



St Mary's Convent Primary School

Bunscoil Clochar Mhuire
Trim, Co. Meath. C15WF98

T: (046) 943 1919 T: (046) 943 1127

E: office@stmarystrim.ie W: www.stmarystrim.ie

Príomh Oide: Fergal Kelly M.Ed. Leadership & Management

Leas Phríomh Oide: Siobhán Nally M.Ed.

Uimhir Rolla: 16646 O

Imlitir 8
16th January 2025

Dear Parents / Guardians,

At this stage of the new year we are well and truly back into the routine of school after the Christmas break. Thanks to the staff, parents and children who worked hard during the month of December to support the wide range of activities going on in the school and the wider community. The varied Christmas Plays/Pageants and concerts were greatly appreciated by the captive audiences and it was nice to welcome many visitors to the school over the festive period. The cold weather was challenge to us all on our return to school last week and it was a great team effort to ensure the school was open and ready to receive the children at the usual times. It was also nice to take many of our students to the church to celebrate the Feast of the Epiphany with Fr. Paul and Fr. John last Monday and we are now looking forward to Catholic Schools Week which takes place on the 20-24th January. This week of events is closely followed by the Sacrament of Confirmation for pupils in our sixth classes on Friday 31st January at 2pm. I would like to take this opportunity to send our best wishes to all who are making their Confirmation and I hope they enjoy the celebrations.

The schools ethos very much centres on charity and good deeds and our focus this Winter centred on funding for a school in Zambia for basic necessities as well as Childline and local charities, namely the St Vincent De Paul, Meals on Wheels. We are also allocating some funding to Myanmar, which is mired in crisis at the moment- a conflict that is not receiving that much attention in the media. Over 50,000 people have been displaced, homeless from the main town in the Diocese of Banmaw. The local church is trying to provide them with emergency humanitarian relief medical assistance (often just basic first aid), shelter (tents in open fields) and a generator. Thank you to your all for your generosity over the Christmas period and particularly Thanks to the Parents Association who were very busy organising Activities In December. We will have another policy review meeting in January when we will establish a focus group on anti-bullying.

CAR PARKING

I would ask parents not to park in the staff park when coming to the school for various reasons. This behaviour is causing a hazard when other parents, children or visitors are leaving. **Please also respect our neighbours.** No house driveway should be blocked for any reason. Leave a little earlier and park a reasonable distance from the school. It is most unfair if a neighbour cannot leave their house to go to work or any other reason. Thank you for your cooperation in this manner.

Kind regards,

Fergal Kelly

Principal

SCHOOL NEWS

ENROLMENT 2025-2026

Closing date for inclusion in first round offers for Junior Infants will be on the 31st January 2025. If you wish to apply for a placement in our school please fill out an application form which can be found on our website: www.stmarystrim.ie

JUNIOR INFANT PARENT TEACHER MEETINGS

Meetings will take place on the 12th & 13th February, please log into Aladdin connect to book your time slot.

IMPORTANT DATES

Memory Lane Photography will be taking Confirmation photos on 4th February

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

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



SCHOOL CHOIR

School Choir practice resumes on Monday, 20th January from 2:50 - 3:30.

New members from 4th and 6th class are most welcome. We will attend THE BIG SING on 4th April, 2025

HOMEWORK CLUB

Dear Parents/ Guardians,

Homework Club will run Monday to Thursday over the next 6 weeks. Children will be assisted with homework, provided with a small snack and supervised in a quiet environment. I will check spellings and tables, especially on a Thursday, before a test. It runs from 2.50-3.50 but if your child is waiting on a sibling in St Michael's they are welcome to stay until 4.00. If children are finished their homework early they are allowed to use the chromebooks, do art activities and play board games. In the fine weather we can go outside, when the homework is completed. The options are for advance payment are below

Mon-Thursday	(4	days)	€140
Select	3	days	€105
Select	2	days	€72
Select	1	day	€36

If you choose to pay per week please be aware the cost is €7 a day. Therefore advance payment is advisable.

