

St Mary's Convent Primary School

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Imlitir 2
2nd October 2024

Dear Parents,

Here are some items that are of interest to you all as we begin a new month of activities and learning. It is great to see the children all coming to school and doing so well in our classrooms. Our new pupils are settling in very well and routines are becoming second nature.

Uimhir Rolla: 16646 O

School Lunches:

By now, you should have received an email from Glanmore Foods regarding school lunches. Kindly check your spam folder if you haven't yet received the email. You will be able to make food choices from the varied menu that Glanmore have provided for your child from Monday to Friday. We are hoping that school lunches will begin on Thursday 10th October. Please email Glanmore if you are having any difficulties at customerservice@glanmorefoods.ie or call 018976026. In the meantime please be careful around some items of food that have been sent in in recent times. Grapes should not be sent in whole, especially for the infant classes and apples should be sliced.

Nut Allergy:

We have some children with nut allergies in classes throughout the school. We would ask parents even from other classes to avoid giving their children lunches or foods with nut products in them. Even touching another child who has ingested nut products and who has traces on their hands or skin could cause a reaction. I ask parents to be vigilant on this for the coming year.

Enrolment/Admissions St Mary's 2025/2026:

The enrolment period for September 2025 will take place between Monday 4th November 2024 and the 31st January 2025. Please ensure that you have registered with the school in this timeframe as places in the school cannot be guaranteed. Enrolment will be via the school website and can be completed online. Please let friends or family who are considering sending their children to St Mary's know that we are enrolling during these dates.

Parking:

Some of our neighbours recently have concerns that parents have parked outside their houses when dropping children off at the school. Please do not block any entrances as our neighbours may be trying to drop a child to school themselves or get to work.

Friendship week:

We hope that the children enjoyed our activities during our friendship week. We had a lovely ceremony last Tuesday to celebrate *Mercy Day* and we were delighted to welcome Sr. Claude and Sr. Paul to the ceremony where we highlighted our kindness awards. Well done to those who won kindness awards. They are a lovely example to everyone.

SCHOOL SAFETY

Child Protection : Ms Nally is the Designated Liason Person for child protection in the school and Ms. O'Brien is the Deputy Designated Liason Person.

School Safety

- For safety and security reasons adult access to the school buildings is moderated via the entrances therefore parents/guardians/minders should not enter the classrooms in the mornings. Children should go to the school lines on regular mornings. On wet mornings Ms Roche and Ms Dully/Dalton's pupils can access their class directly from the outside doors while Rooms 3 and 4 can go to their rooms via the doors that they are normally collected at. Senior infant pupils will also be able to access their classes directly from the outside doors. A separate entrance will be open from St Michael's side to enable ease of access for other pupils.
- It is important to make an appointment if you wish to speak to a teacher.
- If you collect your child early from school any day please fill out a Release Slip in the office before leaving the
 premises.
- We will not release a child to any person who we do not have prior knowledge of as having collected the child or unless prior permission has been given to the school from a parent/guardian.
- Please be aware when parking or driving around the school that children are in the vicinity. Please drive with care and attention and do not block any of the clearways or entrances near the school gate.
- Mobile Phones: It is important that parents are vigilant in supervising how their children use their mobile phones.
 Inappropriate messages and pictures may be distributed on phones and these can be disturbing to recipients. The children should not take mobile phones to school.

School Maintenance

The following is a list of completed projects during last year and the Summer months. We also hope to complete storage solutions in the remaining junior infant classrooms soon.

- New gates at back of school to aid Health and safety
- New pathway at Summerhill end to ensure safety when entering school.
- New storage solutions in infant classrooms x 2
- New carpets or flooring- Room 1-4 and Room 30 (4k received from insurance after weather event and carpets included)
- Principal's office and admin office painted
- Converting spare room back to classroom
- Special class-Room 35 Room to be converted to fully functioning ASD classroom -Grant applied for from DE.
- Front foyer.- Repainting and reorganisation
- Landscaping at statue at front of school
- The Alarm system was upgraded at a cost of €2,576.74 during the summer
- Water boilers were serviced
- Windows and gutters cleaned
- Room 19 phone line rewired

SCHOOL NEWS

UKULELE FOR 4TH TO 6TH CLASS

Stephen Fagan from Music Generation started ukulele classes on Monday 9th September. If children would like to buy their own ukulele, we have them for sale from the school. The cost is €50 . If a child rents one from the school and pays rental for 2 years , they can keep the ukulele once the rental is paid.

€ 25 - Classes only per year (all students expected to pay this)

€ 50 - Classes and rental for one year

€ 75 - Classes for one year and buy ukulele

Ms. McGale

Room 16 Shines on News2Day!

We are thrilled to announce that the children from Room 16 were recently featured on News2Day! Their insightful response about the importance of communication quality during Irish Sign Language Week caught the attention of the show. The students highlighted how vital clear and meaningful communication is for everyone, including those who use sign language.

Mr Casey

SCHOOL LIBRARY

The school is looking for volunteers to help with the library. Please email Office if interested.

