



Saint Mary's Primary School and Nursery Unit

January 2018

www.stmaryspsbellaghy.co.uk

TERM 2 DATES

Monday 8th January –
Thursday 29th March
(School will close at 11am on
this day)

Term 2 SCHOOL CLOSURES

Monday 12th Feb – Friday 16th
Feb inclusive
Mid-term Break

CONFIRMATION

Tuesday 17th April 5pm

Fri 30th March – Fri 6th April
inclusive. Easter Holidays

*Please note: The school will
close at 11am Thurs 29th March*

UP-COMING EVENTS

Fri 9th February P5 Assembly
Please note change of date

28th January – 4th February
Catholic Schools Week

w/c 29th January P7 Transfer
Meetings - Times to Follow

Fri 2nd Feb P1 Parent Teacher
Meetings Times to follow



Welcome back after a lovely Christmas break. We hope Santa was good and 2018 brings lots of blessings to us all.

Many of the children are setting targets for themselves in Literacy and Numeracy. We ask parents to get involved in helping them reach their goals.

Another Chance

A bright, shiny new year,
empty, neat, pristine,
waiting, ready
for us to get it right.
Another chance
to love and forgive.
Another chance
to make a real effort
to give more than we get.
Another chance
to make a difference.
A good new year.
A Happy New Year!

Childhood is a unique experience.

Respect it.

Enjoy it.

Protect it.

HAMPERS AND RED RAFFLE TICKETS

A huge thank you to all those families who supported us in our raffle this year. The lucky winners were:

<u>Seller</u>	<u>Winner</u>
<u>Prize 1 – Large Hamper</u>	
Fionn Diamond	Odhran Diamond
<u>Prize 2 – Christmas Hamper</u>	
Aoife Graffin	Aoife Graffin
<u>Prize 3 – Cuddly Toy</u>	
Jamie Logan	Peadar O’Neill
<u>Prize 4 – Bottle of Wine</u>	
Jamie Logan	Shea Logan
<u>Prize 5 – Box of Biscuits</u>	
Caoimhe Chambers	Caoimhe Chambers
<u>Prize 6 – Box of Sweets</u>	
Conor McAlynn	Daniel McAlynn

BIG TICKET SELLERS

Michael Crozier (P1), Patrick Duffy (P1), Caoilfhionn Brady (P3), Aoife Graffin (P3), Eva McKenna (P4), Jasmine McDonnell (P6), Mya Fegan (P7) & Jamie Logan (P7).

CHRISTMAS DINNER

The children thoroughly enjoyed their Christmas Dinner. A huge thank you to Joanne, Dymphna, Imelda and Mary for all their hard work throughout 2017.

CHOIR

Thursday 3-4pm

Choir is open to children from P4-7. New members are always very welcome!

EVENT: Ballymena Festival – Tuesday 27th Feb.

Parent helpers needed. Please contact Mrs Fegan

UNIFORM AND COATS

It’s great to see so many children wearing their full uniform to school. We ask parents to continue to support us in this. During term 2, if at all possible the children will be outside at playtime. Therefore, all pupils should bring a coat to school during the winter months. We would ask that all coats and other uniform items are named to avoid confusion.

PRIMARY 1 Parent Teacher Meetings

Primary 1 will have their second Parent/Teacher meeting during the week beginning 5th February. Meeting times will be sent home by the class teacher.

PRIMARY 2-6 Education Plan Reviews

Reviews of IEPs will aim to be completed before mid-term. Dates for Annual Review Meetings will be sent home ASAP

CATHOLIC SCHOOLS WEEK 2018

28th January – 4th February

The theme for this year is Catholic Schools: ‘Learning with Pope Francis to care for our common home’. During the week we will be having a special morning assembly focusing on messages from Pope Francis.

Primary 7 will have their annual Grandparent’s day, with mass on Wednesday 31st January 9.30am, followed by a table quiz.

Details will follow from Miss Bradley

Primary 1 will have a class Prayer Service on Tuesday 30th January at 9.15. It is expected to last around 10/15 minutes and will be held in the classroom

MILK MONEY

Money is now due for Term 2.

COST: £11



P1 VISIT THE BRAID

P1 had an enjoyable day at the Braid in Ballymena. They joined in with lots of singing and dancing.

SCHOOL NURSE

The School Nurse will be seeing P1 on 25th, 26th Jan and 2nd Feb. All forms should have already been returned to the office. If you have any outstanding forms please contact Nicola ASAP.

