

Week beginning Monday 7th June 2021
Newsletter

www.stmaryspsportaferry.co.uk

Week Beginning 7th June 2021

We now approaching the final stretch for this summer term and the weather is expected to get a little warmer and hopefully sunnier. We would encourage you to send your child to school with sun protection already applied on exposed areas and to ensure that your child always brings in water to re-hydrate.

During this week our school will be participating in the **NSPCC's Speak out. Stay safe. online** programme within each pupils classrooms. More details about this will issue on the school website tomorrow.

Over the next few weeks we hope to run a series of sporting events. Unfortunately, we are unable to host our usual Sports Day with parents in attendance but all races and activities will be run through school time from week beginning 14th June. More details to follow.

During the summer we have been able to secure funding for proposed P3/4/5/6 Summer scheme. It is anticipated that this will run from 14th-23rd July by Mr Smyth and subject to demand will be either run as a single session or two separate morning and afternoon sessions. Numbers attending will be strictly limited to 25 pupils per session. More details and expressions of interest will be sent out during this coming week in school. We also remind all that Portaferry GAC will be running their annual Cul Camp from, Monday 5th - Friday 9th July 2021.

As ever, keep up to date with all that is going on in school through our school website.

Please continue to maintain social distancing around school, particularly at the school gate. In school we continue to be vigilant, working in class bubbles as well as enhanced cleaning throughout the day. We appreciate your continued support, and ask everyone to continue to be 'Covid Cautious' in the coming weeks as we move to the end of the school year.

Contacting the School

If contacting the school about any queries or issues, please remember that the first point of contact is by phone to the school office: 028 427 28278. School e-mail is info@stmarysps.portaferry.ni.sch.uk

We will pass on messages to your child's teacher when received and get back to you as soon as possible.

NI Library Service

Wild World Heroes, Summer Reading Challenge 19th June - 18th September 2021

Please find details, at the end of this newsletter, for this year's Summer Read competition.





Applications for Free School Meals for 21/22 school year.

It may seem a little early to be raising this but applications have to be made for free school meals annually. As of 7th June Free School Meals applications are available online. Information is available on this and school uniform grants at:

<https://www.eani.org.uk/financial-help/free-school-meals-uniform-grants>

High Five

It's time for another edition of HIGH FIVE! the newsletter produced by Primary Behaviour Support and Provisions. In this issue Of High Five we are thinking about being a problem solver. There are lots of ideas to help us see problems as an opportunity to learn and to come up with new ways of thinking or doing something.

<https://www.eani.org.uk/high-five-primary-behaviour-support-provisions-newsletter#high-five-newsletter-issue-25->



DR BIKE

For those Primary 6 and 7 pupils who need to bring their bicycles into school for a bike service, please remember to do so on Monday 7th June 2021. All bikes are to be left in the bike shed.



Portaferry GAC

Our After School's Hurling continues for the next three weeks on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday. On the days your child is attending they can come to school in their school tracksuit, even if it is not a designated PE day and they can bring in their own hurl and helmet if they wish. However, there will be plenty of hurls and helmets available for everyone. If it is a wet day we will have to cancel the session and parents will be notified via the text messaging service.

Tuesday	P4/5 - 3.00-4.00pm
Wednesday	P6/7- 3.00-4.00pm
Thursday	P1/2/3- 2.00-3.00pm

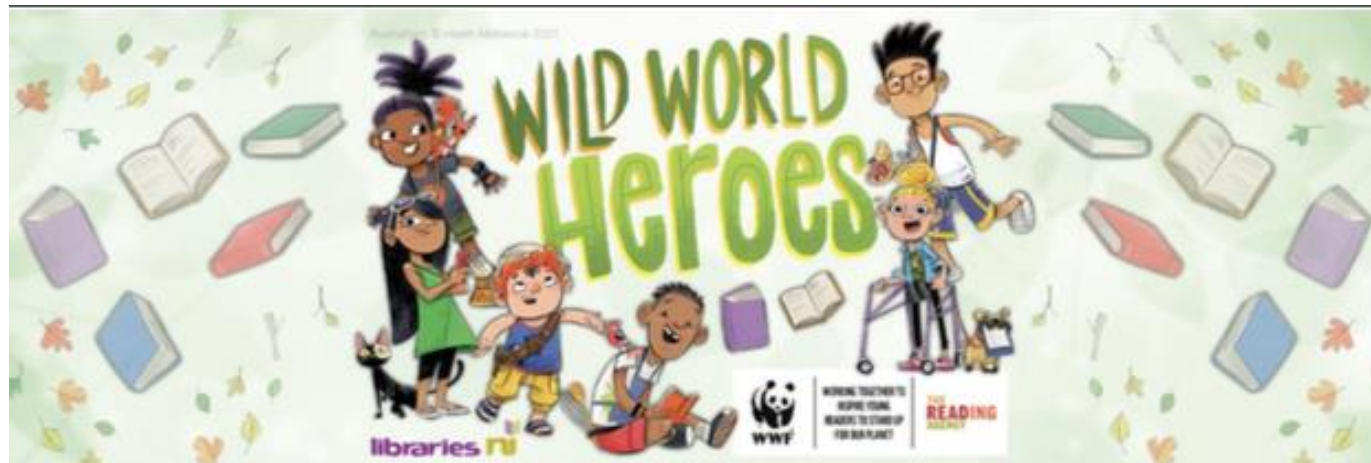


DINNERS

This week's menu is contained below. Dinners cost £2.60 per day and must be paid at the beginning of each week in a clearly marked envelope with your child's name and days on which they wish to have school dinner

