

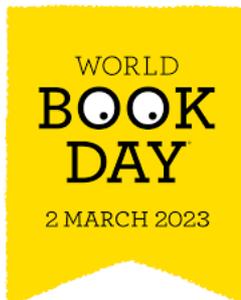


Week beginning Monday 4th March 2024
Newsletter

www.stmaryspsportaferry.com

WORLD BOOK DAY 2024

Our school will be participating in World Book Day on Thursday 7th March 2024. Classes will be participating in a series of activities around reading and an emphasis will be placed on the many benefits and joys that can be achieved through reading. On this day, pupils can come to school dressed as their favourite book character. We urge parents not to go out and purchase any items specifically for this day. If pupils do not wish to dress as their favourite book character, they can come to school in their own clothes. World Book Day is a Non-Uniform day. A donation is requested of £2 per person or £3 per family, with all monies raised going to the Trocaire Lenten campaign.



BLOSSOM AND BLOOM

The School Council in collaboration with The Eco-Council are proud to launch our 'Blossom & Bloom' project. They are asking all our pupils to help brighten up our indoor and outdoor areas whilst learning about 'Gardening and Growing' along the way.

All pupils are asked to donate an outdoor plant OR outdoor flower OR packet of flower/vegetable/herb seeds OR some bulbs. Just bring these items into school and the councils will help organise, distribute and encourage all classes to get planting as we move through Spring and into Summer.

If any of our parents, grandparents or friends of St. Mary's are interested in helping with the

maintenance of our outdoor areas, gardens and vegetable plots, please leave your name at the office and Mr Gilchrist will get back to you.

HOMEWORK TASKS AND HOME SUPPORT

It is important that we, as a schooling community, continue to maintain the highest standards of practice, in particular with completing and returning assigned homework tasks to school. As a school we value your continuing support and your ongoing contribution towards our home to school partnership. We, therefore, would like to take this opportunity to remind all parents to continue to monitor their child's completion of assigned homework tasks and to ensure that your child returns all homework tasks to school on the correct days. As always, we expect all homework activities to be completed to a high standard and for this to be presented in a neat and tidy manner. It is also important for classroom organisation that the correct books are returned on time so that staff are not continually chasing up homework and reading books.



We would also appreciate it if pencil cases could be replenished with handwriting pencils, colouring pencils, rubbers, sharpeners etc.

We thank you for your continuing support.



WEEKLY MONEY SUBMISSIONS

Please ensure that you send your child in with any monies for dinners, After Schools or Breakfast Club in a clearly marked envelope with all correct information on what the monies is for. This must be given to your child's direct teacher. For any siblings we ask that you send a separate envelope for each sibling to your child's teacher and do not send in a family envelope. This will reduce confusion and aid communication for our school office. We request that this is sent in each Monday morning.



TROCAIRE

As we have every year, St Mary's will be fundraising for Trocaire throughout Lent. Trocaire is the Irish word for compassion and for 50 years it has put the compassion of Irish people into action. This year the theme is exploring water justice. We will be learning about Malita and her village from Mandiwasa in Malawi. The effects of the climate crisis is felt the greatest in the global south, even though these countries have done the least to cause this situation. Each class will collect money to help support Trocaire in these campaigns by holding class raffles, there will be other opportunities for donating money through activities such as colouring competition, a bun sale and sponsored skip a thons. We are aware that times are difficult and are grateful for any donation during this time of prayer, fasting and almsgiving.



AFTER SCHOOL CLUB

Clubs continue throughout this term. Clubs can also be paid for weekly at £2.50 per session attended. You can register your child by sending in an overall or 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

Peegy will be in the school from Thursday 7th February 2024 to deliver After Schools Judo. You need to go to <https://www.teamo.chat/club/register/psj> to register your attendance.

IRISH DANCING AFTER SCHOOL

Deirdre is still attending the school every Wednesday afternoon between 2.00pm - 4.00pm for any pupil who may be interested in learning Irish Dancing. Cost is £2.50 per session.

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 per person attending.



PUPILS OF THE WEEK

During this month of February our focus is on Looking out for the needs of others. This week our Pupils of the Week were;

| | |
|-----------------------------|------------------------|
| P1 | Niamh |
| P2 | Rebecca |
| P3 | Lucas |
| P4 | Gwen |
| P5 | Michael |
| P6 | Cillian |
| P7 | Niamh |
| LSU | Cooper |
| Playground Supervisor Award | Evie (P2) Liam (P7) |



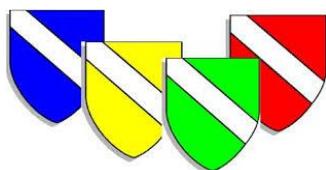
HOUSE TEAMS

We have re-introduced our weekly House point count and plan to announce House Team winners of the House Team Trophy before the Easter holidays. Our weekly House team winners will also earn extra play time on a Friday afternoon.

The House Points for this week were:

| House Colour | This Week |
|--------------|-----------|
| Red | 256 |
| Blue | 260 |
| Green | 250 |
| Yellow | 254 |

The Blue Team earned extra play time on Friday afternoon.



We presented Gold House Point certificates to Niamh, Cian, JJ, Feidhelm, Kaelem and Luis in Primary 7 for achieving 100 House Points since the start of this school year.



MATHLETICS

Mathletic certificates were presented to Cliodhna, Bella, Aidan and Jack in Primary 4.



ACCELRTAED READER

Up to month of February we were delighted to present 50,000 word count certificates to Jenson (P4) and Aria (P6). 100,000 word count certificates were presented to Lucas (P6), Kate (P6), Belle (P5) and Brooke (P6).



