



Saint Mary's Primary School and Nursery Unit

June 2020

www.stmaryspsbellaghy.co.uk

Dear Parents/Guardians

As the school year draws to a close, in a way none of us could have predicted, we hope you are all keeping well and remaining safe. It is hard to believe we have reached the end of the school year. We never thought for a second we would not return to school when we finished for St Patrick's Day on Friday 13th March. However, there are many positive signs that things are slowly returning to a new sort of normal and we hope this continues.

Even though school has been closed, learning has continued through Seesaw and our learning packs. The amount of work the teachers have put in to keep the learning going has been phenomenal. We are very grateful to have such a dedicated staff. Thank you! The children have posted over 20,000 pieces of work to Seesaw since school closed, which is unbelievable! Receiving the amazing work has put smiles on our faces. Thank you boys and girls for all your efforts. Parents have been amazing in supporting the children's learning. We thank you for taking the time to send us videos, photos and updates. We appreciate it is not easy to complete home learning and that everyone has tried their very best.



2020-2021 START DATES

I'm sure you have read and heard lots of bits of information about possible arrangements for reopening school in September. We have received some guidance from Mr Peter Weir, Minister for Education however we are very conscious that this guidance is changing rapidly and cannot be finalised until nearer restart dates. Please rest assured that when plans are finalised, we will inform parents immediately. Current advice is that all Primary 7 pupils will attend school for a full week Mon 24th – Fri 28th August. Following that, classes will start to return from Tues 1st September. We look forward to seeing you all then!

REMOTE LEARNING

The Department of Education has suggested that they would potentially lend IT devices (laptop/tablet) to families who meet their set criteria, and are struggling to access remote learning due to a lack of home devices. We ask P1-6 parents to complete this very short survey and we will collate results and forward on to DENI. We will also send this link to your mobile phone. <https://tinyurl.com/y9vj8h2a>

CLASS ARRANGEMENTS FOR 2020-2021 (TBC)

Nursery	Mrs Fiona McGill
Primary 1	New Teacher
Primary 2	Mrs Fiona Conway
Primary 3	Mrs Margaret Fegan
Primary 4	Mrs Katie Carey
Primary 5	Mrs Claire McWilliams
Primary 6	Mrs Aileen McLea
Primary 7	Mrs Caitriona Mallon & Mrs Deirdre Mulholland (Job Share)

NURSERY AND PRIMARY 1 TRANSITION SEPTEMBER 2020

We hope to invite our new Nursery and Primary 1 pupils to visit their new classroom and meet their teacher during the week beginning 24th August. We will be in touch in August to arrange individual times/dates.

TRANSFERRING PRIMARY 7 PUPILS

The online transport application process for post-primary pupils is now open. All pupils transferring who wish to receive a bus pass must apply online.

www.eani.org.uk/checktransport



UNIFORM

In September we will be encouraging pupils to wear fresh clean clothes for each day at school, to help prevent the spread of infection.

Our school uniform is available as usual from both Select Kidz, and Sportique, Magherafelt Plain black tracksuit bottoms and white plain polo tops are also available from large stores such as Dunnes, Asda, Tesco.

A large amount of good quality uniform from our 'lost property' was donated to our local charity shop in the town.

END OF YEAR REPORTS AND PUPIL CLASS BOOKS

Pupil Reports have been completed and reflect the short school year - September to March. These reports, along with your child's class books are available for collection at the school on Tuesday 30th and Wednesday 1st July. We ask that you adhere to social distancing rules when on school premises.

SACRAMENTS

We know how disappointed everyone was that First Penance, First Holy Communion and Confirmation were postponed due to the Corona Virus outbreak. We hope to hear shortly a new date for these special occasions and will pass these dates on to you directly.

ST MARY'S VIRTUAL SPORTS DAY CHALLENGES

We hope you are enjoying our daily 'Sports Day Challenges'. We are loving all the pictures and videos. Well done!





Back in Primary 1
September 2013

CLASS OF 2020

Look how they've grown!

Congratulations to all the P7 children who are heading off to their new schools in September 2020. These schools are very fortunate to be getting such talented, caring and kind children. Throughout their time at St Mary's, they have been a credit to their families, their community and their school. This is not the end we had planned for them but we wish them every success in the future and we look forward to hearing of their continued successes. We will of course be joining them as they celebrate their Confirmation in the near future!



LEAVER'S DRIVE BY

Primary 7 are invited to participate in a special 'Leaver's Drive By' outside the school on Monday 29th June at 5pm.



Primary 7
Class of 2020