

# ST MARY'S PRIMARY SCHOOL

## & Cill Chluana Parish Nursery



123 Granemore Road  
Tassagh  
Co. Armagh  
BT60 2NJ

Tel: 028 3753 8018  
Fax: 028 3753 8018

Principal: Mr. Patrick Mallon

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Dear parent,

I would like to welcome you all back to school and trust you had an enjoyable summer break. The children have already adjusted to their new classes and once again I would like to assure you of the continuing commitment of the staff here at St. Mary's towards the education of your children.

To facilitate working parents, children will still be able to be dropped off at school at 8.45am and will be supervised from this time on. Please do not leave your child to school any earlier than this.

For those parents who need it, the Breakfast Club will be available from 8.00-8.45 each morning at a cost of 75p per child per morning.

School dinners are still priced at £2.10 per day for P1-P7 children and £2.00 for Nursery children. Nursery-P3 children will have their dinner at 12.00 each day and P4-P7 children will have their dinner at 12.45 each day. Dinner money should only be sent in to school on Friday in an envelope with your child's (children's) name clearly marked on it. School "moneypocket" envelopes are available to buy in the school office. The cost is £1.00 for 30 envelopes.

Please be aware that two children in school and one in the Nursery have a nut allergy and as such we would ask you to take great care when making lunch for your child.

As a number of you requested Parent teacher meetings later in the first term, they will take place on Friday 6<sup>th</sup> December. Opening and closing times as well as a list of all other dates are attached.

Nursery children will finish at 12.00 each day for the month of September. P1 children will finish at 12.00 for the first two weeks.

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P3 children are now in school until 3pm Monday – Thursday and 2pm on Friday.

Again this year each class teacher will be holding a parent's curriculum evening. This will give you the opportunity to meet your child's teacher and to find out what they will be learning throughout the year. The dates and times for these meetings are detailed on the accompanying pages.

P.E. uniforms can still be ordered although unfortunately the link with the [gaaStore.com](http://gaaStore.com) experienced technical difficulties over the summer. The company have assured us that we can still process orders; however it is easier when there are six or more at a time, so please be patient if you still need to order.

The SELB have changed the Bus service to school again, and now there are two buses taking the children home in the afternoons. Please bear this in mind when parking outside school.

Our school text service will continue this year so please ensure we have your correct mobile number.

Please read the attached letters for further information.

Once again I hope you and your children have a great year in St. Mary's and if I or any other member of staff can be of any assistance please do not hesitate to contact us.

Yours faithfully

Patrick Mallon (principal)

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### Dates for you diary – Please retain for your information.

Tuesday 29<sup>th</sup> October – Half day closure – 12.00pm – Halloween

Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup> October – School Closed – Staff Training

Thursday 31<sup>st</sup> October – School Closed - Holiday

Friday 1<sup>st</sup> November – School Closed – Holiday

Friday 6<sup>th</sup> December – Parent Teacher Meetings

Friday 20<sup>th</sup> December – School will close at 12.00pm for Christmas Holidays.

#### **CHRISTMAS HOLIDAYS – MONDAY 23<sup>rd</sup> DECEMBER – MONDAY 6<sup>th</sup> JANUARY**

Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> January – Children return to school

Monday 17<sup>th</sup> – Friday 21<sup>st</sup> February – school closed – Mid term break

Monday 17<sup>th</sup> March – school closed for St. Patrick's holidays

Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> April – Half Day – School will close at 12.00 for Easter Holidays

#### **THURSDAY 17<sup>TH</sup> - FRIDAY 25<sup>TH</sup> APRIL – SCHOOL CLOSED FOR EASTER HOLIDAYS**

Monday 28<sup>th</sup> April – Children return to school

Monday 5<sup>th</sup> May – School Closed – Bank Holiday

Monday 26<sup>th</sup> May – School Closed – Bank Holiday

Monday 9<sup>th</sup> June – school closed – Staff Training

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### Curriculum Meetings timetable for parents.

This year you will be asked to attend a meeting with your child's class teacher, at the beginning of the school year. These meetings will give you the opportunity to meet your child's teacher as well as informing you of the curriculum for the year ahead. These meetings are very important and we urge at least one parent to attend. Each meeting will be held in the classroom.

CLASS	DATE	TIME
P1	Thursday 5 <sup>th</sup> September	6.30pm
P2	Wednesday 13 <sup>th</sup> September	7.00pm
P3	Thursday 12 <sup>th</sup> September	7.00pm
P4	Thursday 12 <sup>th</sup> September	7.30pm
P5	Tuesday 10 <sup>th</sup> September	7.00pm
P6	Wednesday 13 <sup>th</sup> September	7.30pm
P7	Tuesday 10 <sup>th</sup> September	7.30pm

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Dear parent,

To facilitate new guidelines laid down by the Department of Education we will now be administering our Standardised tests during the autumn term.

The Department have stated that some form of Standardised testing must be delivered in the autumn term. This is to enable teachers and schools to plan effectively for the children in their class.

This had previously been delivered through the use of Computer Based Assessment. You would have heard the children talking about INCAs or NILA and NINA over the past number of years.

This caused major problems in a large number of schools last year and, so, the Department have left it up to each school to decide on the method of delivery and the tests that are used.

We made the decision to use the assessments that we do already, as these cause less stress on the children, and are an excellent tool in showing the strengths and areas for improvement of each child. This will allow each child the opportunity to reach their own potential and to be the best that they can be.

However, we normally did these at the end of each academic year and used them to assess the quality of learning and teaching in our school.

This means that your child will now be sitting tests in late September, early October and these will now be used to not only assess the children, as before, but also allow the teacher to plan for each child much more effectively and efficiently.

We intend to replace the end of year Standardised tests with class tests. You will be informed about these later in the school year.

I hope you understand the reasons for change and insure you that if you have any queries or questions on any of these matters, that you can contact me directly at the school.

Many thanks for your continued support,

Patrick Mallon (principal)