INTERNET SAFETY

Shona Holmes from PSNI will presenting a talk on keeping safe online on Wed 7th February. We encourage parents to be vigilant when their child(ren) are online.

OPEN NIGHTS FOR POST-PRIMARY SCHOOLS

St Marys/St Paul's College Clady/Kilrea (St Conor's)	20 th January
St Mary's Grammar Magherafelt	23 rd 24 th January
St Patrick's College Maghera	17 th 20 th January
St Pius X College Magherafelt	13 th January
Sperrin Integrated College Magherafelt	24 th January
Rainey College Magherafelt	17 th 18 th January

Service of Light and Commitment:

22nd February 7.30pm St Mary's Church

Confirmation:

Tuesday 17th April at 5pm in St Mary's Church.

The school will finish early on this day for all classes.

P7 ROAD SAFETY AND CREDIT UNION QUIZZES

Children from P7 have been selected to represent our school. We wish them the best of luck.

PRIMARY 7 POST-PRIMARY TRANSFER

The children who sat the GL Assessment in November will receive their results on Saturday 27th January. We wish them every success.

Post-Primary Transfer Form.

A photocopy of the form and guidance notes will be sent home with the Primary 7 children on Tuesday 16th January. Transfer meetings will be held week commencing Monday 29th January .

POST PRIMARY SCHOOL VISITS

Throughout the week, local secondary school staff have been visiting the P6 and P7 classes. We encourage P6 and 7 parents to discuss the options open to them.

St Mary's Clady has amalgamated with St Paul's Kilrea and been renamed **St Conor's**. It has been decided that the Junior School will be on the Kilrea site, and Senior School on the Clady site.

We have been added to **St Pius'** feeder school list and so parents can consider this option also.

ECO NEWS

To promote recycling and reading, the Eco Council have decided to host a Book Swap on Friday 9th February. We would greatly appreciate donations of books (or children's magazines/comics). The books/magazines must be in a decent condition with no rips. The books will be collected on a daily basis and stored in the P7 room until the event. We hope we get a good response from all classes.



BOOK SWAP



Does your child have a pile of paperback books sitting in their room that they have already read? Do you wish you had the opportunity to exchange them for more exciting reading materials?

The Book Swap is for you!

ADVERSE WEATHER CONDITIONS

With the safety of our pupils, staff and parents at the forefront, in the event of poor weather conditions which force a school closure, we will endeavour to

- put a note on the school website www.stmarypsbellaghy.co.uk
- announce on BBC NI
- text parents using teachers2parents system

CREDIT UNION ART COMPETITION

The Credit Union Saving Scheme is a great way to encourage the children to save the pennies to make pounds! Money is collected and lodged on Tuesdays. Any child who wishes to join the Credit Union Savings Scheme, ask Nicola in the office for more details.

Congratulations to all those who entered the competition. The judges said that yet again, the standard was very high.

7years and under

- 1st Eva Diamond
- 2nd Clíodhna Molloy
- 3rd Niamh Craig

8-10 years

- 1st Annie Lennox
- 2nd Olivia Hughes
- 3rd Peadar Scullion

11-13 years

- 1st Kate Donnelly
- 2nd Hollie McManus
- 3rd Jude McCrystal

BLANKET MOVIE DAY

We had such fun! Check out more photos on the website



SPORTS ARRANGEMENTS

SWIMMING

Swimming lessons will commence for all Primary 7 pupils on Wednesday 10th January in Magherafelt Leisure Centre and will run for the remainder of Term 2.

Cost £2.50 per week

MEADOWBANK

Primary 6 will be attending Meadowbank this term for Multi-Skills.

Cost: £2.50

COACHING

Coaching from Derry GAA continues this term for P5 on a weekly basis and P3 and P4 fortnightly.

COST £1 per week

ZOOLAB

Zoolab will visit the school on Thursday 8th March with a wide range of small mammals and reptiles for the children to view as part of the Primary 3 topic Rainforests.

We ask for a small contribution from each pupil

P3	£1.50	each (45 min session)
Nursery-P7	£1	each (25 min session)

PRIMARY 4 DO THIS IN MEMORY

Dates for Sunday masses:

14th January
11th February
25th March
15th April

First Confession:

Wednesday 21st March at 7:30pm

First Eucharist:

Saturday 28th April 2018 2pm

ESSENTIAL SKILLS ENGLISH

Homeplace will gauge interest levels for an Essential Skills Class on a Wednesday evening, from 6.30pm – 9.30pm, starting on 31st January.

If folk are interested, they should contact Julie on 02879387444 or by e-mailing

julie.thompson@midulstercouncil.org