



Week beginning Monday 21st November 2022 Newsletter

www.stmaryspsportaferry.com

ANTI-BULLYING WEEK

Last week in school we had a very successful Anti-Bullying week with all pupils engaging in a series of activities around the theme of "Reach Out." Please check our school web site for many accounts and pictures.



It is important to emphasise that Bullying is not only discussed during this week in school but is referred to all year round. We believe that all forms of bullying behaviour are unacceptable. Should any reports of bullying type behaviour be reported to you at home, please contact the school immediately so as we can investigate and work together to ensure that this unacceptable behaviour stops.

PARENT TEACHER INTERVIEWS



Primary 2 through to Primary 6 Parent Teacher Meetings are scheduled for Friday 25th November 2022 and all pupils will not be in school on this day. You should, by now, have obtained an interview time for your child. Should you need to change or confirm that time, please contact the school office.

OPEN DAY

Our Annual School Open day for prospective Nursery and Primary 1 pupils is scheduled for Wednesday 30th November 2022. Please pass onto any families of children of this age.



SEND TRANSFORMATION PROGRAMME

SEND Transformation Programme



Information Event for Parents and Carers

Introducing a programme aimed at transforming services, so that we provide the right support at the right time for all our children and young people with special educational needs and disabilities.



As part of the Education Authority's (EA) work to transform their Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) Services, they are holding an



online SEND Transformation Programme information events for parents and carers. The SEND Transformation Programme Reference Group (PRG), made up of parent advocacy groups and the wider education and health bodies, and community and voluntary organisations, will facilitate the following engagement sessions:

Online information session 1:

Thursday 24th November 2022: 8-9:30:

<https://bit.ly/3Ez4Z5k>

Online information session 2:

Thursday 1st December, 2022: 7pm-8:30pm:

<https://bit.ly/3tDkenz>

These upcoming information events provide an opportunity for parents and carers to learn more about the programme and to meet PRG representatives. The EA want to make sure all voices are heard, so that they can be sure they are taking the right steps to deliver the right support at the right time, for all our children with special educational needs and disabilities.

CHRISTMAS PLAYS

If it is our intention to host a P1/P2/P3 joint Christmas on Thursday 15th and Friday 16th December. We hope to be able to accommodate those families of P1/2/3 who may wish to attend. Please be advised that this is all subject to change and dependent on circumstances outside of our direct control. More details will issue in the coming weeks.



TURNING ON OF CHRISTMAS LIGHTS

Our pupils have been invited to sing at the turning on of the Christmas Lights in Portaferry in The Square at 6.30pm on Friday 2nd December 2022.



PSG STEP IT UP CHALLENGE 2023

Back by popular demand, please see details below.



Parents Support Group Presents

STEP IT UP 2023!

"Making a happier, healthier you"

Thursday 5th January – Wednesday 8th February

5 WEEKS - £20

The aim – increase your steps weekly

Date	Weekly Steps	Approx. miles per day
5 th – 11 th January	55,000 – 65,000	3.9 – 4.6
12 th – 18 th January	65,000 – 75,000	4.6 – 5.3
19 th – 25 th January	75,000 – 85,000	5.3 – 6
26 th – 1 st February	85,000 – 95,000	6 – 6.7
2 nd – 8 th February	95,000 +	6.7

(2,000 steps is about 1 mile)

Registration

Monday 28th November and Monday 5th December

2pm – 4pm

@ St Mary's Primary School - Hall

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

St Mary's Primary School, Portaferry, PSG

Prize each week for most improved whilst reaching targets set

*Overall prize for Most Steps & Most Improved

BREAKFAST CLUB

Remember, you don't necessarily need to pre-book. Just turn up from 8.00am and a warm welcome and satisfying breakfast awaits. The cost is £2 person attending and there is a family reduced rate of:

- 2 persons per family - £3
- 3 persons per family - £4
- 4 persons per family - £5

AFTER SCHOOL CLUB

Clubs can be paid for weekly at £2 per session attended. You can register your child by sending in a weekly payment in an envelope with your child's name clearly stated at the front and which days you wish your child to attend.

JUDO AFTER SCHOOL

There will continue on Thursday 17th November.

IRISH DANCING AFTER SCHOOL

Deirdre is still attending the school every Wednesday afternoon between 2.00pm – 3.00pm for any P1/2/3 pupil who may be interested in learning Irish Dancing. Cost is £2.00 per session.



EUREKA SEEKERS

This club continues on Tuesday 22nd November.
P1/2/3 runs from 2.00-3.00pm and P4/5/6/7
between 3.00-4.00pm.



