

St Mary's Nursery School

May Newsletter



"Play is often talked about as if it were a relief from serious learning. But for children play is serious learning. Play is really the work of childhood." – Fred Rogers

Our School will be closed:

Monday 2nd May – Staff Development Day

Monday 16th – Friday 20th May – Mid-term Break



Graduation Ceremony

We are delighted to be able to have our Graduation Ceremony this year. It will be on Friday 10th June in St Mary's Church, Greencastle at 12.45pm for a short service of thanksgiving. Afterwards you are welcome to join us for light refreshments in the Pastoral Centre!

Extra-Curricular Activities

The children have thoroughly enjoyed Rugbytots which finishes on Wednesday 4th May. We are delighted that Mr Hullabaloo – the magical storyteller and interactive theatre company – will join us on Wednesday 11th and 25th May and also on Wednesday 1st, 8th, 15th, and 22nd June. We are so excited!



Transition Schools

The children are being encouraged to recognise their friends transitioning onto their new primary schools. To that end they will sit together (with children going to the same school as them) at dinner times during May and June so that we can foster their awareness of their friends' names. This will hopefully reassure them when they see familiar faces in the playground and classrooms of their new "big" school!

Can you please inform your child's class teacher (Mrs Hoy or Mrs Friel) which Primary School your child will be transitioning to. Thank you!

Child Safety

Please ensure you leave your child directly into the Quiet Room in the mornings or hand them over to a member of staff if school has commenced. Please do not leave them at the classroom door, as a staff member needs to be aware of their presence for their own safety.

Names on Uniforms

Please ensure your child's uniform is clearly marked with their name.

Road Safety Awareness topics

This month our topic is playing safely outside.



May altar



Please encourage your child to bring in a few flowers for Our Lady's altar during the month of May.

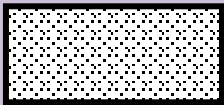
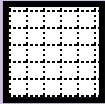
Reports

End of year reports will be circulated in June. You will also be given an appointment for parent/teacher consultation to discuss the report.

Interest List

If you would like to email the school with the details of your younger children we will put your child's name on a list to send you information in your child's pre-school year.

Maths for the month



This month's colour is purple. Please encourage your child to look out for different colours in their environment, especially purple. We shall also be reinforcing the shapes rectangle and square. The children's mathematical language will continue to be fostered throughout the learning environment.

Topics for the month

This month's topic is *The Environment, Mini-beasts and Litter*. The children's knowledge and appreciation of their environment and awareness of conservation issues will be heightened in our outdoor play environment.



We shall also be continuing our work on developing your child's pre writing and pre reading skills in preparation for primary school and enjoying 'Fairytale' stories.

Care In The Sun/Open Plan

We will commence our Open Plan/Care In The Sun Policy from Monday 23rd May. The children will have the opportunity to go straight to the playground at 9.10am (after morning greeting and prayers) and have both indoor and outdoor play until 11.45am. This ensures that your child is not playing outdoors whilst the sun's rays are at their strongest (WE'RE ALWAYS OPTIMISTIC HERE AT ST MARY'S ☺). However, we do strongly recommend that you apply a sunscreen to your child's skin before leaving them to Nursery School each morning.

Talking Tip

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

- * Help your child to use more words by adding to what they've said, eg if they said "ball" you might say, "Yes, a red ball".
- * If your child says something incorrectly, say it back the right way, eg "Goggy bited it", "Yes, the dog bit it, didn't he?".

You can help your child at home by ...

- 1) Involving your children in baking, rolling and cutting activities using smaller tools - discussing how food changes when it is cooked.
- 2) Allowing your children to wash, dry and put some dishes away - growing their awareness of how to organise a space, ie the cupboard.