Please complete the attached form and return to the office.

SCHOOL NEWS

Catholic Schools Week 19th - 25th - Alive in Christ

We will be marking Catholic Schools Week from 19th to 25th January. Our Catholic ethos is our trademark at St Mary's and reflects our relationship with God and each other. The theme of this year's Catholic Schools Week is 'Alive in Christ'. Reflecting on the theme, Catholic schools will explore what it means to be fully alive as a human being – living life to the full in Christ.

We had the honour of having Srs Rosario and Claudia in the school before Christmas. Sr Rosario has retired recently from her Principal role in St Louis, USA. She spoke with pupils in Room 26 and Room 5 and enjoyed their questions about life in America. The Sisters of Mercy hold a special place in our hearts here at St Mary's. Their Catholic ethos and legacy of Mercy lives on in St Mary's. We are delighted that we still have links with the Sisters Of Mercy.

Sr Claudia was also here that day and wanted to thank everyone from the bottom of her heart for their generosity towards the Linda School in Zambia. A resounding €2000 was raised on the non-uniform day which will be used to hire a caretaker for the Zambian school.



Sr Rosario explained to the children how she made the 1000 piece jigsaw puzzle of the Nativity.

Nath na Seachtaine: Tá sé fuar..... Tá mo lámha fuar, tá mo chosa fuar.....mo chluasa, mo shúile....
Do na Ranganna Shinsearach: ' Athbhliain faoi mhaise duit!' (Happy New Year)

Seanfhocal na Míosa: Mol an óige agus tiocfaidh sí

GREEN NEWS

Happy New Year from the Green Committee! We look forward to a great year of Green activities in St Mary's. Our theme this year is Global Citizenship - Food and Biodiversity. We have carried out a Food and Biodiversity Survey and will be presenting the results on our Green Notice Board at school.

We see Climate change happening all around us and know it's getting very serious. Everyone of us needs to take responsibility. There are simple little practices that we can incorporate into our daily lives that can make a difference globally. Small, consistent changes lead to meaningful results over time. Which of the following ideas resonate most with you? Perhaps you can choose one or two that you are not doing already.

At Home

1. Energy Efficiency

- Use energy-efficient LED bulbs.
- Turn off lights and electronics when not in use.
- Install a programmable thermostat to reduce heating and cooling energy.

2. Reduce Water Usage

- Fix leaks promptly.
- Install low-flow showerheads and faucets.
- Collect rainwater for gardening.

3. Waste Reduction

- Compost food scraps.
- Practise recycling, reusing and upcycling.
- Switch to reusable items (e.g., cloth bags, glass jars, and beeswax wraps).

4. Eco-Friendly Cleaning

- Use natural cleaning agents like vinegar, baking soda, and lemon.
- Avoid single-use cleaning wipes.

Food Choices

1. Plant-Based Meals

- Incorporate more plant-based meals into your diet.
- Support local and organic produce.

2. Reduce Food Waste

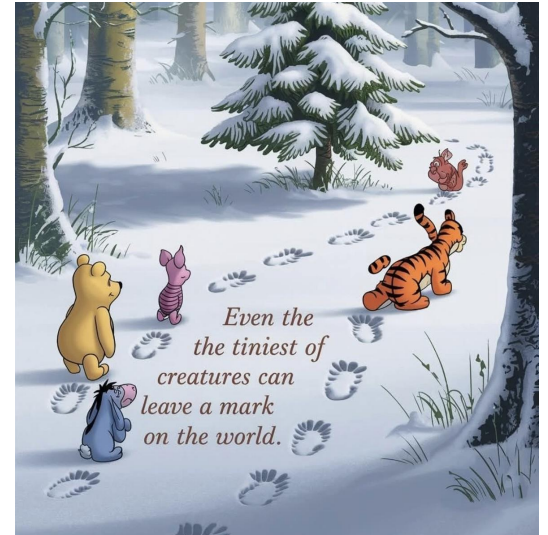
- Plan meals to minimize waste.
- Store leftovers properly to prevent spoilage.



