



St Mary's Nursery School

November Newsletter

"Play gives children a chance to practise what they are learning."



After our Hallowe'en Break, School will re-open as normal on Monday 7th November at 9.00am (8.30am early drop off)

Settling In documents

*The children are nearly all settled by now and enjoying their new environment. Settling in documents will go out **Friday 25th November** and you will be given the opportunity to discuss these with your child's teacher the following week. (An appointment date will be sent out shortly).*

Bring your Dad to School - Non Uniform

Calling all Dads, or significant male adult, to come and have fun with your precious one! Please return the reply slip ASAP. Thank you.

Monday 14th November :

*Mrs Markey's class
6.00-6.30pm*

*Mrs Friel's class
6.45-7.15pm*



Activity Programme

Monkeynastix will start classes this month. This activity programme fosters excellent physical skills!

We will have a visit on Wednesday 9th, 16th, 23rd and 30th November. Plus we will have a further two visits in December!



Dinners

The children are enjoying the nutritious meals every day. Please encourage your child to use a knife and fork at home when eating dinner – they are managing their cutlery so well!

We ask that you make your payment for dinner and snack every Monday so Mrs Gault can reconcile the account on Tuesdays. Thank you for your cooperation in this matter.

Please email the school by Friday 25th November if you wish to provide packed lunches for the month of December or revert back to school dinners. Thank you!



Parent Workshops

A letter has been put in your child's pigeon hole about the upcoming Parent Workshops.

Please return the reply slip ASAP. Thank you.

School Coats

The children are wearing their coats outside every day. Could you please encourage your child to put on/off their own coats as they will be able to transfer this skill in school. The staff will help with zips. Also, please provide your child with a hat and mittens if you have not already done so. Label them with your child's name before handing them to a member of staff.



Autumn Walk – Stormont

Our Autumn Walk took place on Thursday 20th October. We all had a fun time! So far we have raised a massive £1,999.59! Any outstanding money should be returned ASAP.

Thank you so much!

Autumn

We shall be continuing to observe the signs of Autumn. If you are outdoors, please encourage your child to look for signs of Autumn.



Uniform

Please clearly label your child's uniform as it causes them great distress if we can't find their jumpers/trainers etc for them.

Students

We are delighted that students are joining us from a variety of schools and colleges.

Children's Work

Your child's wonderful creations will be placed in their pigeon hole. Please remember to check regularly.



Talking Tip

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

Encourage your child to listen to different sounds, such as cars and animals. This will help your child's listening skills.

You can help your child at home by ...

- 1 Teach your child to blow their nose, pinch their nose to catch the germs and bin their hankie, ie "catch it, bin it, kill it".
- 2 Cover your mouth whilst coughing.

Curriculum Matters:

Maths for the Month

This month's colour is yellow – and this month's shape is the triangle – both these topics are important for pre mathematical development. Please encourage your child to look out for this colour and shape in their environment, at home and outside.

Topics for the Month

This month's topics are Autumn and Me & My Family (grammatically correct "My Family and I"). Could you please provide your child with three family photographs stuck on the sheet provided in your child's pigeon hole with the family members' names underneath? **Pictures of:** 1) your child as a baby, 2) your child and their family, 3) your child's grandparents. This page with the photographs will be returned at the end of the month. If possible, could we have these photographs by Monday 14th November. Thank you.

We will use these stimuli to develop the theme of family, reassuring your child by acknowledging and naming their family. We will also touch on the idea of the passing of time and their personal history. We will discuss their homes and our school to develop an appreciation of their immediate environment.

We are looking for a volunteer / parent to bath their baby for us all to witness and enjoy! This would give us opportunities to develop the children's language and the idea of life cycles – baby, child, adult – in The World Around Us. Throughout this theme we will be reassuring them and so heightening their

Personal, Social & Emotional Development. Through **The Arts** they will be encouraged to observe the similarities and differences in people and attempt to recreate a representational drawing/painting of a member of their family.

In the **World Around Us** we will be exploring the signs of Autumn in our environments. We will particularly be looking for signs of Autumn in our Outdoor Learning Environments especially the Woodland and Sensory Garden. Within **The Arts** area of the curriculum lots of fun Autumn songs are being taught and Autumn stories being enjoyed, as well as lots of lovely art activities based on Autumn colours and Autumn leaves. Outdoors we will explore crisp Autumn leaves, our soil area will be packed with real harvest fruits and vegetables including munchkin pumpkins, carrots, potatoes and onions which we are counting and sorting! These varied and many activities not only build the children's awareness of Autumn but develops their vocabulary and mathematical skills as well touching on the **Language Development** and **Early Mathematical Experiences** areas of the curriculum.

We will then be focusing on the similarities and differences in people and nurturing their representational drawing skills.

Outdoors, for their **Physical Development**, we will be working on the gross motor skills of balancing and climbing safely. A busy month ahead!