

# 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 2019-2020

Please note that the applications for any Education Authority school must be received by your first preference Primary School or submitted on the Education Authority website by 12.00 midnight on Thursday 31<sup>st</sup> January 2019.

### Admissions to Nursery School 2019-2020

Applications for next year's Nursery intake must be submitted by 12.00 midnight on Thursday 31<sup>st</sup> January 2019. We are having an Open Enrolment Evening on Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> January from 7.00pm-8.30pm. Paper copies of the application form will be available at our Open Enrolment Evening for those parents choosing not to submit online. Please advise friends or relations with a child due for Nursery School of these details. Thank you.

#### Dinner and Snack Money

Please ensure that the correct amount is paid on a Tuesday morning in the bags provided as we are using up a lot of valuable staff time trying to reconcile the dinner and snack money. Thank you.

#### Packed Lunches

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

Thank you.

## Catholic Schools Week/Stay & Play Grandparents Day

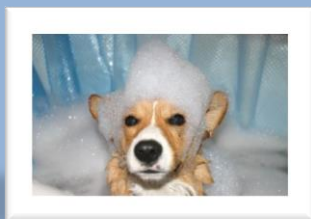
As a celebration of Catholic Schools' week and to acknowledge the important role grandparents play in their grandchildren's life, we would like to invite your child's grandparents to Stay & Play from 10.00-10.45am:

Mrs Hoy's class on Tuesday 29<sup>th</sup> January

Mrs Friel's class on Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup> January

## Volunteers

If you could spare 1 or 2 hours a week 9.00-11.00am one or a few days per week we would be delighted. This would enable us to have a higher adult ratio. Please see Mrs Hoy if you can help out in this way. Thank you.



## Bathing the Dog

The children will have an opportunity to witness a dog being bathed in their classroom on Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> January!! A big thank you to Logan's Mum and Dad for offering to bring in Bruno.

## Parenting Young Children Programme

This informative and enjoyable programme was due to start on Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> January and would have run for 6 weeks. Unfortunately there were insufficient numbers to run this programme.

## Winter walk

In January we will go for a walk around Greencastle Close to observe the signs of Winter and 'wave hello' to the older residents of our parish.

## Educational Outings

We are excited to be visiting our friends at Lowwood Nursery Unit for joint sessions with Jump Jiggle and Jive.



## 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 \*



## Road Safety Awareness topics

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

## Parents' Monthly Curriculum Meeting

This month Mrs Hoy will be available on Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> January at 1.00pm to discuss the coming month's curriculum. Please inform Mrs Gault, our School Secretary, when you are present for these meetings.

## 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. We will also be developing the children'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 predication skills through stories, rhymes and scientific play. The number of children permitted to play in certain areas will be increased to encourage wider friendship groups and develop their cooperative play and sharing. 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.

## Car park

Please note the parish kindly let us use the car park. There is a one-way system in operation, which should be observed at all times. **Never** park at the side of the priest's house or in front of the School railings - always use the car park (only badge holders are permitted to park in disabled parking spaces). Parents, please drive very very slowly once you enter the church grounds and exercise extreme caution entering the carpark.

Walking from car park to school - Please walk along the side of the pastoral centre, following the double red lines, then please walk on the double red lines along the blue railings for your child's safety.

Thank you for your cooperation and consideration of the children's safety.

*And lastly,  
the staff would like to wish everyone a very  
Happy New Year!!!*