

# St Mary's Nursery School

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

## October Newsletter



### 🕸 Dinners

Dinners started on Monday 1<sup>st</sup> October. The same system for collection of money will operate. It is imperative that you pay us on Tuesdays, as all money must be banked on Tuesday afternoons. School meals are £2.50 per day. Snack/Educational Outings/Resources Fund is £5.00 per week. Therefore, dinner and fund money will be £17.50 per week (exact money please and no cheques). If your child is entitled to free school meals and you have not completed a form see Mrs Hoy immediately.

### 🕸 Holidays

School will be closed for the Hallowe'en holidays from  
Monday 29<sup>th</sup> October to  
Monday 5<sup>th</sup> November inclusive

(Monday 5<sup>th</sup> November is an Exceptional Closure Day for staff training)

Note: Friday 26<sup>th</sup> October will be a non-uniform day  
(dressing up is optional)

A donation of £1 for a Special School in India/School Funds would be appreciated!

School will re-open as normal on  
Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> November at 9.00 am (8.15 am early drop off)

### 🕸 Settling In Documents

Settling in documents will go out Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> October 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).

## ☆ School Records

Do you want to add any new names or telephone numbers to our school records? Have you changed address or telephone number? Is someone else collecting your child from school? If you want us to make any changes please speak to Mrs Gault on Tuesdays or Wednesdays.

## ☆ Parental Consent for Educational Outings

Parents, we require your consent to bring your child on educational outings. The third column of the consent form is where you indicate if you are free to join us. You are always welcome! Thank you.

## ☆ 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 put them in the pouches inside your child's classroom. 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!



## ☆ 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.

## ☆ Children's Work

Please collect these wonderful creations daily from the pigeon holes in the hall. Please note, occasionally we will also place notes in the pigeon holes. If these are to be returned please put them in the red post box in each classroom (where dinner money bags go too). 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.

## ☆ Coffee Mornings/Afternoons!

Parents please feel free to use the staffroom and arrange to meet up in the mornings or afternoons for a coffee and a chat. You are most welcome.



## ☆ PTA

If anyone is interested in this, please complete the attached form and give to your child's teacher. Our PTA is needed to help out at various times throughout the year.

## ☆ 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**. Any donations of unwanted Little Tykes cars, dolls prams, wheelbarrows, bikes etc would be greatly appreciated.

## ☆ Curriculum Night Catch-up

For those parents who were unable to attend our Curriculum Night in September, Mrs Hoy will be delivering a catch-up on Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> October at 9.30am in our Sensory Room. Please let your child's teacher know if you will be attending. Thank you.

## 🌟 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.

## 🌟 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 17<sup>th</sup> October at Stormont. We shall be returning to school in time for dinner, approximately 11.45 am. We hope many parents/carers shall be able to accompany us.

## 🌟 St Mary's Church, Greencastle

Fr Delargy has asked us to inform parents and grandparents that the Church will be open from 9am to 6pm every day if anyone is wishing to visit.

## 🌟 Early Morning Supervision

If you feel your child is ready, from Monday 1<sup>st</sup> October we will be pleased to offer a service whereby your child can be left into school at 8.15 am and be supervised by staff in the Quiet Room in Room One. We will try this early 8.15 am time for a one month trial period. If the service is not being used, we will change the time to 8.30 am. If you are using this service, you MUST hand your child to a member of staff in Quiet Room One.

Again if you feel your child is ready, from Monday 1<sup>st</sup> October there will be a supervised waiting room from 1.30 pm to 2.00 pm each day.

These are non-teaching periods where your child can watch the television, will be read to or can enjoy browsing through books. Unfortunately this year, due to funding cuts, we are unable to provide a drop-off time any earlier than 8.15 am.

**Talking Tip**

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

*Talk to your child when you're playing together.*

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

- Encouraging them to put on their own coats - we will zip them up.
- Encouraging them to use cutlery and pour their own drink.



**St Mary's Nursery School**

Principal: Mrs Sinéad Hoy MEd

**parents Association**

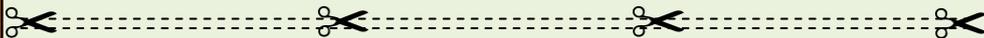
Dear Parents

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 Hoy*



**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 Hoy

Mrs Hoy



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**