



St Mary's Convent Primary School

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13th November 2024

Dear Parents,

I hope everyone had a nice break at mid-term. There were some **improvements** made to the school over the break. The green area in the school was brightened up with a new coat of paint and new lighting, while new storage solutions were installed in the infant classrooms to complement the storage installation over the Summer. The existing hedging was trimmed and a new telegraph pole was installed to replace a defective post.

We are now coming to a very exciting time of the school year where we plan the pre-**Christmas activities**, set up parent teacher meetings and get involved in a whole host of events happening inside and outside the school. Our **parent teacher meetings** are held next Tuesday and Thursday the 19th and 21st of November for senior infants to 6th classes and we are looking forward to meeting you all to update you on your child's progress. Please note that individual meetings should not last any longer than 8/10 minutes. A follow up meeting can be arranged if necessary. Alternative arrangements can be made with teachers if these dates are not suitable to you.

Pride of place this week however goes to the girls' football team who play the **Division 1 final** against St. Paul's of Ratoath in **Pairc Tailteann at 10 am on Sunday the 17th Of November**. The girls had a great win in their semi-final against St. Oliver's last week in balmy Dunshaughlin and we wish them and their coaches Mr. Carmody and Mr Madden the very best of luck as they prepare for the final. All roads lead to Navan for this very auspicious occasion! It is our first appearance in a football final and we will be putting our best foot forward on Sunday morning. All support is welcomed. Thank you to all who have offered sponsorship over the past couple of weeks and we will acknowledge all the support in a later newsletter. Thanks also to Mr. Casey for organising an internal colouring competition to celebrate the event.

The Mass for 6th class class girls making their Confirmation has been rescheduled to **Sunday, 24th November @11am** to facilitate all who are involved in the final.

Our **Open Day** will be held a little earlier this year on **Wednesday the 27th November @10.30am**. We understand that creche finish up times are close to 12 so all will be finished in good time for pick up. I would be grateful if you would let any prospective parents know about this initiative. It is an opportunity for the school to showcase our resources and activities to **parents** in order to give the school community a snapshot of a typical day in St Mary's. Grandparents also welcome of course!

The Board of Management of St. Mary's has a comprehensive **Child Protection Policy** in place. It is published on the school website. The policy is currently undergoing review and we would welcome any submissions or ideas you may have during this review. The Deputy Principal Ms. Nally is the Designated Liaison Person and Ms. O' Brien is the Deputy Designated Liaison person. We have met with parent groups and will be meeting with focus groups of children as part of this review over the next few days. Any input or comments on the policy can be sent to fkelly@stmarystrim.ie.

Fergal Kelly - Principal

SCHOOL NEWS

ENROLMENT FOR SCHOOL YEAR 2025-2026

Our enrolment Forms and *Annual Admittance Notice* is now available on our website. It lists the various dates associated with enrolling new pupils in our school. Please [click here](#) to complete an application for enrolment form.

Please phone the office if you need assistance or have any queries on 046/9431919.



CHRISTMAS ANNUALS

Súgradh, Spraoi, Siamsa and Sonas Christmas Annuals:

Orders for the Christmas Annuals this year will be online. We are sending the link today. The cost of the Annual is €4.00. All orders must be placed by Friday 29th November. Annuals will be given out the following week.

CHRISTMAS PAGEANT

The children of 5th and 6th classes are performing on Wednesday 11th December at 1pm and 7:00pm



Tickets will be on sale from Monday 18th Nov in the office.

Tickets €5.00 per adult / €2.00 per child or €12.00 family ticket (2 adults and 2 children)

They usually sell out fast so get in early.

OPEN DAY 2025-2026

Our Open Day for existing and prospective parents for school year 2025-2026 will be at 10:30 am Wednesday 27th of November at the Dr Eileen Reilly Hall. A short talk will be followed by guided tours of our school by our current Sixth Class pupils. Light refreshments will be provided. All parents are welcome not just prospective parents. Refreshments will be served from 10.20 am. We hope that the prospective parents enjoy this snapshot of a typical school day in St Mary's.



Healthy Lunches Notice

Don't forget that the following "discouraged" foods **do not support** our Healthy Eating Policy and should be excluded from your child's lunch box:

crisps, chewing gum, sweets, bars including cereal bars, cakes, biscuits, lollipops, chocolate, chocolate spread, winders, rice krispie buns and especially peanuts (due to allergies).

