

**Week beginning Monday 5<sup>th</sup> December 2022**  
**Newsletter**

[www.stmaryspsportaferry.com](http://www.stmaryspsportaferry.com)

**P1/2/3 CHRISTMAS PLAYS**

Two tickets were sent home to all Primary 1/2/3 families for the evening production of the Primary 1/2/3 Christmas performance of 'Angel Express' on Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> December 2022 at 7.00pm. The tickets are £5 each and the money for these tickets should be paid by Monday 5<sup>th</sup> December 2022, to the class teacher. **ADMISSION IS STRICTLY BY TICKET ONLY.**

To ensure that all families have an opportunity to attend and buy tickets, we have initially limited the tickets to two per family. If you do not want these tickets, please return them promptly to the school, so they can be re-distributed.

There are also some additional tickets available for the Thursday night performance and these will be made available from the school office from Monday 5<sup>th</sup> December 2022.

Tickets are also available for the Friday 16<sup>th</sup> December 2022 10.00am morning performance from the Secretary's office, price £5.00, from Monday 5<sup>th</sup> December 2022. This is a perfect opportunity for other family members to come along and enjoy the performance as there is usually a smaller crowd at this performance and it is more comfortable. Our P1/2/3 pupils will be dismissed from school after this morning performance.

Should you have questions or queries regarding our Christmas Play performances, please contact the school office, either by telephone on 028427 28278 or email at

[info@stmarysps.portaferry.ni.sch.uk](mailto:info@stmarysps.portaferry.ni.sch.uk).



**UPCOMING CHRITSMAS EVENTS**

There are several upcoming events, in preparation for Christmas, that our P4/5/6/7 pupils, in particular, will be participating in.

The Parish are hosting an ecumenical Carol Service on Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> December at 4.00pm in St Patrick's Church. We are delighted that an invite has been extended to our school to attend this event. We would encourage all available P4/5/6/7 pupils to be present and seated in the Church by 3.45pm on this day.

We extend an invite to all within our schooling community to our Carol Service, happening on Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> December at 12.45pm in St Patrick's Church. This will involve all pupils in our Primary school from Primary 1 through to Primary 7. Again, this is the first time in many years we have an opportunity to come together to celebrate together the true meaning of Christmas and we extend an open invitation for all to attend. Pupils will be dismissed from school after the Carol Service on Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> December.



**Parent Support Group (PSG)**

On Monday, in your child's schoolbag or homework pack, you should find a set of tickets for this year's annual PSG Christmas Raffle. One set of tickets will be distributed per family and if you have siblings in school, tickets were only sent home with the eldest child in your family. Thank you once



again to our Parents Support Group for organising the raffle and I think you will agree that the prizes this year are again very impressive. If you need any additional tickets, please contact the school.



### PSG STEP IT UP CHALLENGE 2023

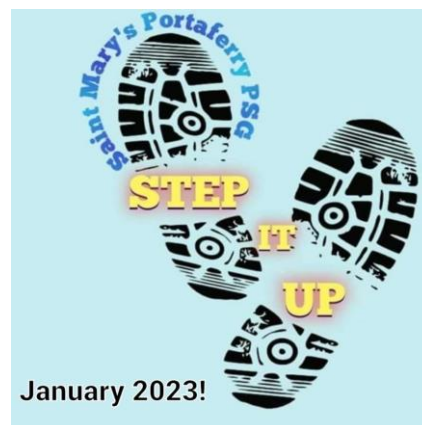
Our Parents Support Group (PSG) are once again hosting their "Step It Up 2023 - Making a Healthier Happier You" initiative from Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> January to Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> February 2023.

The aim of this programme is to increase your number of steps each week;

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

The cost for the 5 weeks is £20 and there are prizes each week for most improved whilst reaching the targets set and overall prize for most steps and most improved.

Contact any member of our PSG committee or contact the school office for further details.



### 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 8<sup>th</sup> 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 6<sup>th</sup> December. P1/2/3 runs from 2.00-3.00pm and P4/5/6/7 between 3.00-4.00pm.





## PUPILS OF THE WEEK

As we were not in school last week we gave out 2 pupil's of the week awards in each class. During this month of December is "looking out for the needs of others."

Set 1

P1	Patrick
P2	Jake
P3	Callie
P4	Belle
P5	Aria
P6	Dawson
P7	Emily



Set 2

P1	Eoin
P2	Jacob
P3	Leah
P4	Alfie
P5	Grace
P6	Rachel
P7	Keelan



## HAPPY BIRTHDAY

This week we send birthday greetings to Hailey (P5), Holly (P6), Sean (P6) and Ari (P2).

# HAPPY BIRTHDAY

## CELEBRATION TIME

This week we celebrate together with Patrick (P1), Aoife (P3), Maebh (P4), Belle (P4) and Jamie (P6) won a number of medals at an Irish Dancing Feis, Cliodhna (P3), Lara (P3), Jack (P3), Olivia (P3), Cormac (P4) who all various awards for Judo and finally Alice (P7) got a special hair-cut and donated her hair to the Princess Trust.



