

Week beginning Monday 28th November 2022 Newsletter

www.stmaryspsportaferry.com

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. Please note that current P1 pupils will finish school at 1.00pm on Wednesday 30th November. After Schools club is available from 1.00pm on this particular day for Primary 1 pupils, if required. Also our Nursery class will finish at 11.00am on this particular day.

SAINT MARY'S PRIMARY SCHOOL AND NURSERY UNIT



OPEN DAY

for prospective Primary 1 and Nursery pupils
for 2023/24

Wednesday 30th November 2022

11.30am - 12.30pm Saint Mary's Nursery Unit

**1.30pm - 2.30pm Prospective Primary 1 pupils
for Saint Mary's Primary School**



**Why not come along to see all we
have to offer?
We look forward to meeting you.**



Visit our school website www.stmaryspsportaferry.com for more information

CHRISTMAS PLAYS

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.



READ ALL ABOUT IT

It is time for the next exciting issue of our Literacy Service Newsletter, '**Read All About It**'. In this Issue, the focus is **Creative Writing**. In this issue they explain what creative writing is and why it is important, and parents and carers can learn some tips for encouraging their child's creative writing at home. This link brings you the new issue: <https://sway.office.com/TmuLKTR81KbkDLOO?ref=Link>



HIGH FIVE

It is also time for another edition of HIGH FIVE, the fortnightly magazine produced by Primary Behaviour Support and Provisions, packed full of good ideas to inspire, support and challenge all our



young people to be the best they can be. The theme in this issue is to Be Excited. We are just about to move into December when there are lots of things for our children to be excited about whether it's Christmas parties or school holidays. The **Staff Hub** in this issue highlights Rua's Sore Head, a lovely story created by Brain Injury Matters.

<https://www.eani.org.uk/high-five-primary-behaviour-support-provisions-newsletter#high-five-newsletter-issue-52>



SEND TRANSFORMATION PROGRAMME

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

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.

Education Authority

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 1st December 2022.

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 29th November. P1/2/3 runs from 2.00-3.00pm and P4/5/6/7 between 3.00-4.00pm.



HAPPY BIRTHDAY

This week we send birthday greetings to Isla (P4), Kaelem (P6) and Cliodhna (P5).

**HAPPY
BIRTHDAY**

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	Spaghetti Bolognese, crusty bread, tossed salad. Melon, cheese and crackers
Tuesday	Breaded fish goujons, sweetcorn, mashed potato; flake meal biscuit & fresh fruit
Wednesday	Roast pork, stuffing, gravy, cauliflower, carrots, oven dry roast and mashed potato; Fresh fruit selection & yoghurt

Thursday	Breast of Chicken Curry with boiled rice, naan bread, Garden Peas, chocolate sponge & custard
Friday	Breaded chicken bites, beans, chips, baked potato, coleslaw, tossed salad; jelly, ice-cream & fresh fruit

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

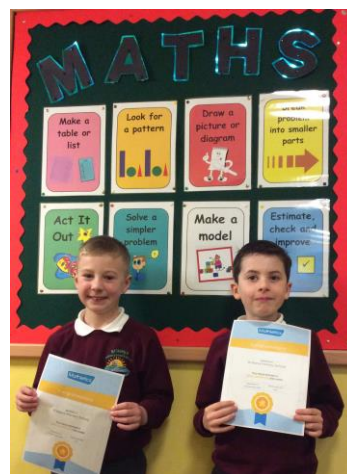
Also available daily!

Apple/ Orange juice 40p; Milkshake 40p; water 50p;

Selection of fresh fruit 25p

MATHLETICS

Congratulations to Oisin (P4) and Ethan (P4) who achieved their gold certificate in Mathletics this week.



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 sores 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	Slapped Cheek 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		

IMPORTANT DATES FOR THE DIARY

Monday 28th November

Girls Football at Blair Mane Leisure Centre

Tuesday 29th November

P6 Swimming

Eureka Seekers After School Club

Thursday 1st December

County Indoor Hurling Final

P4 Shared Education at St Mary's PS

Friday 2nd December

6.30pm Switching on of Christmas Lights

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

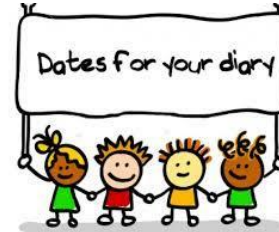
Wednesday 21st December

School Carol Service at 12.45pm

PSG Pupil Disco

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. Attached below is a prayer for this first week of Advent.

Advent Prayer for Families

Heavenly Father, your son, Jesus, is your greatest gift to us, a great sign of your love. Guide us as we strive to walk in that love together as a family this Advent.

As we prepare our hearts for Christmas, bring us closer to each other and to your son. Give us the grace and strength we need every day. Help us to always trust in you.

Come, Lord Jesus, lead all people closer to you.
Come and dispel the darkness of our world with the light of your love.

Amen.