Treats in lunch boxes on Fridays are not encouraged as part of our Healthy Eating Policy also. You can view our Healthy Eating Policy on our school website. [Healthy-Eating-Policy.pdf](#)

Please note that the school will be closed for voting in the General Election on Friday 29th November.

MORE SCHOOL NEWS

CONFIRMATION MASS

The Confirmation Mass for 6th Class girls and their families has now been **rescheduled to Sunday 24th November at 11am**. Thank you to Fr. Paul for facilitating this change which has occurred due to the girl's participation in the school football final in Navan on Sunday.

HOMEWORK CLUB HAS STARTED



Homework Club will run from 4th November to 19th December, Monday to Thursday over 7 weeks, from 2:50-3:50 p.m.

Options for payment are as follows: 4 days €145, 3 days €125, 2 days €85, 1 day €40

Thank you. Ms. Carr

SHOEBOX APPEAL

Míle Buíochas to everyone from St Mary's, Trim who carefully wrapped and packed up a beautiful Christmas **shoebox** this year. 209 Shoeboxes were collected in the school this year. We had brilliant response to **the** Christmas **Shoebox** Appeal in St Mary's and there will be 209 very happy, smiling faces this year because of **you** and your kindness. This wonderful annual initiative is always well supported in our St Mary's school community and highlights **the** generosity of our parents, pupils and staff! Ní neart go cur le chéile!

Thank you, Ms Dalton

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1K8GPCKeFw1hUOD4XTQVRVAYDxc---vpf/view?usp=drivesdk>



An Coiste Gaelach 2024-2025' a chabhraíonn chun an Ghaeilge a chur chun cinn sa scoil agus sa bhaile.

SCHOOL TRANSPORT

School transport is a great facility for children and it is important that families have access to school buses when needed. Please talk to your child about putting on their seatbelt and being safe on the bus. If you are concerned about behaviour or if your child is unhappy on the bus for any reason, please bring it to the attention of the provider.



IMPORTANT DATES

Parent Teacher meetings: Tuesday November 19 and Thursday November 21, 2024

Open Day: Wednesday, November 27, 2024 @ 10:30 am

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

Confirmation Day: Friday January 31, 2025 @ 2:00pm

SPORTS NEWS

FOOTBALL

Congratulations to the girls football team on reaching the Division 1 Cumann na mBunscol Final!

The finals will be played this Sunday, 17th November at 10am in Páirc Tailteann! All support would be greatly appreciated!!

The girls are unbeaten all year, winning 6 matches on their run to the final! Best of luck in the final girls!



ATHLETICS

Well done to the 18 girls who qualified for the Cumann na mBunscol Cross Country running event, which will take place on the 20th November in Fairyhouse, Best of luck girls! Maith sibh!

CAMOGIE MINI 7'S

Well done to the girls who took part in the camogie mini 7's blitz in Baconstown last Thursday. The girls beat Dangan and Baconstown, and were beaten by Kildalkey in the final.

Well done to Ameilia, Lexie, Saoirse, Eleanor, Millie, Eilis, Molly, Kate, Laura and Amy.



Lexie Corkish

Well done to Lexie, who represented Meath in a Cumann na mBunscoil blitz versus Louth on Thursday evening in Dunganny. Lexie scored 5 goals and a few points. Well done Lexie on an outstanding performance!

GREEN NEWS



COP 29 is happening this week in Baku, Azerbaijan. COP stands for "Conference of the Parties." It's a big meeting where countries from all over the world come together to talk about climate change. Climate change is when the Earth is getting warmer because of things like pollution, deforestation, and using too many fossil fuels (like coal, oil, and gas).

Why is COP Important?

1. **Protecting Our Planet:** COP is important because it helps people find ways to take care of the Earth. Scientists say that if we don't make changes, the weather will continue to get worse, and we could face big problems like floods, droughts, and melting ice caps.
2. **Working Together:** Countries need to work together because climate change doesn't affect just one country—it affects everyone! By meeting at COP, leaders can share ideas and make agreements to reduce pollution and help the environment.
3. **Making Plans:** At these conferences, countries discuss plans for the future. They set goals for reducing greenhouse gases (the stuff that makes the Earth warmer) and share ways to create cleaner energy, like solar and wind power.

What Happens at COP?

- **Talks and Discussions:** Leaders, scientists, and activists give speeches and hold discussions about what can be done.
- **Proposals and Agreements:** Countries propose new ideas and make agreements, called treaties, on how to work together to fight climate change.
- **Youth Engagement:** Young people often participate too! They share their concerns and ideas, representing the voices of future generations.

What can kids do?