Monday	Sausage & Mash with beans/ Rice pudding & orange segments - fresh fruit Ham/ Cheese/ Jam Sandwich / Biscuit/ Drink
Tuesday	Lasagne with potato wedges, salad & garlic bread/ Date Krispies - Fresh Fruit Ham/ Cheese/ Jam Sandwich / Biscuit/ Drink
Wednesday	Roast Pork, Gravy, Stuffing with two veg, Oven Roast & Mashed Potatoes/ Raspberry milkshake/ Selection of yoghurts & fresh fruit Ham/ Cheese/ Jam Sandwich / Biscuit/ Drink
Thursday	Chicken Curry with boiled rice & naan bread. Cookies & Fresh fruit Ham/ Cheese/ Jam Sandwich / Biscuit/ Drink
Friday	Happy Friday Meal Cheese and Tomato Pizza with chips & salad Flake meal Biscuit - Fresh Fruit Ham/ Cheese/ Jam Sandwich / Biscuit/ Drink





1 June 2021

Dear Principal

Introducing Libraries NI Summer Reading Challenge 19 June until 18 September 2021

Wild World Heroes, Summer Reading Challenge 2021; a celebration of nature and action for the environment, in partnership with WWF UK.

Get ready for Wild World Heroes, arriving online and in libraries across Northern Ireland this summer.

Children age 4 to 11 can join the World Wide Heroes for this year's Summer Reading Challenge to discover how they can make a difference to the environment.

Produced by The Reading Agency and delivered in partnership with libraries, we're teaming up with WWF for a very special nature themed challenge that will inspire children to stand up for the planet.

The challenge will feature amazing books, awesome rewards and plenty of ideas for taking care of the environment.

How does it work?

The Summer Reading Challenge will take place from **19 June until 18 September**. Children can sign up at their local library, choose their reading goal then read any books to collect special stickers and other rewards along the way – all for FREE. There is a digital platform too, so the fun can carry on at home!

Children can read whatever they like in their chosen format – fiction, fact books, poetry, joke books, picture books, graphic novels, audio books and eBooks. Everyone who completes their personal challenge will receive a certificate and medal.

Events and activities will take place throughout the summer online and possible face-to-face depending on guidelines issued by the Northern Ireland Executive.

Why should children take part?

Children's reading can 'dip' during the long summer holidays if they do not have regular access to books and encouragement to read for pleasure.



The Reading Agency's annual Summer Reading Challenge really helps by getting over 700,000 children regularly into libraries over the summer, with thousands more taking part online.

There is no other free reading activity that involves so many children, introduces families to their library, encourages children to choose books freely and independently and is endorsed by parents and teachers.

There will be more information on the Libraries NI website www.librariesni.org.uk and social channels over the next few weeks so please keep a look out for further updates. In the meantime, if you need any further information email our Senior Children's Services Manager Valerie Christie at cypsteam@librariesni.org.uk

We do hope you get involved.



Illustrations © Heath McManus 2021

Connect with us
www.librariesni.org.uk



EDUCATION RESTART



EVERYONE HAS A ROLE TO PLAY IN KEEPING OUR SCHOOLS SAFE AND HELPING TO STOP THE SPREAD OF COVID-19.

EVERYONE SHOULD CONTINUE TO:

- ✓ **Wash** hands regularly
- ✓ **Cover** coughs and sneezes
- ✓ **Wear** a face covering where necessary
- ✓ **Practise** social distancing
- ✓ **Follow** the latest public health advice

WHAT SHOULD I NOT DO?

- ✓ **Don't** send your child to school if they have COVID-19 symptoms or if they have been identified as a close contact
- ✓ **Don't** allow your child to use public transport unless you have no alternative
- ✓ **Don't** gather at the school entrance/gate
- ✓ **Don't** allow your child to share food/drinks with friends

WHAT SHOULD I DO?

- ✓ **Do** let the school know if your child will be absent due to COVID-19 symptoms
- ✓ **Do** follow the advice given if you have been contacted by the PHA Contact Tracing Service
- ✓ **Do** encourage your child to socially distance if it is possible
- ✓ **Do** encourage good hand hygiene
- ✓ **Do** use alternative transport if you can
- ✓ **Do** walk or cycle if it's safe and appropriate to do so
- ✓ **Do** use park and ride or other car-parking facilities (if available), and walk the remainder of the journey to school
- ✓ **Do** avoid parking close to or at the school gates
- ✓ **Do** encourage the use of face coverings on school transport and in post-primary schools/ settings
- ✓ **Do** encourage and supervise your child to carry out a COVID-19 test if they have been invited to participate

FURTHER INFORMATION, INCLUDING FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS FOR PARENTS AND CARERS, CAN BE FOUND ON THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION'S WEBSITE AT: [WWW.EDUCATION-NI.GOV.UK](https://www.education-ni.gov.uk)