CONFIRMATION CLASSES

Please note the following details relating to the Sacrament of Confirmation in the Parish of Trim & Boardsmill:

Confirmation Day - Friday, 31st January 2025 in St Patrick's Church, Trim (no time is available at the moment)

First Mass of Preparation for Confirmation - Sunday, 13th October 2024 (no time is available at the moment) Mr Galligan and Ms Mallon

ACTIVE HEALTHY SCHOOL COMMITTEE

We had our first committee meeting on Friday, 27th September with representatives from every class from 1st to 6th and some teachers too. Thanks to all the class reps who attended and were presented with badges and notebooks for recording important information! We are planning another busy and fun year starting with our Annual Spooky Walk on Friday, 25th October. All classes will dress up and go for an Active School Walk along Trim Castle and the River Boyne. Make sure you have your Halloween Costume planned for that day!

Mrs Dixon & Ms Minogue

SCHOOL UNIFORMS

It is great to see children dressed in the uniform each day. We would like to remind parents to ensure that all jumpers and tracksuit tops have their children's names written on them so that in the event of their loss they can be returned to their owners.

SPORTS NEWS



CONGRATULATIONS TO THE GIRLS FOOTBALL TEAM FOR WINNING THEIR FIRST THREE GAMES!

THANK YOU TO ALL PARENTS AND COACHES, MR.CARMODY AND MR. MADDEN, FOR THEIR CONTINUOUS SUPPORT.

FOR THE LOVE OF THE GAME...
WELL DONE GIRLS!

Next game will be this afternoon so wishing the team the best of luck!

TRIM ATHLETIC CLUB

For children interested in joining please fill in the form.

https://forms.gle/23buc8mHHgHhFTmN8

SWIMMING 2nd - 4th Class & 6th Class

Aquatics continues on October 3rd, 10th, 17th, and 24th for 2nd to 4th class. And October 8th, 15th, and 22nd for 6th class.

Under the Revised Curriculum, Aquatics is compulsory. All pupils from all classes are required to participate, unless certified by a doctor not to do so.

IRISH DANCING

Irish Dancing classes has resumed in St. Patrick's Hall, Trim on Tuesday afternoons.

Children can be collected from St. Mary's school for the class. Children of all levels are welcome from beginners to more experienced dancers. Children from the age of 4 may attend.

New members are welcome.

If your child finishes school at 1.50pm and they are interested in starting to dance please get in touch on the number below and if there is sufficient interest we will begin a class from 1.50-2.50pm.

Should you have any questions or wish to register interest in the 1.50pm class, please contact Ann Carney (TCRG) on 0876336495. Thank you.

SCHOOL CALENDAR

Halloween Break: Please be reminded that the school will be closed for mid-term break from Monday October 28th to Friday 1st November inclusive. I hope everyone enjoys the break. I have been asked by the Gardai to remind parents and children of the danger of Fireworks and similar materials over this holiday period. Our children who wish to dress up for Halloween can do so on Friday 25th Oct. School closes at 2.50pm on this date.



LOST AND FOUND





First Holy Communion: Saturday May 24, 2025 2:00pm

Confirmation Day: Friday January 31 (Time to be finalised)

Nath na Seachtaine: Go raibh maith agat. Thank you.

Seanfhocal na Míosa: Tús maith, leath na hoibre! A good start is half the work!



GREEN NEWS



Hello again everyone! Our Green Flag theme Food and Biodiversity has been launched. We had our first Green Flag Meeting last week with our really enthusiastic newly-appointed committee members. Our first exciting event will be a workshop with Aidan Gray from An Taisce. Aidan has wowed us before with his knowledge of coastal biodiversity – seashells, underwater biodiversity, seaweeds, etc. We are delighted to welcome him back for another amazing workshop.

Waste Management

While it's not our primary theme this year, waste management is always current. Whether at home, at work or at school we can all play our part in disposing of our waste responsibly. Mywaste.ie have launched an initiative to highlight how simple individual actions can boost Ireland's recycling rate.

Shockingly, it has been calculated that two-thirds of what ends up in our general waste bins could have been recycled or composted! Here is a little interactive game you can try to see how knowledgeable you are about what can and cannot be recycled: https://bolddonut.itch.io/take-a-minute

WOW and COW

Last year we really promoted walking and cycling to school (WOW and COW). Lots of people made a conscious effort to choose the more sustainable ways to travel. Whether you choose to walk or cycle to school, please remember to be safe. Wear your hi-viz vest and remember safety when crossing the roads. Please be extra careful in the school car park where there are lots of cars and buses pulling in and out. Remember to stay on the footpath. And for those bringing their bikes to school, please remember to lock your bikes in the bike shed outside the school.

Parents Association

AGM Meeting

The Parents Association AGM took place in the school last week. Thank you to all the parents who attended the AGM meeting, as well as our most recent meeting on Friday. We hope more parents can get involved through the parent association who help out with all the various school activities.

Thank you **Adri O'Dea** and the outgoing committee for all their valuable work over the past year. The Parents Association had a very busy twelve months with retirement celebrations, fundraisers, opening of school facilities and award ceremonies and the work of the Parents group to ensure that everything ran off smoothly.

Congratulations to the new committee officers, Natache Sadler (Chairperson), Vicky Clarke (Treasurer), Ella Du Plooy (Secretary) and Fiona Ryan (Vice Treasurer). It is a privilege to hold the position as Chairperson and we hope to serve you well.

Christmas Cards Fundraiser!

We are delighted to announce that we will be running our Christmas Card Fundraiser again this year, where students will have the opportunity to show off their artistic talents and design their own personalised Christmas cards for their family and friends! An email with full details on how students can take part in this fundraiser will be sent to all parents / guardians later this week.