Even though COP is for leaders, kids can help too! Here are some simple things you can do:

- **Learn About Climate Change:** Understand what climate change is and why it's important.
- **Be Eco-Friendly:** Make small changes like recycling, saving water, and using less plastic.
- **Spread the Word:** Talk to friends and family about taking care of the planet.
- **Get Involved:** Join school clubs or community groups focused on the environment.

Every small action counts, and everyone can play a part in helping our planet!

Green is cool at home and at school!

MORE GREEN NEWS

ERASMUS SCHOOL VISIT

Six of our teachers visited three educational institutions (2 Primary School and a Catering College) in Spain over the midterm break as part of an Erasmus programme entitled 'A Transformative Approach to Waste Management'. The practice of waste management in each of the facilities was observed. The Primary schools segregated their waste very successfully from the nursery age up to the senior classes and the Catering College explained how they creatively incorporate left-overs into novel recipes to ensure no food is ever wasted.

Sustainability and respect for the environment underpinned everything we observed. Pupils presented Biodiversity projects and explained why they were researching certain topics. School gardens formed an important link between school and home, and grandparents were much involved in the life of the school also.

There were many Green ideas discussed and exchanged. We were able to share our idea of rainwater harvesting, as unfortunately Spain fell victim to torrential rain during our time there. We observed much self-directed learning, pupil-driven mediation, novel playground activities and delightful corridor displays. Visiting other schools is always a worthwhile activity and the sharing of ideas is beneficial to all.



Nath na Seachtaine: Is cuimhin liom.... I remember

Seanfhocal na Míosa: Is glas iad na cnoic i bhfad uainn ... Far away hills are green

Webinar: Supporting your Child to Learn to Read at Home

Reading with your child is one of the most valuable and rewarding activities a parent can engage in. Sligo Education Centre offers a wonderful plethora of webinars every week which many of our staff benefit from. On **November 20th**, they will host a webinar for parents at 7 pm. Here is the link:

Webinar details and registration link for parents and guardians: <https://forms.gle/9oJvEnrMn8SgoZyq6>

A poster for a webinar. The title is 'Supporting your Child to Learn to Read at Home'. Below the title is a photo of a woman reading a book to a young boy. To the right of the photo is a QR code. Below the QR code is the text: 'WEBINAR FOR Parents/Guardians of children in Junior & Senior Infants'. At the bottom right, there is a small logo for Sligo Education Centre and the following text: 'Date: Nov 20th (7pm - 8pm) No Fee Facilitator: Fiona Jennings and Elaine Fitzgerald Register: www.ecsligo.ie or on the QR code above.'

Parents Association

HALLOWEEN BAKE SALE



Our Halloween Bake Sale was a momentous success, and we would like to thank you for your support. Furthermore, we would like to thank our expert bakers, outstanding volunteers, and amazing staff. We had more than enough buns and had the privilege to donate some to Meals on Wheels, who were incredibly grateful. We are very happy to say that we raised €960 from our sales, so well done to everyone.

CHRISTMAS CARDS

Thank you to everyone who placed an order for Christmas cards. Orders have been submitted to the printers and we hope to have your cards to you by the end of November, just in time to send them off to your friends and family.

CHRISTMAS JUMPER SALE



Our next project is the Christmas Jumper Sale, and this year we would like to donate the proceeds to ISPC Childline. We ask that you start to look for your unwanted Christmas wear to donate to the school and drop it to the office from the 25th to 28th November '24. On the 3rd and 4th of December '24 you can come and get your festive wear. There is no charge, but donations to ISPC Childline are welcome on the day. Students can then wear their festive clothes on the 19th and 20th December '24. So please ask your neighbours, family and friends for their unwanted, pre-loved Christmas jumpers and festive wear to donate. The following is the link to the ISPC Childline, if you would like to find out more about this charity, please click on this link <https://www.ispcc.ie/what-we-do/>

St. Mary's Primary School
Parents Association

CHRISTMAS JUMPER SALE

To help reduce the costs that come at this time of year and to promote sustainability under our Green Schools program, the Parents Association would like to help reduce, reuse and recycle your old Christmas clothing.

BRING	BUY	WEAR
From 25th to 28th November	Tues 3rd and Wed 4th December	From 19th to 20th December
Donate your unwanted Christmas jumpers, festive wear, PJ's or costumes.	Come and get your festive wear. There is no charge but all donations are welcome on the day. Proceeds from the sale to benefit ISPC Childline	Wear your festive clothes to school.

For more information or questions contact : pa@stmarystrim.ie