

St Mary's Nursery School

September Newsletter

Welcome

"It is a happy talent to know how to play." – Ralph Waldo Emerson



We would like to welcome all the children and parents to St Mary's Nursery School!

Educational & Snack Fund

This money is used for exciting educational experiences/outings, lots of challenging, stimulating resources and snack. The cost of our Educational Fund & Snack will be £5.00 per week. This system starts from Monday 7th September.

NB: children pay £5 per week if they are in school 2 or more days that week, no payment is asked for during school holidays.

Please see the last page with further details of our cashless system.

Thank you 😊

School Contact

Please notify us if your child will not be attending school. The preferred method of contact is via email. Thank you.

Parents Information-Evening

The Parents Information Evening will be on **Wednesday September 30th at 8.00pm** in the Pastoral Centre. It is an extremely important meeting which highlights how you can help your child's development over this year. We are delighted that Dr Sinead Davies (Brainbox NI) will facilitate this educational and informative meeting.

Uniforms

School sweatshirt, navy jog pants, polo shirts and sturdy soled velcro trainers (any colour). **Please ensure all articles of clothes are clearly marked with your child's name.** NB Good quality second hand sweatshirts and t-shirts for sale. Please send an email to school if you are interested.

Settling In Period

We shall work together to ensure your child settles comfortably and happily. However each child is an individual and some take longer to settle than others.



Speech and Language

Mrs Markey, Mrs Friel, Mrs Hughes, Mrs Sheppard and Mrs Begley have completed an Elkan Speech & Language and Early Talk Boost Programme for those working with under five-year-olds. We currently implement many of these ideas into our practice to nurture and develop our young children's speech and language skills.

Bags to be Kept in School

Please ensure you have provided your child with **indoor shoes (velcro trainers)**, a complete change of clothes and an extra plastic bag within a plastic bag with your child's name clearly marked on the outer bag. **THESE BAGS WILL REMAIN IN SCHOOL AT ALL TIMES.** Thank you!

Curriculum Matters

During the settling-in period in September the six areas of the curriculum will be set up to allow your child ease of achievement and enjoyment. This is to build their self-confidence and allow them time to build a relationship with the staff.



At the heart of the revised curriculum in Northern Ireland lies an explicit emphasis on the development of skills and capabilities for life-long learning and for operating effectively in society. By developing thinking skills and personal capabilities in nursery school, attention is given to the processes of learning and not just the products; young children naturally engage in active rather than passive learning; these skills help children to go beyond the mere recall of information to develop a deeper understanding of topics; they create positive dispositions and habits for learning; and they also provide a new range of criteria against which children can evaluate their progress in learning.

Nut Allergies

Our school is a nut-free zone. We would kindly ask you to ensure your child does not bring any food to school. On children's birthdays the school will provide a treat!



Holidays

Please note that the school will be closed on the 25th September as directed by the Department of Education for Staff Training.

Talking Tip

Help your child develop good language and communication skills with this tip:

*Have fun with nursery rhymes and songs,
especially those with actions.*

*Ask your child basic questions about
what is happening in the nursery rhyme.*

You can help your child at home by ...

- 1) Nurturing positive conversations about school with your child.
- 2) Encouraging your child's independence -
 - toileting
 - dressing
 - meal times - using cutlery, sitting at the dinner table.

Car Park

Please note the parish kindly let us use the car park. There is a one-way system in operation, which should be observed at all times. **Never** park at the side of the Priest's house, outside the church or in front of the school railings - always use the car park (only badge holders are permitted to park in disabled parking spaces). Parents, please drive very very slowly once you enter the church grounds and exercise extreme caution when entering the car park. If you are in a taxi, please ensure the taxi uses the car park.

Walking from car park to school - Please walk along the side of the pastoral centre, following the double red lines for your child's safety. Thank you.

It is imperative that this information is passed on to others who collect your child to avoid us losing the use of the parish car park.

Our proposed School Holidays for 2026-2027 are as follows

(13 of these days, staff will be working):

Months	<i>Proposed Holidays (inclusive)</i>	
	<i>From</i>	<i>To</i>
August 2026	1 st	26 th (20 st – 26 th Baker Days 1-5)
September 2026	25 th	25 th (TPL Day 1)
October 2026	26 th	30 th
November 2026	~	~
December 2026	21 st	31 st (21 st & 22 nd SD Days 1 & 2)
January 2027	1 st 25 th	1 st 25 th (TPL day 2)
February 2027	8 th	12 th
March 2027	17 th 26 th	18 th 31 st (26 th SD day 3)
April 2027	1 st	2 nd
May 2027	3 rd 24 th	4 th (3 rd SD day 4, 4 th TPL day 3) 31 st (31 st SD day 5)
June 2027	~	~
July 2027	1 st	31 st

11.30am finish: Friday 18.12.26, Thursday 25.3.27, Wednesday 30.6.27

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St Mary's Nursery School

Educational & Snack Fund

Dear Parents

As from Monday 7th September we are planning to provide a Healthy Snack for the children.

We operate a cashless system. We ask that parents pay the £5 contribution for the Educational & Snack Fund each Monday via bank transfer - PLEASE REMEMBER TO PUT YOUR CHILD'S NAME AS THE REFERENCE so we can allocate the payment correctly on Tuesdays.

We will use the text messaging service to send a reminder each week.

Thank you once again for your co-operation and understanding.

- **Payment to: ST MARYS NURSERY SCHOOL**
- **Sort Code: 09 01 53**
- **Account Number: 01835489**
- **Please put your child's name as the Reference**

Thank you 😊