

**Week beginning Monday 18<sup>th</sup> March 2024**  
**Newsletter**

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

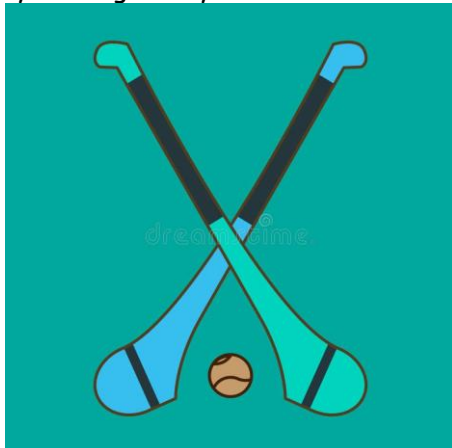
### **SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION**

Congratulations to our Primary 3 boys and girls who received the sacrament of First Confessions on Friday 15<sup>th</sup> March 2024. We were all so very proud of how they conducted themselves and the reverence they showed for this sacrament. Thank you to Miss O'Prey (Class Teacher) and to Mrs Milligan and Mrs Clarke who helped prepare the children and to Father McGrady for how he conducted the service and really kept everyone at ease. We hope the Primary 3 pupils enjoyed the rest of their day.



### **INDOOR HURLING FINAL**

We send our best wishes to the Boy's Indoor Hurling squad who will be representing our school at the Ulster Indoor Hurling Finals on Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> March. We are so proud of their achievements and we know you will give it your best on Thursday.



### **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.



## 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 Mandiwas 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

Peggy will be in the school from Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> March 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 March our focus is on demonstrating a great love and enjoyment of reading. This week our Pupils of the Week were;

LSU	Noah
P1	Aoife
P2	Maol
P3	Jake
P4	Bella
P5	Cormac
P6	Evan
P7	Meah
Playground Supervisor Award	Dara (P3) Stephen (P6)



## 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.

The House Points for this week were:

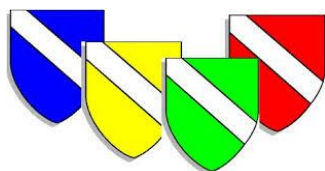
House Colour	This Week	Totals
Red	188	943
Blue	172	933
Green	148	967





Yellow	146	964
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The Red Team earned extra play time.



We presented Gold House Point certificates to Sean and Amy in Primary 7 for achieving 100 House Points since the start of this school year.



### HAPPY BIRTHDAY

This week we send birthday greetings to Hallie (P2), Eoghan (P2), Oisin (P5) and Eabha Grace (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	Golden crumbed fish fingers, sweetcorn, chipped potatoes, coleslaw; ice-cream, pears & chocolate sauce
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Tuesday	Homemade Cottage Pie, spring greens, butternut squash, oven baked potato wedges; summer fruit cheesecake
Wednesday	Beef meatballs with tomato & basil sauce, green beans, baton carrots, pasta spirals; sticky date pudding & custard
Thursday	Roast pork, stuffing & gravy, fresh vegetables in season mashed, oven roast potato; green krispie square
Friday	School 'Chippy Day' chicken goujon wrap, beans, mushy peas, chipped potatoes; frozen fruit yoghurt

### **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

### 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	HSC Public Health Agency	

### IMPORTANT DATES FOR THE DIARY

**Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> March**

P7 Swimming

**Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> March**

Ulster Indoor Hurling Finals

### SACRAMENTAL DATES FOR 2024

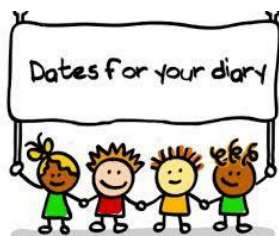
The following dates have been agreed for the sacraments for next year:

#### **First Communion:**

*Celebration of Sacrament - Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> May 2024 at 10.00am*

#### **Confirmation:**

*Celebration of Sacrament - Friday 19<sup>th</sup> 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).

### 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.