PUPILS OF THE WEEK

During this month of November our focus is on recognising those pupils who continue to "share and care with others." This week our Pupils of the Week were;

P1	Lucia
P2	Ari
P3	Caoimhe
P4	Oisin
P5	Leah
P6	Dara
P7	Grace

CELEBRATION TIME

This week we celebrate together with Portaferry Town Boys who won their respective league at Under 11 level, Olly (P5) was Player of the Match for Portaferry Town Boys and Leo (P5) was selected as team captain for his team, Portavogie, Callie (P6) won a number of medals at an Irish Dancing Feis, Aine (P7) came 1st and 2nd and Grace (P7) won a rosette at Horse Riding. Finally, Hannah (P4) and Teagan (P4) won prizes in the Credit Union Art Competition and Mrs Magee from the Credit Union visited the school to present their prize.



HOUSE TEAMS

The results for this week were as follows;

House Colour	This Week	Overall Total
Red	206	206
Blue	223	223
Green	215	215
Yellow	204	204

Over the last few weeks we have been delighted to be able to present Gold Award certificates to those pupils who have achieved 100 House Points. Congratulations to Caoimhe (P3), Daniel (P3), Ebha Grace (P4), Teagan (P4), Kate (P5), Alannah (P5) and Fionn (P7)



HAPPY BIRTHDAY

This week we send birthday greetings to Logan (P4), Alex (P4) and Brogan (P7).

**HAPPY
BIRTHDAY**

MATHLETICS

We have our first Gold certificate for 2022/23. Congratulations to Oscar (P4) who became the first pupil this year to achieve this award. We know there are many pupils close to this level and we look forward to presenting more Gold award certificates over the next few weeks.



SCHOOL DINNERS

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 Fish Fingers, baked beans, mixed vegetables, mashed potato; <i>Fresh fruit salad & yoghurt</i>
Tuesday	Breaded Chicken Goujons, sweetcorn, mashed potato, salad selection; <i>Vanilla Ice Cream & Chocolate sauce</i>
Wednesday	Roast beef, stuffing, gravy, carrots, broccoli florets, oven dry roast and mashed potato; <i>Frozen Yoghurt & Fresh Fruit Selection</i>
Thursday	Breast of Chicken Curry with boiled rice, naan bread, Garden Peas, <i>Vanilla sponge & Custard</i>
Friday	Steak burger in a bap or pizza, tossed salad/ coleslaw, chips and baked potato <i>Flake meal biscuit & Fresh Fruit Chunks</i>

BREAK

Monday

Toast 30p or
Pancake 50p

Tuesday

Toast 30p

Wednesday

Toast 30p or buttered bagel 50p

Thursday

Toast 30p

Friday

Toast 30p or homemade buttered scone 50p

Also available daily!

Apple/ Orange juice 40p; Milkshake 40p; water 50p;
Selection of fresh fruit 25p

CONTACTING THE SCHOOL/ ABSENCE FROM SCHOOL

If your child is absent from school, or you need to contact the school, for whatever reason, please contact the school, 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 the nature of your call or 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.



DO I NEED TO KEEP MY CHILD OFF SCHOOL?

We have had a number of phone calls and enquiries about pupils sickness and whether a child should be attending school with a suspected illness. The chart below has been issued by PHA regarding some common illnesses that pupils may experience, particularly at this time of the year.

Do I need to keep my child off school?					
Chicken Pox Until all spots have crusted over	Conjunctivitis No need to stay off but school or nursery should be informed	Diarrhoea & Vomiting 48 hours from last episode	Glandular Fever No need to stay off but school or nursery should be informed	Hand, foot & mouth No need to stay off but school or nursery should be informed	Impetigo Until lesions are crusted & healed or 48 hours after commencing antibiotics
Measles or German Measles 4 days from onset of rash	Mumps 5 days from onset of swelling	Scabies Until after first treatment	Scarlet Fever 24 hours after commencing antibiotics	Strep throat No need to stay off but school or nursery should be informed	Whooping Cough 48 hours after commencing antibiotics
Flu Until recovered	Head Lice No need to stay off but school or nursery should be informed	Threadworms No need to stay off but school or nursery should be informed	Tonsillitis No need to stay off but school or nursery should be informed	HSC Public Health Agency	

IMPORTANT DATES FOR THE DIARY

Tuesday 22nd November

P6 Swimming
Eureka Seekers After School Club

Thursday 24th November

P6 Shared Education trip

Friday 25th November

P2-6 Parent Teacher Meetings
(School closed for pupils)

