



# St Mary's Primary School

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

Tel: 02825821066 Fax: 02825822039

Email: [mmeehan763@c2kni.net](mailto:mmeehan763@c2kni.net)

Principal: Mr. M Meehan

15<sup>th</sup> April 2021

## Dear Parents

We are delighted to welcome all the children back to school after the Easter break and I would like to thank you all for your patience and support over the past number of weeks. Lock down has been difficult and unsettling for our whole community however as restrictions begin to ease we can look forward to a brighter future and a fun filled third term.

## School Holidays

School will be closed on the following dates

Monday 3 <sup>rd</sup> May	Bank Holiday
Thursday 27 <sup>th</sup> May	Staff Development
Friday 28 <sup>th</sup> May	Staff Development
Monday 31 <sup>st</sup> May	Bank Holiday

## First Confession

As you are aware first communion has been postponed until September. Mrs Duffy continues to prepare the children for their special day and part of their sacramental preparation the primary four class will make their first confession on **Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> May at 6.30pm**. Due to COVID restrictions only two family members can join their child on the evening in St Oliver Plunkett's Church Greenlough.

## Wraparound Care

We received a letter today from Mr Weir stating schools can now provide the provision of care both before and after school. Contrary to this it is impossible for our school to provide an effective breakfast club as we must ensure all children remain safe in their class bubbles and if children interact with each other in the morning before dispersing to their class bubbles we will not be complying with COVID regulations. Therefore, our breakfast club will remain closed for the remainder of the school year and we will review the situation with the view of re-establishing it in September.

We plan to facilitate an after schools football and camogie club at the beginning of May. Guidance specifies that extra-curricular sport must take place outside therefore we will wait for the more consistent weather in May to arrive and introduce the clubs on the week of 3<sup>rd</sup> May. This will be open to P5 – 7 pupils.

## Transfer Test

We are awaiting confirmation that the transfer test will take place next year. In preparation for this we are exploring the possibility of introducing support sessions in May. We are asking parents to complete an expression of interest if they would like their child to receive additional support in preparing for the transfer test however, please take into consideration the position children find themselves in due to the ramifications of lock down and the



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significant disruption experienced this year. If you would like your child to take part, please complete the reply slip below and return to Mr Warnock.

## School Dinners and Breaks

A new cashless system will be introduced to school where breaks, dinners, school trips etc can all be paid on line. We are currently in the process of establishing this and it will be available for all parents in the coming weeks. However, as things stand, parents are asked **NOT** to send money to school with their child on a daily basis. The following arrangements have been in place from September and we ask parents to please keep to this arrangement. If you would like your child to receive toast during break time we ask that £5 is sent in on **Monday 19<sup>th</sup> April**. This will pay for 4wks and toast will be brought to each class and safety distributed to the children. Break money cannot be broken down into daily amounts.

If you would like your child to receive a school dinner, we ask that the total amount of money and days you would like your child to receive dinner is sent in at the beginning of each week. Please note dinners cost £2.60 per day and include milk and a dessert eg – *NAME* £7.80 Monday, Wednesday, Friday. Money will be collected in class and brought to the kitchen by a member of staff.

## St Mary's Fun Day!

We have planned a fun day in school for all the children on Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> May. This will replace a school trip for each class as gaining access to outdoor facilities will be difficult due to COVID. There will be a huge range of activities that will take place throughout the school day and all details will be released to the children in the coming weeks. We are hoping to organise a special day out for our P7 children in June to celebrate their time in our school, further details will be released to parents when we receive confirmation of potential venues.

## Non-Uniform Day

A non-uniform day will take place on Friday 30<sup>th</sup> April at a cost of £1 per child. All proceeds will go towards school funds.

Yours Sincerely

**Mr M. Meehan** (Principal)

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## Transfer Preparation

I would like my child \_\_\_\_\_ to take part in transfer preparation sessions throughout May and June.

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_