GREEN NEWS CONTINUED

Transportation

1. **Opt for Public Transport**
 - Use buses, trains, or carpool when possible.
2. **Bike or Walk**
 - For short distances, choose biking or walking.
3. **Electric and Hybrid Vehicles**
 - Consider an electric or hybrid car if replacing a vehicle.



Shopping Habits

1. **Mindful Purchasing**
 - Buy durable and high-quality products to reduce frequent replacements.
 - Support ethical and sustainable brands - Fair Trade
2. **Secondhand Shopping**
 - Purchase clothes, furniture, and other items secondhand.
3. **Minimal Packaging**
 - Choose products with minimal or biodegradable packaging.

Community

1. **Plant Trees and Gardens**
 - Grow a vegetable or herb garden.
 - Participate in community tree-planting events.
2. **Support Sustainability Initiatives**
 - Volunteer for local clean-up drives.
 - Advocate for green policies in your community.
3. **Share and Borrow**
 - Use community libraries, tool shares, or clothing swaps.

Remember Green is cool at home and at school!

Parents Association

Dear Parents and Guardians,

We hope you had a wonderful holiday season with your loved ones and we would like to extend our warmest wishes for a blessed and prosperous New Year. We are grateful for your generous support during our Childline charity fundraiser, and we are pleased to announce that we raised a total of €405.

We would like to invite you to our next Parents Association meeting, which will take place on Friday, 17th January 2025, at 9:15 AM. The following items will be discussed during the meeting:

- Christmas Sweets
- Childline Fundraiser
- Coffee Morning
- Grandparents' Day
- Valentine's Bun Sale

We look forward to seeing you there and appreciate your continued involvement and support.

Kind regards,

Natache Sadler

Chairperson

COLLECTION OF OLD DVDs

Ms. Harte from Room 5 is collecting old DVDs if you have any DVDs to recycle please send to the office.



COLLECTION OF STAMPS

We are collecting used postage stamps for the MMM sisters in Drogheda which they will use to help the sister on their missions. Kindly recycle your stamps and send it to the office.



LOST AND FOUND



There are also a few **GLOVES** in our Lost and Found box.

BLOOD DONATION

The National Blood Centre in Dublin and the Ardee Centre will be in Trim 20th – 21st January, 2025 looking for blood donors to help maintain the blood supply to our Irish hospitals, which have been impacted due to the severe weather conditions.

If you are a regular donor or are interested in donating blood but have never done so before, please visit www.giveblood.ie and register.



The image shows a screenshot of a social media post from the Irish Blood Transfusion Service. The post is dated 6 January at 13:32. It features a warning icon and the text: "Severe Weather Impact- Blood Donors Needed! Weekend blood collections have been severely impacted by the weather. We urgently need donors to attend clinics across the country to ensure there is no impact on hospitals. Please make every effort to attend your local clinic this week if it is safe to do so! giveblood.info/FindClinic #WeCountOnYou #GiveBlood #GivePlatelets".

 Irish Blood Transfusion Service 
6 January at 13:32 · 

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giveblood.info/FindClinic
[#WeCountOnYou](#) [#GiveBlood](#) [#GivePlatelets](#)



ART CLASSES

Art classes for kids and adults. Adults focus on painting, while kids explore arts and crafts. All skill levels welcome!

LOCATION: ROBINSTOWN HALL

Classes start week of 20th January

KIDS (4-6YEARS) FRIDAYS 4PM-5PM

KIDS (7-12YEARS) TUESDAYS 4:30-5:30PM

ADULTS TUESDAYS 7:30-8:30PM

All materials included

kids classes €85 for five weeks

Adult classes €100 for five weeks

To book in text Anna on 0874630920