



SAINT MARY'S PRIMARY SCHOOL & NURSERY UNIT

Principal: Mr P Gilchrist

E mail: pgilchrist570@c2kni.net

Telephone: 028427 28278

53, Windmill Hill
Portaferry
Co. Down
BT 22 1RH

5th January 2022

Dear Parents,

We hope and trust that everyone had an enjoyable break and we wish all of our schooling community a happy and peaceful New Year.

While we are delighted to welcome our pupils and staff back to school, it is important to acknowledge that the current high levels of transmission of Covid-19 may have some impact on school life over the next couple of days and weeks.

In this particularly challenging climate we may encounter circumstances beyond our direct control, for example staff absences. We will, as ever, try to keep any impact or potential disruption to an absolute minimum. While it is not envisaged, there may come a situation where a teacher is absent from school and we may not be able to replace that teacher with a substitute teacher. Should this occur we may be forced to resort to contingency plans and as a last resort, potentially send classes home for a period of remote learning. We will continue to communicate any changes as early as we possibly can, via our school website and text service.

If your child is absent from school, for whatever reason, it is important that you contact the school and that a note of explanation for your child's absence is brought into school upon their return. While this is an essential internal monitoring tool, it is also required by Educational Welfare for explanation of prolonged or persistent absences.

AFTER SCHOOLS CLUBS

We are delighted to be able to announce a re-start of our After School programme for 2022. It is our intention to run a consistent after school's programme from Monday through to Thursday each week. The cost of each hour is £2.00 per hour attending and this can be paid weekly

In conjunction with the After School's room we also intend to run other After School activities for any interested pupils. During this coming term we hope to be

able to offer Judo and Irish Dancing. More details on this will be announced next week.

STEP IT UP

Looking for something to keep you motivated and moving over these next few weeks? Our Parents Support Group (PSG) are pleased to announce details of their "Step It Up" challenge. Over the next six weeks you will be challenged to complete a weekly target of steps with the target for each week increasing. If you cannot meet the challenge for that particular week a self-imposed fine of £5 is requested.

Participation in the 6-week challenge is £25 per person and the challenge begins on Tuesday 11th January. Thereafter each weekly challenge will also commence each Tuesday with all steps recorded for that week to be sent in by 9pm the previous Monday evening.

There will be weekly prizes for the most steps completed and we hope to also offer a range of online courses to members ranging from physical to health and wellbeing. A separate online members community page will be created to share pictures, updates, fun and motivation.

A registration form is attached. We ask for all those interested in participating to return their form to the school by Friday 7th January 2022. Additional registration forms can be obtained by contacting the school or there will also be a registration day on Thursday 6th January from 2-4.00 pm in school and some members of our PSG will be on hand to answer any questions or queries in relation to the challenges.

This challenge is also open to those outside of our school and registration forms can be obtained by contacting the school, or any member of our Parents Support Group. Watch our school Facebook and website pages over the next few days and weeks for further updates and information. Good luck everyone.

We thank you, in advance, for your continued support and co-operation, it is very much appreciated.

Yours sincerely,

Mr P Gilchrist
Principal

Saint Mary's Primary School

After Schools Clubs

Week beginning Monday 10th January 2022

Monday - Thursday



P2/3 Pupils
2.00pm - 3.00pm



P2/3/4/5/6/7 Pupils
3.00pm-4.00pm



**Primary 2/3 pupils can stay on
until 4.00pm**



Activities will vary each day
Cost: £2 per hour
attending



This can be paid weekly

Our After School Club will be held in a room at the "old end" of the school building. All pupils will exit the building via the "old end" entrance facing the chapel car park at their allocated time.

All weekly bookings must be made in advance and confirmed at the beginning of each week with name, days attending and money included stated clearly at the front of a sealed envelope.



PSG Presents

STEP IT UP!

Making a happier, healthier you

**TUESDAY 11TH JANUARY – 21ST FEBRUARY
2022**

6 WEEKS - £25

*The aim – increase your steps weekly
(2,000 steps is about 1 mile)*

<i>Date</i>	<i>Weekly Steps</i>	<i>Approx. miles per day</i>
<i>11 – 17 January</i>	<i>50,000 – 60,000</i>	<i>3.5 – 4.3</i>
<i>18 - 24 January</i>	<i>60,000 – 70,000</i>	<i>4.3 – 5.0</i>
<i>25 – 31 January</i>	<i>70,000 – 80,000</i>	<i>5.0 - 5.7</i>
<i>1 – 7 February</i>	<i>80,000 – 90,000</i>	<i>5.7 – 6.4</i>
<i>8 – 14 February</i>	<i>90,000 – 100,000</i>	<i>6.4 – 7.1</i>
<i>15 – 21 February</i>	<i>100, 000 – 110,000</i>	<i>7.1 – 7.8</i>

ALSO: Weekly online Fitness Class ~ Weekly Recipes ~ Health and Wellbeing Tips

Registration Thursday 6th January – 2pm – 4pm

St Mary's Primary School & Nursery Unit

***Or see a member of PSG/School Office for registration
form.***

****Prize each week for Most Steps***

****Overall prize for Most Steps & Most Improved***



REGISTRATION FORM – PSG STEP IT UP!

1) PERSONAL DETAILS

NAME	FEMALE <input type="checkbox"/> MALE <input type="checkbox"/>
AGE CATEGORY	<30 <input type="checkbox"/> 30-39 <input type="checkbox"/> 40-49 <input type="checkbox"/> 50+ <input type="checkbox"/>
MOBILE NUMBER	
FACEBOOK ACCOUNT NAME (If different from name above) If not on Facebook, name of person to be added on your behalf.	

2) ICE – In Case Of Emergency – **please provide contact details for one adult.**

NAME:	MOBILE:
-------	---------

After registration keep watching Saint Mary's Primary School page for info on joining 'St Marys PSG Step It Up Challenge' Facebook Page
Thank you for supporting Step It Up Challenge and we hope that you enjoy your experience.

Disclaimer: I hereby confirm that I provided the committee with the correct details to the best of my own knowledge. I also confirm that I am a willing participant in PSG Step It Up and will take full responsibility to exercise within my own limitations.

Signed: _____

COMMITTEE USE ONLY:
£25 FEE PAID? YES / NO