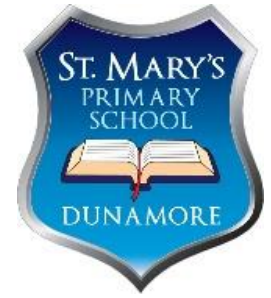


St. Mary's News

March/April 2024



Tuesday 5th March, 2024

Dear Parents,

As we approach Easter there is a lot of excitement in the school. The children are all working very hard, completing class work, trying their very best and enjoying the many elements of school life.

There has been a lot of sickness over the past number of weeks, including vomiting bugs, colds and chest infections. If your child is not well in the morning, has a temperature or has been vomiting, it is advisable to keep them at home so that they can recover fully and prevent any illness from spreading. If your child is fit, they can continue with their homework books, reading books, Reading Eggs and AR. Work will only be sent home if the child is off long term, i.e. absence of a week or more.

Work will not be sent if a child is on holiday during term time, an unauthorised absence.

Can I commend the children for looking so smart in their full school uniform. Skinnies/Half Zips/Hoodies/Football tops must not be worn and trainers only during PE lessons. Every other day, children should be wearing full school uniform and black shoes. Should the weather improve, children can wear plain navy shorts with their polo shirt. Gingham dresses are also not part of the school uniform.

All parents continue to use Parent Pay to book dinners and pay for all school related activities. Please be reminded that if you are entitled to Free School Meals, you must still book the dinner for your child/children. If you are having any difficulty or would like to discuss this, please do not hesitate to get in touch. It is recommended that parents log on a Sunday and book dinners for the week ahead and settle accounts. There are also some outstanding accounts for dinners, World Book Day and Term 2 Coaching. Unfortunately, this prevents Anne and Niamh in the office from reconciling accounts at the end of each month.



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Gareth from AB Coaching is continuing to take each class for coaching and skills development this term. Thank you to everyone who already paid towards this on Parent Pay. It is only fair that we get the support from all parents towards the cost of the coaching. If you do not want your child to participate, please contact the school.

Internet/Media Safety/Mobile/Social Sites

In our school, every possible effort has been made to ensure the safety of all pupils while on the internet. The school has an Internet Safety Policy and the pupils are aware of the procedures within this policy. Please be extra vigilant at home when your child is on particular sites or Apps.



SCHOOLS NI

It is important that you notify the school if you have changed your address or mobile number or if you are aware that the school has sent out a message and you haven't received it. As you are aware, our Newsletters are uploaded onto the Website App (SCHOOLS NI) instead of sending out paper copies. As an ECO School, we are trying to cut down on the amount of paper that is being used.



-Thursday 7th March marks World Book Day and a great opportunity for the to dress up as their favourite character or discuss their favourite book. There is no pressure to buy expensive costumes. Children can wear their own clothes if they do not want to dress up. Parents are asked to contribute £2 on Parent Pay for school resources. A special word of thanks to everyone who donated books and bought books/costumes this week. A fantastic £395 was raised for the school!!

- P1 Class Assembly will take place on Friday 8th March at 10am in the school hall. All parents/grandparents of the P1 children are warmly invited to attend. Refreshments will be provided afterwards.

-The Ceremony of Light for the P7 pupils will take place on Saturday 9th March at 6.30pm in St. Mary's Church, Dunamore. Children are asked to be seated with their sponsor for 6.20pm. Children are asked to wear their own clothes.



-Sacrament of First Penance- Thursday 14th March at 1.30pm in St. Mary's Church Dunamore. The P4 Class will walk up to the chapel with their teacher and will have a designated seat. Parents/guardians will sit with their child for the ceremony. The children will be able to go home with their parents afterwards.

Green Day/Ceili

-To celebrate St. Patrick's Day, we are having a 'Green Day' on Thursday 15th March. The children have been practising their ceili dancing and we will all have an opportunity to watch each class perform. Children are asked to wear something green on the day and are asked to contribute £2 on Parent Pay.



The school will be closed on Monday 18th March (Bank Holiday)

- P4 Class Assembly will take place on Thursday 21st March at 10am in the school hall. All parents/grandparents of the P4 children are warmly invited to attend. Refreshments will be provided afterwards.

-School will be close for the Easter holidays for all pupils on Thursday 28th March at 11am. There will be no buses on this day.

School will reopen for pupils on Tuesday 9th April.



-The children in Primary Seven will be receiving the Sacrament of Confirmation with the Primary 7 boys and girls of St. Joseph's, Kileenan on Tuesday 23rd April at 5pm in St. Joseph's Church, Kileenan. Children who will be singing in the choir are asked to be seated by 4.45pm

Sacrament of First Holy Communion - The children in Primary Four will celebrate the Sacrament of the Eucharist, a very special day, on Saturday 11th May in St. Mary's Church Dunamore at 11.00am.



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

Thank you for your continued cooperation and support.

Wishing you a very pleasant St. Patrick's Day and Easter break with your families.

Kind Regards,

Eileen Ward
Principal

