

# St Mary's Nursery School

## January Newsletter



*Welcome back!*

"Do not keep children to their studies by compulsion but by play." - Plato



### Admission to Primary School 2026-2027

Please note that the applications for any Education Authority school must be submitted on the Education Authority website by 12.00 noon on Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> January 2026.

### Admissions to Nursery School 2026-2027

Applications for next year's Nursery intake must be submitted by 12.00 noon on Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> January 2026. We are having an Open Evening on **Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> January from 7.30pm-8.30pm**. Please advise friends or relations with a child due for Nursery School of these details. Thank you.

### Catholic Schools Week/Stay & Play Grandparents Day

As a celebration of Catholic Schools' week which is 25<sup>th</sup> to 31<sup>st</sup> January, and to acknowledge the important role grandparents play in their grandchildren's life, we are inviting your child's grandparents to Stay & Play from 10.00-10.45am:

Mrs Markey's class on Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> January

Mrs Friel's class on Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> January



These are a week earlier to avoid clashing with other schools.



### Hats and mittens

Please remember to send a pair of mittens and a hat for use during outdoor play. **Clearly mark them with your child's name.**

**\* ESSENTIAL AT THIS TIME OF YEAR \***

## Enchanted Evening

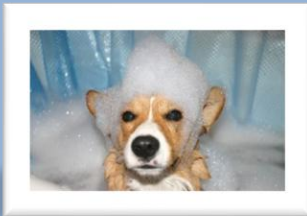
*We are extremely delighted to be able to invite all our Mummies and children to an "Enchanted Evening" on Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> January.*

*Mrs Markey's class 6.00-6.30pm and Mrs Friel's class 6.45-7.15pm.*

*Children should come in their pyjamas and bring a comfy pillow (AKA their magic carpets!) to sit on. All bedtime teddies are also welcome!*

*The evening will centre around Fairytale with our favourite Mr Hullabaloo!*

*Please complete the RSVP note which will be placed in your child's pigeon hole closer to the date.  
Thank you.*



### **Bathing the Dog**

We are hoping the children will have an opportunity to witness a dog being bathed in their classroom in January!! If you are available to bath your dog one morning please let us know (it would be a good idea to have a tame dog!!).

### **Packed Lunches**

If you prefer your child to bring a packed lunch to school, please arrange this with your child's teacher. This arrangement must be for a minimum of 1 month, as the school canteen cannot accommodate children changing frequently from dinners to packed lunches.

**Due to the price increase this may be a more affordable option which we are happy to accommodate.**

Thank you.

### **Road Safety Awareness topics**

This month our topic is safety around fires on these cold winter evenings.

### **Curriculum Matters:**

#### **Maths for the month –**

This month's colours we are looking out for are white and blue. This month's shape is the rectangle. Please encourage your child to observe their environment in particular for these shapes and colours. You can help develop your child's pattern recognition skills in preparation for the patterns in numbers.

## Topics for the month

This month's topics are Winter and Pets. The seasons are excellent topics to teach through. It allows us to heighten the children's observational skills by looking at their environment, discussing the changes and having an awareness of the passing of time. Winter will also allow us to touch on melting, freezing, capacity and containment through the water and wet sand play areas. We will continue to enhance the children's vocabulary and we will be particularly focusing on their prediction skills through stories, rhymes and scientific play.

The theme of pets will be explored through discussions, stories, role-play in a pet shop and the use of puppets. The children will have an opportunity to witness a dog being bathed in their classroom.

### Talking Tip

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

Increase your vocabulary by giving choices,  
eg "Do you want juice or milk?".

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

- Spending time reading stories to them daily, some activities - asking them questions, letting them retell you the story, but mostly just enjoying the story!
- Nurturing your child's awareness of their environment - talking about the weather - snow/frost/ice, how the trees/plants/gardens present in Winter.

*The staff would like to take this opportunity to thank you for the vast array of beautiful gifts and cards at Christmas!*  
*And lastly, we would like to wish everyone a very safe and Happy New Year!!!*

