

St Mary's Nursery School

February Newsletter



School Holidays

"Play is the highest form of research." –
Albert Einstein



Our Mid Term break is
16th – 20th February

School reopens for children as usual on
Monday 23rd February 2026



Our amazing School Secretary, **Mrs Gault**, has retired after 28 years. We miss her dearly and thanked her, on behalf of parents and past parents, for the wonderful communication, advice and support she offered from the hub of our school i.e. the office.
Happy Retirement Mrs Gault!

Playball NI

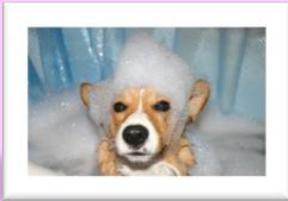
Our final 2 Playball sessions will happen this month – we love learning new ball skills from Daniel and Amanda!

Fire Service



We are delighted to be having a visit from the Fire Service on Friday 13th February. This always proves to be a very exciting morning and reinforces our theme of People Who Help Us. We will be having an Ambulance visit and also the PSNI – these dates are to be confirmed.

Bathing the Dog



A huge thank you to Shea's Mummy who is bringing the beautiful Winnie to school, on Friday 6th February, to be bathed in front of our children. We are so excited for this.

Primary Movements

Mrs Markey and Mrs Friel are trained in Primary Movements. The children shall be spending five minutes daily before dinner singing some action rhymes and following some movements.

The activities are designed to stimulate a specific pattern of motor skill development and may help your child's overall development. The children are already enjoying participating in these simple action rhymes.

Toys

Please discourage your child from bringing toys (or money) to School as it can lead to upset and disagreements between the children.

You can help your child at home by ...

- Encouraging your child to set the table, counting out the place settings for the family members.
- Encouraging your child to pour their own drink, praising their efforts.

Talking Tip

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

Talk about things as they happen,
eg when you're both unpacking the shopping.

Contact Numbers

Please ensure you keep us notified of any changes to your contact numbers. This will ensure parents receive the messages from our text messaging service. Please email the School if you need to check or amend your number – thank you!



Curriculum Matters



Colours for the month

This month's colours are pink and red. The shape we are focussing on is the heart ♥. Please encourage your child to look out for these colours and shape in their environment.

Topic for the month/Shape for the month



The topics for this month are Transport and People Who Help Us. The children will be exploring the concepts (at a basic level) of push, pull, forces – acceleration, deceleration, magnets, floating and sinking. This will be encouraged throughout the play areas – magnets, planks, metal and non-metal transport vehicles in the sand and water. They will be encouraged to verbalise why sand slows down vehicles – how magnets work etc.

Please encourage your child to bring in junk materials for their transport models – old small cereal boxes and lids are good.

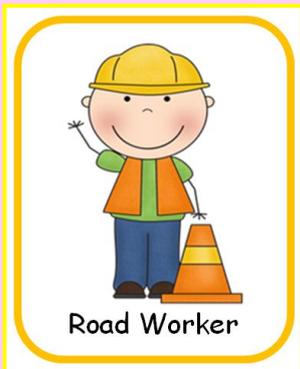
The children will be encouraged to predict which objects will float/sink after lots of exploratory play at the water with various shaped vegetables, boats, rocks, feathers, balls etc.



The children's awareness of people around us who help us will be heightened. We are looking forward some visits from People Who Help Us everyday. The children's friendship skills will also be developed.



Vet



Road Worker



Post Person

Mathematically one to one correspondence will be stimulated throughout their learning environment. Throughout all this we will hopefully be ensuring the children are happy and having fun as well as learning!

School Closures: February – June 2026

16 th – 20 th February	Mid Term
16 th March	School Development Day for Staff Training
17 th March	School Holiday
3 rd April	School Development Day for Staff Training
6 th – 10 th April	School Holiday
18 th – 22 nd May	School Holiday
25 th May	School Development Day for Staff Training

