



St Mary's Primary School

Grace Park Road, Athlone, Co. Westmeath
Tel: 090 6472321 • Email: stmarysathlone@gmail.com



October 2022 Newsletter

Dear Parents/Guardians,

We hope you have all settled back well into a new academic year and your children are thriving in their new classes!

Just a reminder that there are many ways to contact the school if you need to do so;

By Phone- 09064 72321

By Email- stmarysathlone@gmail.com

In Person- At the main office

If you need to contact your child's teacher this can be done via the SeeSaw app. If you have not received a login code for this or you cannot access it please let your child's teacher know.

Our School Website -www.stmarysprimaryschoolathlone.ie has further information and updates.

Parent Association



We had a meeting on Thursday 22nd September @ 7.30pm in the school's Junior Hall. Thank you to all who attended.

The PA are arranging a sponsored walk which will take place the week before Halloween. Sponsorship cards will be sent home shortly with further details to follow.

Any parent/guardian is welcome to attend these meetings, whether you are a member of the committee or not. If you wish to join the committee itself, the next AGM will be in January 2023, where new members are nominated.

If you wish to contact the Parent Association please email stmaryspa2022@gmail.com

All parents in the school will be notified by email of the next PA Meeting date.

Parent Classes



We will continue to have classes on-site which will be facilitated by the Longford/Westmeath Education and Training Board (LWETB). A horticulturalist from the LWETB will visit the school fortnightly to work with parents/caregivers/grandparents/guardians etc. These Sowing/growing/harvesting classes will all be happening in our Polytunnel on the Senior Side of the school and we hope you will enjoy participating! An application form must be completed

before your place on this course can be confirmed .Please see dates below;

- 11th of October- 9.30am - 11.00 am
- 25th of October- 9.30am - 11.00 am
- 15th of November- 9.30am - 11.00 am
- 29th of November - 9.30am - 11.00 am

• Barnardos National Wellbeing Project is running a Parent Wellbeing Group in our school, starting this Wednesday 12th of October. This is a 6 week program for parents and carers of children aged between 0-18 years. There are very limited spaces available. As it is proving difficult for people to commit to all 6 sessions, I am allowing people to book onto the course weekly to see if that will suit people better. If you'd like to attend on Wednesday 12th October @9.30am please text Iseult on 0868354567 to reserve your place. The sessions will take place from 9.30am-10.30am on the following Wednesdays in St Mary's NS;

Week 1-12/10/22- booking now open

Week 2- 19/10/22

Week 3- 9/11/22

Week 4-16/11/22

Week 5-23/11/22

Week 6- 30/11/22

We can accept adults 18+ (parents, grandparents, guardians, caregivers, any interested adult).

- ESOL (English for Speakers of Other Languages) taking place in the Parent Room in St Mary's School every Monday.

Assessment required before commencing the programme.

- Halloween Craft-Pumpkin Carving-Clonown Road Venue - Tuesday 25th of October - 9.45 - 11.15 and 11.30 - 1.00pm - 2 sessions Max 12 per session (24 participants)

All courses are free of charge to parents/guardians of pupils in the school. Please ensure the school has an up to date email address for you, as all communication regarding courses will be via email.

Please contact Iseult (Home School Community Liaison) on 086 83545647 or on iseulthsccl@gmail.com to enrol in a class or for further information/advice.

Home School Community Liaison (HSCL) Service in St Mary's N.S



Our HSCL Coordinator -Iseult Murphy- is a teacher who works in partnership with parents, teachers and local community organisations to support positive educational outcomes for pupils/students.

The HSCL Coordinator also works closely with the other two strands of Tulsa Educational Support Services, Educational Welfare Officers (EWO) and personnel from the School Completion Programme (SCP) to improve educational outcomes for children. As part of her work, the HSCL Coordinator will meet parents during home visits, at courses for parents in the school and at other school and community events. Please feel free to contact Iseult Murphy on 086 8354567 or at iseulthsccl@gmail.com for advice, information or support.

School Meals-Free Lunch Programme



As you are aware we are providing School Meals to any child who wishes to avail of it. We are a Green School who are conscious of our waste levels. For that reason, we send any leftover lunches or wrappers etc home with the children each day in their lunch box. This is also a good opportunity for parents to see what their child is/isn't eating each day.

Parking



Parents/Guardians are reminded of the importance of responsible parking when dropping/collecting children at the school. The set-down area is for quick drop-offs and pick-ups; please do not congest this area. There is a 10 minute grace period for parents to park in the Fair Green Car Park at drop-off and pick-up times; we encourage parents to avail of this. For health and safety reasons, cars should not be blocking bus spaces, double-yellow lines, be parked blocking footpaths or at school entrances. Please carefully obey the pedestrian crossing between the two school buildings as this is very busy in the mornings and afternoons. At 2pm and 3pm collection times, please only cross the road with your children at the *designated pedestrian crossing*.

Sports & Music



- GAA coaching continues every Thursday for Senior Infants.
- 6th Classes continue swimming this month- Mr Noone and Ms. Browne's classes finish this week and Mr Lennon and Mr Falvey's classes commence on 15th October.
 - Creative Dance with Yaz has commenced for Junior Infants/First Class/ Third Class/ 5th Class every Tuesday.
- WOW Days (Walk On Wednesday) days are where everyone tries to walk or Park and Stride to school if they can. Park and Stride is where you drive some of the way and walk the remainder..
 - ACC girls blitz is scheduled for Wednesday 12th.
 - 6th Class Boys Gaelic Blitz.....
- Hilary Roche - Music Generation continues for 4th & 5th Classes.

Transition to Secondary School for 6th Class Pupils

Please note the times and dates of upcoming Open Days/Evenings for local secondary schools for enrolment for the 2023/2023 school year..

I would advise you to make contact with the school in advance of attending the open day/evening, as some schools require registration to attend these events. If you need further assistance or advice please contact me on 0868354567 or at iseulthscl@gmail.com

Athlone Community College Open Day- Saturday 22nd October @10am until 2pm.

Retreat Rd, Retreat, Athlone,
Co. Westmeath, N37 Y985,
Ireland

Phone : 0906472625

Email : info.acc@lwetb.ie

Colaiste Chiarain-Thursday 27th October 19.00-21.00

Contact-Coláiste Chiaráin Summerhill, Athlone,
Co. Roscommon, N37 AH97

Tel: 090 649 2383

Email: info@colaistechiarainathlone.ie

Marist Open Evening-Thursday 17th November 2022. From 6pm to 9pm Marist College, Retreat Rd., Athlone, Co. Westmeath, N37 RX31, Tel: 090 647 4491 Fax: 090 647 4622

Email: info@maristathlone.net

Our Lady's Bower- Principal to Visit 6th Class Girls in St Mary's NS in October 2022. Ms Beades, the Principal of Our Lady's Bower, will visit our school next month and distribute information packs to all pupils. A date for the Open Evening will follow, but it is expected to be in early November. I will update parents/guardians with this date in due course.

Moate Community College-23rd of November, time to be confirmed.

Barnardos Online Safety Workshops



3rd, 4th, 5th, 6th Class pupils received online safety training with a facilitator from Barnardos between the 3rd-5th of October 2022.

We hope that this was very beneficial for pupils in learning how to navigate the online world safely and responsibly.

Upcoming Closures

October Midterm Break-All schools will close from Monday 31st October 2022 to Friday 4th November 2022 inclusive.

Dáil Visit

6th Class visited the Dáil on Wednesday 5th of October 2022 and had a very educational and informative visit which was enjoyed by all!

Kind regards,

A. Mc Manus

Ailish Mc Manus

Principal