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 | Beef Bolognaise, sweetcorn, pasta spirals; chocolate & Orange Cookie |
| Tuesday | Breaded Fish & Lemon Mayo, Mushy or Garden peas, baked beans, chipped potato; raspberry jelly & two fruits |
| Wednesday | Chicken Curry & Naan Bread, diced carrots & green beans, noodles, rice; fruit sponge & custard |
| Thursday | Roast beef, stuffing & gravy, fresh vegetables in season; pineapple delight |
| Friday | Hot dog with tomato ketchup, spaghetti hoops, corn on the cob, chipped potatoes; ice cream & mandarin orange |

BREAK

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

LABEL YOU ITEMS OF CLOTHING

As we begin a new school term I remind all to please make sure that all items of your child's clothing, in particular school jumpers, are labelled with your child's name clearly on display.



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 school or nursery should be informed | Diarrhoea & Vomiting 48 hours from last episode | Glandular Fever No need to stay off school or nursery should be informed | Hand, foot & mouth No need to stay off school or nursery should be informed | Impetigo Until lesions are crusted & treated in 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 school or nursery should be informed | Whooping Cough 48 hours after commencing antibiotics |
| Flu Until recovered | Head Lice No need to stay off school or nursery should be informed | Threadworms No need to stay off school or nursery should be informed | Tonsillitis No need to stay off school or nursery should be informed | HSC Public Health Agency | |

IMPORTANT DATES FOR THE DIARY

Tuesday 5th February

P7 Swimming

Thursday 7th March

World Book Day

Friday 8th March

9.30am School Community Mass

SACRAMENTAL DATES FOR 2024

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

First Confession:

Celebration of Sacrament - Friday 15th March 2024
10.30am in St Patrick's

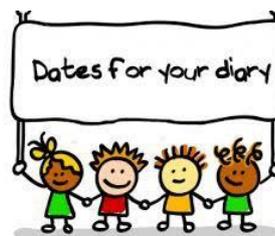
First Communion:

Celebration of Sacrament - Saturday 11th May 2024
at 10.00am

Confirmation:

Service of Light - Sunday 10th March 2024
at 11.00am in St Patrick's

Celebration of Sacrament - Friday 19th April 2024
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).

HIGH FIVE

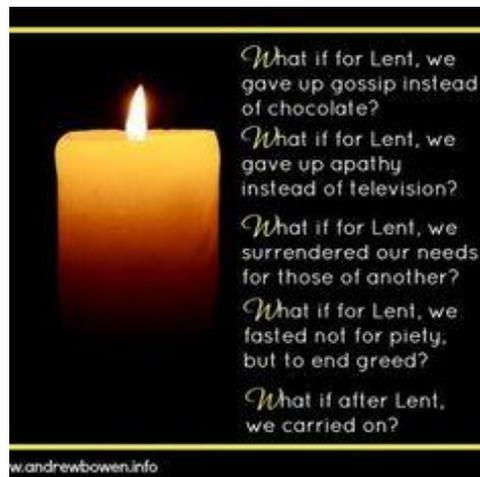
It's time for the next edition of HIGH FIVE, the fortnightly magazine produced by Primary Behaviour Support and Provisions (PBS&P), packed full of good ideas to inspire, support and challenge all our young people to be the best they can be. Our High Five challenge in this issue is to be **confident**. Take some time in your staff and class groups to really think about what confidence looks like and how we can develop this further both in ourselves and each other. Follow link below to access:

<https://sites.google.com/c2ken.net/highfiveresourcehub/high-five-magazine>



THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK

Each week we will be introducing a different whole schooling community "Thought for the Week." Should you wish to, this is an opportunity to reflect on the words and relate to how they might influence or impact upon us. During this period of lent our themes will be relating to this time.



Are you interested in fostering? Would you like to find out more?

We at KinderCare Fostering are a non-profit making, Independent Fostering Agency that covers all of Northern Ireland. We work in partnership with the 5 Trusts across NI, we aim to provide loving and safe foster homes for Northern Ireland's most vulnerable children and young people.

There is currently a crisis in fostering in Northern Ireland. Unfortunately, there is an extreme shortage of foster carers, and as a result, we are unable to help many children and young people who would benefit so much from a safe and loving foster home. If you are interested in Fostering you can help us bridge that gap by getting in touch to gain more information.

We offer a high level of tailored support and training to all of our foster carers, as well as a generous monthly fostering allowance. The whole KinderCare family will be with you every step of the way in your Fostering journey.

You can contact us on 028 9002 0247 and ask for Gillian or Rebekah to have an informal chat. We will happily give you lots of information that is tailored to your personal circumstances and answer any questions you may have.

Alternatively, you can check out our website www.kindercareni.co.uk, or email Rebekah.Harper@kindercare.co.uk

Never rule yourself out, contact us and see if you could be that important life line that makes a positive change and difference to a child life.





COULD YOU BE A FOSTER CARER?

EVERY DAY IN NORTHERN IRELAND 2 MORE CHILDREN COME INTO CARE



Who can be a foster carer?

Almost anyone can be a foster carer, as long as they have love to give, the patience to work through difficulties and the dedication to invest lots of time and energy. Most importantly, we ask that you have the space in your home and the support of family to create the right caring environment for a vulnerable child/ young person, and that you genuinely care about the welfare of children and young people.

A foster carer is -

- 21 years old or over
- A home owner or a tenant with Landlords permission
- Someone with a bedroom for the exclusive use of the looked after child
- Any ethnic, cultural, religious backgrounds and sexual orientation
- A British Citizen or have permanent leave to stay in the UK
- In good health of both body and mind
- A driver or willing to learn
- A kind person with a genuine caring personality



CONTACT US TODAY

www.kindercareni.co.uk

02890020247