Thursday 15th December

P1/2/3 Christmas Play at 7.00pm (More details to follow)

Friday 16th December

P1/2/3 Christmas Play at 10.00am (More details to follow)

Monday 19th December

P/2/3/4 Christmas Dinner

Tuesday 20th December

P5/6/7 Christmas Dinner

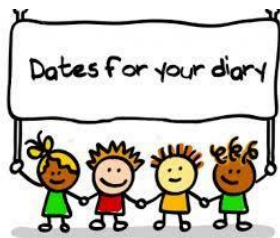
Wednesday 21st December

School Carol Service at 12.45pm

Thursday 22nd December

11.00am School closes for Christmas Holidays





CHILD PROTECTION AND SAFEGUARDING

If you have any concerns regarding the safety of your child please contact Mrs Breen (Designated





























Teacher for Safeguarding and Child Protection) or Mr Denvir (Deputy Designated Teacher for Safeguarding and Child Protection).

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK

In the lead up to Christmas we will be issuing a reflection / prayer for each week of Advent. To begin this we have attached below an advent overview to prepare for the introduction of advent on 27th November 2022.

Mission Together Advent Calendar 2022



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1st Sunday of Advent What is the promise the prophet Isaiah speaks of in today's first reading? <i>Isaiah 2:1-5</i>  27	An Advent wreath's candles are a symbol of Christ's light. Think of ways you can be a light for others today.*  28	Learn our Advent Carol <i>We are waiting*</i> and sing it as a class. Why not film your singing and share it with us @MissioUK  29	Today is the feast of St Andrew, one of the twelve disciples. Find out which country he is the patron saint of.  30	Make a <i>Star of Hope</i> and think about how you can bring hope to others this Advent.*  1	Tomorrow is the feast of St Francis Xavier. Find out why he is the patron saint of mission.*  2	Write an Advent prayer. Try to include the words: hope, wait, light, God, Jesus. Or create an artwork expressing these words.  3
2nd Sunday of Advent In today's Gospel reading, John the Baptist tells the people to prepare for Jesus. How can we do this too? <i>Matthew 3:1-12</i>  4	One way we can prepare for Jesus is by building peace. Make a peace paper-chain and think about how you can build peace in school this week.*  5	Today is the feast of St Nicholas. Find out what St Nicholas did to bring hope to poor people.*  6	Say the Mission Together Prayer for children living in war zones: <i>May all children in the world, share love, share friendship and live in the peace of God's love. Now and forever. Amen.</i>  7	As a class, sing <i>Silent Night</i> . Listen carefully to the words and think about what they mean.  8	Make peace today. Say sorry to someone you may have upset this week. Or forgive someone who has upset you.  9	Find somewhere peaceful to sit and thank God for the people who love and care for you.  10
3rd Sunday of Advent The prophet Isaiah predicts great joy in today's first reading. How can we share God's joy this week? <i>Isaiah 35:1-6,10</i>  11	Yesterday was <i>Gaudete</i> Sunday. Find out what <i>Gaudete</i> means.  12	Find out how Advent & Christmas are celebrated in another country.  13	Make a <i>Joyful Angel</i> and think about how you can share the joy of Jesus today.*  14	Joy is easy to pass on! Look out for people who are lonely today and invite them to play.  15	As a class sing <i>Joy to the World</i> . Why not film your singing and share it with us @MissioUK  16	Say a prayer for all children who are upset, sad, or lonely. Ask God to help us share his joy with them.  17
4th Sunday of Advent In today's Gospel, an angel visits Joseph and says, 'Do not be afraid'. Ask God to help you with your worries. <i>Matthew 1:18-24</i>  18	Imagine you are the donkey carrying Mary to Bethlehem. Write a poem or carol about your special task.  19	Sing your favourite carol to a family member today. Think about the words and tell someone what they mean.  20	Create a <i>Gift for the World</i> decoration and think about the gifts God has given you to share.*  21	Be an Advent light today: make a Christmas card for an elderly relative or neighbour.*  22	Today pray for people who have no home. Ask God to keep them safe this Christmas, and for us to find ways to help them.  23	Rejoice! Jesus is born! Remember to thank God and your family for all the gifts their love brings.  24 & 25

© Mission Together

The Sunday Bible stories are taken from the readings at Mass that day. An abridged version can be found in our accompanying liturgical prayers. A * refers to activities, assemblies or carols. Download all for free from the Advent page of the Mission Together website.

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