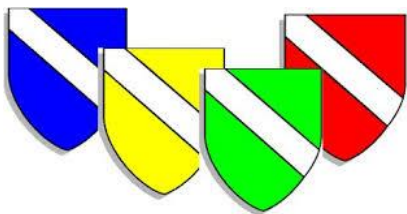
## HOUSE TEAMS

The results for this week were as follows;

House Colour	This Week	Overall Total
Red	138	344
Blue	124	347
Green	150	365
Yellow	138	342

At last week's Assembly we were delighted to be able to present Gold Award certificates to those pupils who have achieved 100 House Points. Congratulations to Leigha (P3), Cliodhna (P3), Aoife (P3), Tom (P3), Logan (P4), Kayleigh (P4), Oisín (P4) and Lucas (P5).





### ACCELERATED READER

Throughout the month of November our P4/5/6/7 totals in Accelerated Reading were as follows:

Quizzes attempted 398  
Quizzes passed 375  
Total word count 2,529,540

This represents a reading comprehension understanding score of 86.9%, which is just higher than our target of 85%. Well done everyone and keep up this great reading.

We were also delighted to be able to present our first Reader Millionaire certificate to Niamh (P6). This is a fabulous achievement, so early in this school year. Niamh tells us she is not going to stop there and has high ambitions for the rest of this year.



### 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	Chicken goujons, mashed potato, beans Raspberry ripple ice-cream & fresh fruit chunks.
Tuesday	Salmon Fishcakes or breaded fish, baked beans, mashed potato Frozen Smoothie & Fresh Fruit
Wednesday	Roast Beef, gravy, stuffing, carrots & Parsnip, oven dry roast and mashed potato Popcorn cookies & watermelon chunks.

Thursday	Breast of Chicken Curry with boiled rice, naan bread, Garden Peas Fruit sponge & custard
Friday	Hotdog, coleslaw, tossed salad, chips, baked potato Fresh fruit selection & yoghurt

### **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](mailto: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?					
<b>Chicken Pox</b> Until all spots have crusted over	<b>Conjunctivitis</b> No need to stay off but school or nursery should be informed	<b>Diarrhoea &amp; Vomiting</b> 48 hours from last episode	<b>Glandular Fever</b> No need to stay off but school or nursery should be informed	<b>Hand, foot &amp; mouth</b> No need to stay off but school or nursery should be informed	<b>Impetigo</b> Until lesions are crusted & healed or 48 hours after commencing antibiotics
<b>Measles or German Measles</b> 4 days from onset of rash	<b>Mumps</b> 5 days from onset of swelling	<b>Scabies</b> Until after first treatment	<b>Scarlet Fever</b> 24 hours after commencing antibiotics	<b>Slapped Cheek</b> No need to stay off but school or nursery should be informed	<b>Whooping Cough</b> 48 hours after commencing antibiotics
<b>Flu</b> Until recovered	<b>Head Lice</b> No need to stay off but school or nursery should be informed	<b>Threadworms</b> No need to stay off but school or nursery should be informed	<b>Tonillitis</b> No need to stay off but school or nursery should be informed		

### IMPORTANT DATES FOR THE DIARY

#### Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> December

P6 Swimming

Eureka Seekers After School Club

#### Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> December

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

#### Friday 16<sup>th</sup> December

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

#### Monday 19<sup>th</sup> December

P/2/3/4 Christmas Dinner

#### Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> December

P5/6/7 Christmas Dinner

#### Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> December

School Carol Service at 12.45pm

PSG Pupil Disco

#### Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> December

11.00am School closes for Christmas Holidays

### SACRAMENTAL DATES FOR 2023

The following dates have been agreed for the sacraments for next year:

#### **First Confession:**

*Pre Sacramental Enrolment* - Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup>

February 2023 at 7.00pm in St Patrick's]

*Celebration of Sacrament* - Friday 10<sup>th</sup> March 2023

10.30am in St Patrick's

#### **First Communion:**

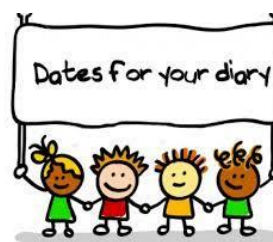
*Do this in Memory Mass* - Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> January 2023 at 6.30pm

*Celebration of Sacrament* - Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> May 2023 at 10.00am

#### **Confirmation:**

*Service of Light* - Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> March at 7.30pm in St Patrick's

*Celebration of Sacrament* - Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2023 at 12.00noon in St Patrick's



### 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

This week we celebrate the second Sunday of Advent and the second candle will be lit on the Advent wreath for PEACE. We pray for peace around the world and peace in our hearts. A reflection prayer for Advent is attached at the end of this newsletter.

#### *An Advent Prayer*

*God of light and hope  
look upon us in love,  
and fill us with the Spirit of Jesus,  
that we may love you and serve you in  
your kingdom.*

*Protect us during this week  
and keep us watchful in prayer,  
as we await the coming of our Lord, Jesus  
Christ,*

*who is the light of the world  
and who lives and reigns with You and  
the Holy Spirit,  
one God, forever and ever.*

*Amen*

