to individual classrooms/mobile during the school day.
****All visitors to the school are reminded to report to the General office upon arrival. ****

Health and Safety in Winter Weather

At this time of the year the weather can be unpredictable from day to day. I would ask you to remind your children to bring their coats to school so that they remain warm when playing outdoors at break and dinner time. We always try to do a risk assessment on the safety of the different school yards at this time of the year, especially before outdoor play. Even with that, accidents can happen. I would ask you to remind your children to be mindful of safety when playing and running outside at school especially in winter weathers.



School Website - <https://www.stmarysprimarydunamore.co.uk/>

Please log onto our new school website to keep abreast of what is happening in our school over the next term. You will also enjoy looking at activities and events your child was engaged in just before Christmas. There are still a number of parents who have not clicked on to the Website App. It is important to click on the link received in a text message to register as the new app will be how we send messages, newsletters etc. If you did not receive a text message, please let us know and we will resend it.

Open Enrolment for school year 2024/25

Applications for entry to Primary One in September 2024 is now online. Online applications are live from today, Tuesday 9th January at 12 noon and closes at 12 noon on: **Friday 26th January 2024.**

All information is available on the EA website under the admissions section at: <https://www.eani.org.uk/parents/admissions>

Supporting Documentation (Birth Certificate) must also be uploaded with the application. Please remind any family members or friends who have children starting primary school. If anyone is experiencing any difficulties with the application process, please do not hesitate to contact me and I will endeavour to help and assist.

Key Dates for Parents regarding Admissions:

Tuesday 12 December 2023 -Admissions criteria for Primary schools published on the EA website.

Tuesday 9 January 2024 - at 12 noon-EA Connect opens for online applications for Primary 1.

Friday 26 January 2024 - at 12 noon-EA Connect closes for online applications for Primary 1

Wednesday 31 January 2024 - by 4pm-Deadline for submitting verification/supporting documents via EA Connect. Final date for late applications.

Thursday 25 April 2024

-Parents/carers will receive application outcomes via email (where one is held) or by letter.

Activities/Training coming up over the next few weeks include:

-Rian from AB Coaching will be here from Monday 8th January to take all classes for PE. To help with the cost, we would ask that all parents pay £8 for Term 2 on Parent Pay. This will be set up on Parent Pay from Tuesday 9th January.

-The children in Primary 6 will be participating in a Basketball programme with the children from Orritor Primary School. This will involve six sessions at Cookstown Leisure Centre starting on Monday 15th January and ending on Monday 26th February.

Catholic Schools Week- Sunday 21st January to Saturday 27th January

This year the theme of Catholic Schools Week is "Catholic Schools- Communities of Service." Prior to this, the children in Primary 7 will represent the school at a special Launch Mass in The Church of the Holy Family, Coalisland on Tuesday 16th January at 11am, led by Bishop Michael Router.

During this special week of the school year, the children in Primary 6 will present their class assembly on Wednesday 24th January at 10am. All P6

parents/grandparents are warmly invited to a short assembly and refreshments will be served afterwards.

Important Dates to note:

****TEACHER'S STRIKE-** All teaching unions in N Ireland have planned a full day of Strike action on **Thursday 18th January**. Following a risk assessment, **the school will have to close to pupils on this day.****

Mid Term Break (School Closed) Monday 12th-Friday 16th February inclusive.

Sacrament of Confirmation - Tuesday 23rd April @5pm in St. Joseph's Church, Kileenan

Sacrament of the Eucharist (First Holy Communion) Saturday 11th May @11am in St. Mary's Church, Dunamore

PARENT PAY REMINDER:

Please remember to log on to Parent Pay and book dinners for your child. It is advisable that this is done on a Sunday evening for the week ahead. A lot of office time is spent having to book children in. Please make sure all dinners are paid for so that payment can be made to School Meals in the Education Authority in time.

At any time if you have any concerns or queries about your child's progress or welfare at school, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Wishing you all a very healthy and happy year ahead.

May every tear and pain be replaced with hope and happiness.

Let health, love and understanding come first.

May every decision made be the right one.

May everyone find what they are looking for in life in the New Year.

Thank you for your continued help and support.

Kind Regards,

Eileen Ward

Principal



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