

# St Mary's Nursery School

## October Newsletter

"Play is the work of  
the child." –  
Maria Montessori



### Dinners

Dinners will start on **Monday 6<sup>th</sup> October** and cost £2.50 per day. A full week will cost £12.50 for dinners and £5 for Educational & Snack Fund (ie £17.50 per week). If your child is absent, please deduct the £2.50 per day from the following week's payment. Educational & Snack Fund is payable if your child is in school two or more days that week.

The same system for collection of payment will operate. It is imperative that you transfer the correct money on Mondays to allow Mrs Gault to reconcile the accounts on Tuesdays. Thank you.

If your child is entitled to free school meals and you have not applied, please do so immediately.



### Holidays

School will be closed for the Hallowe'en holidays from  
**Monday 27<sup>th</sup> October to Friday 31<sup>st</sup> October inclusive**

Note: Friday 24<sup>th</sup> October will be a non-uniform day  
(dressing up is optional – please **DO NOT** bring in accessories, eg broom sticks)  
£1 donation for a Special School in India/School Funds would be appreciated

School will re-open as normal on  
**Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> November at 9.00am (8.15am early drop off)**



## Early Morning Supervision

If you feel your child is ready, from Monday 6<sup>th</sup> October we are pleased to offer a service whereby your child can be left into school at 8.15am and be supervised by staff in the Quiet Room.

If you are using this service, you MUST hand your child to a member of staff in Room 1 Quiet Room.

Again if you feel your child is ready, from Monday 6<sup>th</sup> October there will be a supervised waiting room from 1.30pm to 2.00pm each day.

These are non-teaching periods where your child can watch the television.



## Autumn Walk – Stormont then Mo Mowlam Park!!

Our Autumn Walk to reinforce our topic, which is also a sponsored walk for school funds, shall take place on **Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> October** at Stormont. We shall be returning to school in time for dinner, approximately 11.45am. We hope many parents/carers shall be able to accompany us. There will be a small number of seats available on the bus but you may also drive to meet us there.



## Parental Consent for Educational Outings

Parents, we require your consent to bring your child on educational outings. You will be asked to sign a consent form in the days leading up to a trip. The third column of the consent form is where you indicate if you are free to join us. You are always welcome! Thank you.



## Jewellery

Due to the physical play we provide it is necessary for the children to wear only stud earrings and no other form of jewellery.



### For Your Information

We are lucky to have the use of the Pastoral Centre for our extra-curricular programme on Wednesday mornings. We have arranged for a variety of external facilitators to provide a wide and exciting programme throughout the year. The first of our activities is Monkeynastix. The dates for this are as follows:

6 week programme

(5.11.25, 12.11.25, 19.11.25, 26.11.25, 3.12.25, 17.12.25)

### Dates for your Diary

- Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> October – Sponsored Autumn Walk, Mo Mowlam Park, Stormont
- Monday 17<sup>th</sup> November – Bring Your Dad to School Night
- Friday 5<sup>th</sup> December – Christmas Nativity in St. Mary's Church, Greencastle (12.45pm)
- Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> December – The Ark Open Farm Santa Christmas Experience



## School Records

Do you want to add any new names or telephone numbers to our school records? Have you changed address or telephone number? If you want us to make any changes please email Mrs Gault, who will be in the office on Tuesdays and Wednesdays.



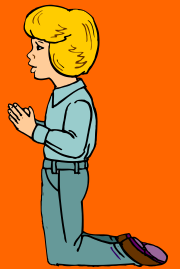
## Outdoor Play

We have school coats which the children will wear for outdoor play but we would ask that you provide a hat and mittens (no gloves please), clearly marked with your child's name, to remain in school. Please give them to a staff member when you bring them to school. These will be sent home periodically for washing.



## Rosary

October is the month of the rosary. Our church encourages us to promote the saying of the rosary or a decade of the rosary as a family. We will have a rosary table to nurture the children's awareness of this powerful prayer!



## Children's Work

Please collect these wonderful creations daily from the pigeon holes in the hall. Thank you!



## Art Store

If anyone has end rolls of wallpaper, especially embossed, please bring them in to stock our art store! Also, baby food scoops, umbrella cases, insides of kitchen roll (no toilet roll thank you 😊) and small individual cereal boxes, toothpaste boxes or teabag boxes and old newspapers. Thank you.



## Curriculum Matters

Our special themes for the month are 'Myself' and 'Hallowe'en'.

We will be reading stories about babies, toddlers and big children starting school and making new friends! We will be learning how to share the space and equipment with these new friends. We will also be listening to stories and learning rhymes associated with Hallowe'en and reassuring the children by discussing the Hallowe'en traditions and learning some traditional rhymes. This gives us the opportunity to discuss **changes** occurring in Science whilst cooking stewed apples, making dough and orange soup. The children shall also be given the opportunity to learn **printing** techniques and attempt **collages** to enhance their creative skills. During our outside physical play we shall be concentrating on the skill of **pedalling**.



## Maths for the Month

We shall be exploring all colours and concentrating on making orange with red and yellow. Also shades of black. The shape we will be identifying in our environment and concentrating on this month is the circle, so encourage your child to look for street signs, tyres on cars etc.



### Talking Tip

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

*Talk to your child when you're playing together – provide a running commentary – “I see you've chosen the big blue block, great idea!”*

*Sometimes just say nothing and copy what they are doing, ie show them you think their ideas are worth copying (Play Listening).*



### You can help your child at home by -

- Encouraging them to put on their own coats - we will zip them up - the magic way we do this in School is to pop your hood on first then slip one arm in at a time!
- Encouraging them to use cutlery and pour their own drink.





## St Mary's Nursery School

▪ Principal: Mrs Sinéad Markey MEd ▪

# parents Association

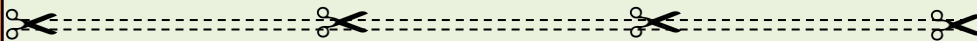
Dear Parents

We have been very lucky over the years to have the support of our parents/grandparents/carers throughout the school year.

We appreciate any help that you can afford to give us to help in the classroom at times, read stories to the children, cut out templates etc. If you can afford any time we would be delighted. Please print this form out and return to your child's class teacher.

Thank you

*Sinéad Markey*



Name of child: \_\_\_\_\_

Class: Room 1 / Room 2

- ☐ Yes, I would be able to help in the classroom.
- ☐ No, I would not be able to help.

Signed \_\_\_\_\_



**SAFEGUARDING**  
**OUR CHILDREN**  
(Child Protection)

If a parent has concerns about his or her child or another child's safety, they may take the following action.

I have a concern about  
my child's/other child's safety



I can talk to the  
CLASS TEACHER



If I am still concerned I can talk to  
the designated teacher for  
Child Protection,  
Mrs Markey

Mrs Markey



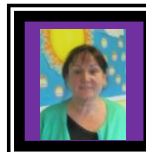
Mrs Friel



or the deputy designated teacher,  
Mrs Friel



If I am still concerned, I can  
talk/write to the Chairperson  
of the Board of Governors,  
Mrs Paula Clarke  
90778524



Mrs Clarke



At any time, I can talk to the  
Social Workers @ Gateway  
Monday-Friday 9.00-5.00  
90507000  
or out of hours emergency 95049999  
or  
the Police Non-Emergency  
101

Parents may have access to the School's  
Safeguarding Policy,  
which is available from the designated teacher.

St Mary's Nursery School - 028 9077 4302