



St Mary's Primary School

220 Mayogall Road, Portglenone, Co Antrim, BT44 8NN

Tel: 02825821066 Fax: 02825822039

Email: mmeehan763@c2kni.net

Principal: Mr. M Meehan

5th September 2019

Dear Parent/Guardian

We would like to welcome the children back to our school for the academic year 2019/20. We have a number of exciting initiatives that we are introducing this year and we have no doubt that we will have another successful year in our school.

School Funds

The Governors and staff at St Mary's are continually looking at ways to develop and improve the school and we are proud of the welcoming and stimulating learning environment that we provide for our children. We continually search for funding opportunities that will contribute to the development of our school for the benefit of all our children. Unfortunately, we have seen a reduction in funding over the last few years and we do not have the resources from the school's main budget to pay for; new ICT hardware, playground refurbishment, new sports equipment etc. But by collecting a donation from individuals or families we can make a real difference to our school. Therefore, at the beginning of each academic year, we invite all families to make a voluntary contribution. Anyone who is unable to make this level of donation is welcome to make a smaller contribution and/or perhaps give their time to help in school or at our new 'Parent, Teachers & Friends Association' fund-raising events. Of course, families are free to donate a larger amount if circumstances allow.

	One Child	Family
Term 1	£10.50	£21.00
Term 2	£10.50	£21.00
Term 3	£7.50	£15.00
Year	£28.50	£57.00

This equates to approximately £1.30 per week

Breakfast Club & School opening

Our new breakfast club has started this week and is proving to be very popular. It runs from 8am - 8.45am at a cost of £1 per child per day. This includes toast, cereal and juice. Payment can be made to Christine or Karen daily or weekly. If not attending the breakfast club children are not permitted to attend school until **8.45am.**



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Car Park and Collecting Children

To prevent any congestion and for the safety of all the children leaving school, parents are asked to park in a suitable place when collecting children - not at railings where the traffic cones are set. All parents are asked to turn LEFT when exiting the car park. This will prevent any congestion when parents are trying to enter the car park to collect their children. This is a persistent problem and your cooperation is greatly appreciated.

Homework

As a result of the feedback of the questionnaires distributed to parents last year, we have redrafted our homework policy and amended homework schedules at whole school level. Homework will be given out weekly and no longer on a daily basis. Additional work will be available for your child via our school website under the 'Homework' section (available week commencing 9th September). Parents are asked to familiarise themselves with their child's homework schedule and ensure it is completed and ready to be submitted at the end of the week. This will be rolled out to parents on the week beginning **16th September**. If you have any queries in relation to homework please contact your child's class teacher.

Keeping Parents Informed on Pupil Progress

We aim to ensure all parents are kept informed of their child's progress through the school year and we continue to strive to ensure parents are involved in their child's/children's development. Please note the following:

Curriculum Evening - This will take place on **9th October**. Parents will be invited to a meeting with your child's class teacher where initiatives, targets and objectives for the year will be discussed.

Parent Teacher Meetings - This will take place later in the year in January (term 2)

Books Sent Home - Your child's numeracy and literacy books will be sent home every half term for parents to enjoy their child's class work produced throughout the year.

If you have any concerns regarding your child's progress or any other matter contact your child's class teacher to arrange a meeting throughout the school year.

After Schools Clubs

We will introduce ASC for all children from **Monday 16th September**. We are delighted to offer Spanish again this year and would also like to offer weekly tin whistle lessons for KS1 (P3/4) & KS2 (P5/6/7) children. Further details on the Spanish club will be sent home next week. If you would like your child to avail of the after school's tin whistle club that will take place every Monday 3pm-4pm, please complete



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the reply slip below. *A small fee is necessary to cover the expenses of the language and music tutors.*

Mr Meehan and Mrs R. Quinn will facilitate an after schools club for KS1 (P3/4) & KS2 (P5/6/7) children beginning Thursday 19th September from 3pm-4pm. Mr Meehan will run a music club for KS2 children exploring world music, making percussion instruments and creating music via garage band. Mrs Quinn will run a Fun Maths club for KS1 children focussing on problem solving and mental maths activities, all done through interactive games. *There is no charge for the Thursday clubs.*

School Website & Social Media

All school letters, dinner menus, school holidays and latest news will be available via our school website. Please subscribe to our newsletter via our school website to keep up to date with all news and school correspondence. An app is also available to download via our website to ensure you are kept up to date with all the activities that take place in our school. Please refrain from commenting on social media posts as our site is a means of drawing the attention of friends and family members to news and events in our school. If you have any queries, please make direct contact with the school by email or telephone as messages made through Facebook will not be responded to.

Kind regards

Mr M. Meehan (Principal)

Tin Whistle Club

I would like my child to attend the after schools Tin Whistle Club beginning on **Monday 16th September**. I understand the class runs every week throughout the school year at a cost of **£2 per week**. **Class can be paid per week or at the beginning of each term**

Name:

Class:

Parent Signature: