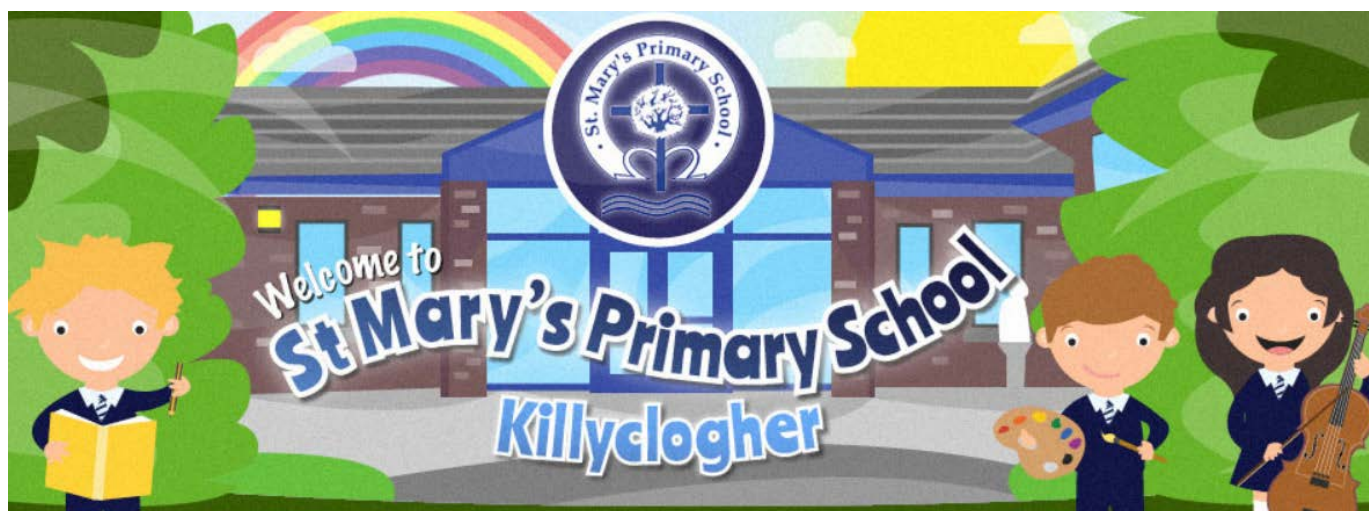


September 2017 Newsletter



Welcome back to school everyone!



St Mary's PS, Killyclogher, 5k/10k Run

Our Parent Support Group has been extremely busy over the Summer - in partnership with Patricia Campbell and Omagh Harriers and the Enda Dolan Foundation - organising our inaugural 5k/10k Run which will take place on [Saturday 14th October at 11.30am in Killyclogher.](#)

To ensure everyone is in tip-top condition to run or walk the 5k/10k, a 6-week training programme will be delivered at Youth Sport on Tuesday nights from 6.30pm to 7.30pm. The programme is open to walkers, beginners and improvers and starts this Tuesday 5th September at 6.30pm (registration from 6.00pm). Everyone from near and far is warmly invited to come along. A registration flyer is enclosed if you would like to fill this out and bring it along to Registration at 6.00pm on Tuesday 5th September at Youth Sport.

For further information, details on routes and how you can volunteer to help on the day of the run etc., please go to the Facebook page: **St Mary's PS Killyclogher Parent Support Group**. The **Registration form** is also available on the school's website www.stmaryskillyclogher.co.uk.

General Information for the start of the year

SCHOOL UNIFORM

It is essential that all items of uniform, including PE kit, are clearly labelled. It is the only way that pupils can identify their own belongings. We would also ask parents to check that children bring home their own jumpers, coats etc.

ATTENDANCE

In order to keep attendance records accurate, it is essential to inform the school by phone or letter if your child is unable to attend. Otherwise the absence will be recorded as unexplained. Further information on school attendance appears on our school website.

ADMINISTRATION OF PRESCRIBED MEDICATION

Please remember that, should your child require prescribed medication to be administered in school, parents must first complete an 'Administration of Prescribed Medication Form' - available from the School Office.

In the case of older pupils, should you wish your child to carry their own medication, e.g. an inhaler, a separate form must be completed - again available from the School Office.

Any parent whose child has a Care Plan for Medical Needs should ensure that school has the correct, up-to-date information and/or medication relating to their child, in the event of an emergency.

CHILD PROTECTION

For Child Protection purposes, once the school day begins all visitors to school, including parents, child-minders or family members, must report to the Office. We appreciate your co-operation with this requirement.

HEALTH PROMOTION

St. Mary's PS actively supports healthy eating and hydration throughout the school day. In the interests of health promotion, we would appreciate your support in encouraging the children to make healthy choices in relation to snacks and lunches. We would prefer it if children did not have sweets, crisps or sugary drinks for mid-morning break. Children should bring only healthy snacks each break time, e.g. pancake, fruit, crackers etc. Alternatively, children may purchase a healthy snack from our School Canteen.

Nursery, Year 1 and Year 2 class teachers will inform you of their arrangements for break. A leaflet, 'Are You Packing a Healthy Lunch?', is available on our school website.

