



Week beginning Monday 20th September 2021 Newsletter

www.stmaryspsportaferry.com

COVID-19 UPDATE

There still exists a lot of misunderstanding around the role and responsibility of schools in relation to informing about positive Covid tests and the implications thereafter. For this purpose I include the latest information, as we have it.

The Public Health Agency (PHA) have taken full control of all aspects of Track and Trace within schools and following PHA and DE directives this is no longer the responsibility of schools. In addition to this;

1. Schools will not be informed by PHA about a positive case.
2. Close contacts will no longer be considered as an individual within 2 metres for longer than 15 minutes.

Therefore, even though a pupil may have tested positive within your child's class, the school will not be in contact to advise you to seek a test.

However, we would still request that;

- Parents are extremely vigilant and take care when noticing symptoms of Covid in their children;
- Parents still notify the school if their child receives a positive PCT test;
- If you are contacted by PHA Contact Tracing Service that you follow the guidance they provide to you;
- You still contact the school if your child is isolating or receiving a PCR test.

As a school we will continue to do everything within our control to keep our pupils, staff and parents safe while providing the best standard of education for all. We will continue to;

- If we have been notified, we will send a short "warn and inform" letter to alert parents that there has been a positive case in their child's specific class
- Pass on any updated PHA guidance;
- Provide work packs for any children isolating.

Finally in addition to this we would continue to ask for and appreciate your patience and understanding with staff. Staff that have been identified as close contacts may need to isolate in line with PHA guidance. This is out of our control and although we will endeavour to reduce staff absences, this may not be avoided.

As ever, should you have any questions or queries in this regard you can contact the school by telephone on 028427 28278 or by e-mail at info@stmarysps.portaferry.ni.sch.uk

FREE SCHOOL MEALS AND UNIFORM GRANTS

Again, we have been notified that there are still a number of our parents who may be eligible for a free school meals or uniform grant that have not yet submitted their grant application. More details on how this can be done are available on the poster at the end of this newsletter.

ABSENCE FROM SCHOOL

If your child is absent from school, for whatever reason, please contact the school before 9.00am, either by telephone on 028427 28278 or by e-mail at info@stmarysps.portaferry.ni.sch.uk. If there is no-one in the office to take your call, please leave a message on the answering machine stating that your child will not be in school that particular day. When your child returns to school please give a written confirmation for their reason of absence. This is also needed, even if you have contacted the school already.

Contacting the School

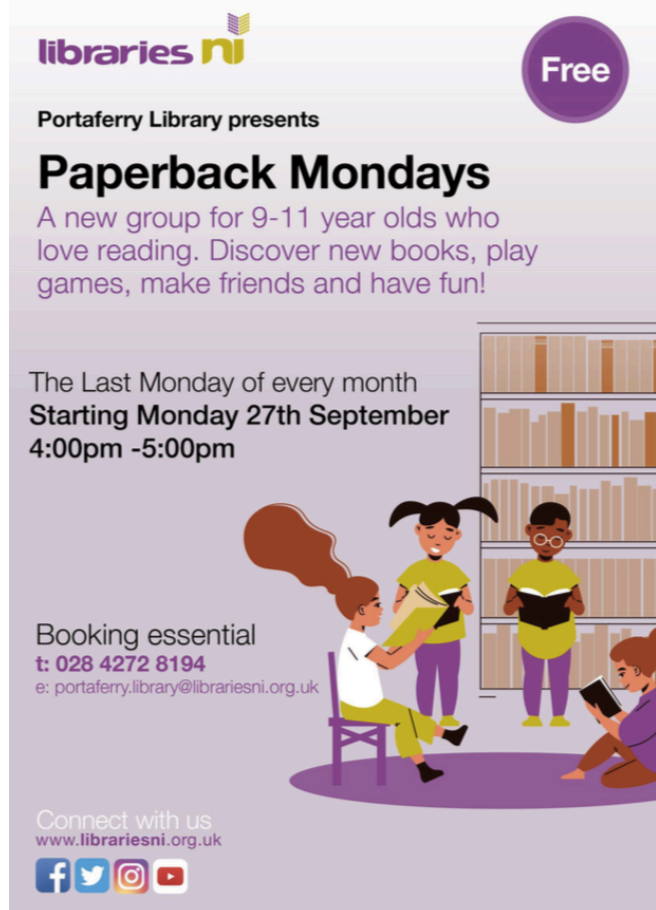
If contacting the school about any queries or issues, please remember that the first point of contact is by phone to the school office: 028 427 28278. School e-mail is info@stmarysps.portaferry.ni.sch.uk. We will pass on messages to your child's teacher when received and get back to you as soon as



possible.