ALLERGIES

Several children in our school have allergies, including those with a nut allergy. It is very important that nuts, or products containing nuts, are not brought into school for break or lunch. We really need your co-operation in this matter as some of our children have very severe allergies.

PARENT CONTACT DETAILS including MOBILE NUMBERS

In the event of any changes to your contact details, please ensure that these are shared with school in case of emergency and for the text messaging service.

DINNER MONEY

The price of a school dinner this year is **£2.60**. If your child does not have dinner money or lunch with him/her, the canteen will provide a lunch for one day only but will require payment the next day. You will be notified by the school on the second day if dinner money is not brought in.

For Year 1 and Year 2 pupils, all dinner money must be sent to school in a clearly labelled envelope, purse or wallet. This will be kept by the class teacher until the children are going to dinner.

APPLYING FOR FREE SCHOOL MEALS

If you feel your child is entitled to free school meals, please ensure that you apply to the Education Authority - Western Region. Your child cannot be placed on the free school meals register until you do so. Application forms are available from our school Office and from the Education Authority's website:

www.eani.org.uk/i-want-to/apply-for-free-school-meals-and-or-school-uniform/

MILK

Milk is available daily in cartons and is paid for each school term. A note will be sent out, in September, with the amount and date on which school milk money should be paid. Milk money should be sent into school in an envelope clearly marked "Milk Money" with the child's name and year group. Please note, as milk has to be ordered from the dairy in advance, we cannot accept money after the date stated on the note. Also, last year, significant amounts of milk were wasted each day. Please check with your child that they wish to continue having milk in school.

AFTER SCHOOL ACTIVITIES

Our first block of After School activities runs from Monday 4th September 2017 until Friday 27th October 2017 (8 weeks approx.). We are introducing a broader programme until 4.00pm for Years 1 and 2 and until 5.00pm for Years 3-7. A flyer should have reached all families in July. Contact school if you wish to find out more.

TIN WHISTLE

Tin Whistle lessons will begin again soon for Years 4-7. Tin Whistles are available for purchase from the school office priced £5.00.

HEAD LICE

Last year there were many outbreaks of head lice causing significant frustration for some parents who had to deal with repeat outbreaks. Please keep a check on your child's hair. It is recommended that long hair is kept tied up during the school day.

LOST PROPERTY

A large amount of lost property has been collected. These items will be displayed on the Stage in the Assembly Hall until Friday 8th September. Parents wishing to reclaim anything should come to the Assembly Hall before that date. If the goods are not claimed, they will be handed in to the St Vincent de Paul shop in Omagh.

OMAGH CREDIT UNION

Omagh Credit Union Saving Scheme continues to operate in school. If you are interested in opening a Credit Union Minor Deposit Account for your child, please visit the Credit Union in Omagh. If your children are already members of the Credit Union, they can use their existing Passbooks. A representative from the Credit Union will call to the school every Friday to collect the savings. Each member will be issued with a personalised Passbook and each transaction will be recorded so that you will be kept fully up to date on the balance of your child's account.

SCHOOL CLOSURES FOR 2017-2018

Please retain this for your reference.

Monday 25th September 2017	CLOSED (School Development Day)
Monday 30th October 2017	CLOSED - Halloween Break
Tuesday 31st October 2017	CLOSED - Halloween Break
Wednesday 1st November 2017	CLOSED - Halloween Break
Friday 24th November 2017	CLOSED (Parent/Teacher Meetings)
Thursday 21st December 2017	CLOSED - Christmas Holidays
Friday 22nd December 2017	CLOSED - Christmas Holidays
Monday 25th December 2017	CLOSED - Christmas Holidays
Tuesday 26th December 2017	CLOSED - Christmas Holidays
Wednesday 27th December 2017	CLOSED - Christmas Holidays
Thursday 28th December 2017	CLOSED - Christmas Holidays
Friday 29th December 2017	CLOSED - Christmas Holidays
Monday 1st January 2018	CLOSED - Christmas Holidays
Tuesday 2nd January 2018	CLOSED - Christmas Holidays
Wednesday 3rd January 2018	CLOSED - Christmas Holidays
Thursday 4th January 2018	CLOSED - Christmas Holidays
Thursday 15th February 2018	CLOSED - Mid-term Break
Friday 16th February 2018	CLOSED - Mid-term Break
Monday 19th February 2018	CLOSED (School Development Day)
Monday 19th March 2018	CLOSED - St Patrick's Day Holiday
Thursday 29th March 2018	CLOSED - Easter Holidays
Friday 30th March 2018	CLOSED - Easter Holidays
Monday 2nd April 2018	CLOSED - Easter Holidays
Tuesday 3rd April 2018	CLOSED - Easter Holidays
Wednesday 4th April 2018	CLOSED - Easter Holidays
Thursday 5th April 2018	CLOSED - Easter Holidays
Friday 6th April 2018	CLOSED - Easter Holidays
Monday 7th May 2018	CLOSED - School Holiday
Monday 28th May 2018	CLOSED - School Holiday
Tuesday 29th May 2018	CLOSED (School Development Day)
Monday 4th June 2018	CLOSED (School Development Day)

There will be half-day closures on:

Wednesday 20th December 2017, Wednesday 28th March 2018 and on Friday 29th June 2018