PORTAFERRY LIBRARY

Some news for anyone who loves reading! Portaferry library have a brand-new junior reading group starting soon. It's called 'Paperback Mondays' and it will be in the library on the last Monday of each month from 4:00 to 5:00pm for ages 9-11yrs. The first meeting is on Monday September 27th and will be full of games, activities, and chat. Due to social distancing, numbers are very limited, so for those interested can they please ring the library ASAP on 42728194



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Portaferry Library presents

Paperback Mondays

A new group for 9-11 year olds who love reading. Discover new books, play games, make friends and have fun!

The Last Monday of every month
Starting Monday 27th September
4:00pm -5:00pm

Booking essential
t: 028 4272 8194
e: portaferry.library@librariesni.org.uk

Connect with us
www.librariesni.org.uk

f t i y

PUPILS OF THE WEEK

During the month of September the focus is on "Continuing to Show Brilliant Behaviour To All." This week in school we had a double celebration as a number of certificates were held over from the previous week. This week our Pupils of the Week were;

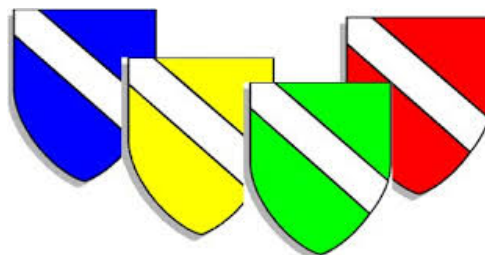
P1	Conall and Rosa
P2	Jack and Lucy
P3	Cormac and Charlie
P4	Eilidh and Brooke
P5	Meah and Niamh

P6	Conor and Abbie
P7	Alexa and Evan

House Teams

The results fro this week's House Teams were;

Red	210
Blue	217
Green	234
Yellow	232



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	Breaded cod fish finger, Lemon Slice and Tartar Sauce, Baked Beans, Carrot & Cucumber Sticks & Mashed Potato <i>Flake meal Biscuit, Fruit & Custard</i> Or Ham/ Cheese/ Jam Sandwich / Biscuit/ Drink
Tuesday	Irish Stew, Homemade Wheaten Bread, Broccoli Florets, Sweetcorn <i>Strawberry Mousse & Fresh Fruit Salad</i> Or Ham/ Cheese/ Jam Sandwich / Biscuit/ Drink
Wednesday	Roast Pork, Gravy, Herb Stuffing, Cauliflower Cheese Sauce, Fresh Baton Carrots, Dry Oven Roasted Potato Mashed Potatoes <i>Chocolate Brownie & Custard</i> Or Ham/ Cheese/ Jam Sandwich / Biscuit/ Drink
Thursday	Breast of Chicken Curry with boiled rice, naan bread, Garden Peas & Mashed Fresh Turnip <i>Lemon Sponge & Custard</i> Or Ham/ Cheese/ Jam Sandwich / Biscuit/ Drink
Friday	Margherita Pizza, Crunchy Fresh Coleslaw, Tossed Salad, Pasta Salad, Chips or Baked Potato <i>Artic Roll & Jelly & Fresh Fruit</i> Or Ham/ Cheese/ Jam Sandwich / Biscuit/ Drink



Free School Meals and Uniform Grants

Are you waiting on expected approval for a Free School Meals or Uniform Grant application for your child/children? Please read below.



You Must Apply Every Year

You must reapply every year and include all children for whom you have parental responsibility and who will be full-time at school or Regional/FE College.



Not heard from us? Check your junk mail

If you have applied more than four weeks ago but have not received confirmation that your child/children will receive Free School Meals and Uniform Grants then please check your email including your junk folder



Applied within the last four weeks

If you have applied in the past four weeks you will receive an e-mail from us shortly. It can take up to four weeks to process an application. Thank you for your patience.

www.eani.org.uk/fsm

