



## *St Mary's Primary School*

Grace Park Road, Athlone, Co. Westmeath  
Tel: 090 6472321 • Email: [stmarysathlone@gmail.com](mailto:stmarysathlone@gmail.com)



### **February 2025 Newsletter**

Dear Parents/Guardians,

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](mailto: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](http://www.stmarysprimaryschoolathlone.ie) has further information and updates.

## Hot School Meals Initiative



From Monday 10<sup>th</sup> of March 2025 we will be providing hot school meals for our pupils. A letter has been sent home this week to inform you of the new system and how to order. *\*Please note it is the responsibility of the parent/guardian to place the order for your child using the website <https://foodies.hotlunch.ie/>*

Please ensure you read the letter that has sent home which outlines step-by-step how to order from the above website.

## **\*\*Half-Day School Closure\*\***



School will close @ 12pm on Friday 11th of April to facilitate staff training on the new 'Bi Cinealta' Anti-Bullying Procedures.

## Daffodil Day



Daffodil Day is the Irish Cancer Society's biggest fundraising event of the year. The public's support helps the charity to provide free services and support to cancer patients and their families across Ireland.

We will be collecting for this charity in our school on Friday 28<sup>th</sup> of March and would appreciate any donation you can give.

### **Parent Association**



### **\*\*Parent Association Information Coffee Morning\*\***

The St Mary's Primary School Parent Association are always trying to involve more parents on our committee!

By joining our Parent Association, you will have a structure through which you can work together with other parents for the best possible educational outcomes for your children.

We would love more parents to be involved!

*Please join us at a coffee morning where we will share information on the role of the Parent Association and how you can get involved!*

*We will meet on Wednesday 5th of March @ 9.30am in St Mary's School.*

*Please text Iseult on 0868354567 if you wish to come along!*

Our last meeting on Wednesday 12<sup>TH</sup> of February @ 7pm in the school's Junior Hall.

The next meeting will take place on Wednesday 30th of April at 7pm.

If you wish to contact the Parent Association please email [stmaryspa2022@gmail.com](mailto:stmaryspa2022@gmail.com)

## Student Council



Our student council will shortly join forces with our Green Schools Team to participate in the Arcadia Climate Awards. We wish them the best of luck!

The Junior Mayor Ishan Sachin and the Vice-Junior Mayor Taylor-Rae Dowling are participating in the Athlone Community Radio Training initiative with the Junior Mayors. They will get to experience what radio stations do in studio and they will also record and produce a Vox-pop in their own schools!

## Important School-Wide Curricular Events



- Children's Mental Health Week

The Amber Flag committee organised a wonderful week full of informative and practical events for the pupils around the issue of mental-health promotion. It finished with a celebration of 'Funky Friday' on February 7<sup>th</sup>. Everyone enjoyed the week thoroughly!

- Safer Internet Day

S.I.D took place on Tuesday February 11<sup>th</sup>. The children engaged with many lessons around cyber-safety and the importance of being kind and respectful in the online space. Our local Community Garda Stacey Looby visited 3<sup>rd</sup> classes to discuss cyber-safety with the pupils. All 4<sup>th</sup> Classes will receive a cyber-safety workshop on March 3<sup>rd</sup> 2025.

- **Engineer's Week**

17<sup>th</sup>-21<sup>st</sup> of February was Engineer's Week in St Mary's school. Lots of fantastic STEM activities were promoted and engaged with throughout the classes. The pupils had wonderful opportunities to explore and create and develop an understanding of Engineering!

### **Tesco Community Fund**



Tesco have included St. Mary's Primary School in their Tesco Community Fund campaign which began this week. Please pop your blue tokens into our collection tank in the Tesco Golden Island store to donate to our school.

Thank you!

### **Green School Team**



The Green School Team had an excellent visit from a Coordinator who was very impressed with the wonderful work ongoing in St Mary's Primary School. The school will apply for its next Green Flag shortly!



## Springtime Parent Classes



- English language classes for adult learners- ESOL (English for Speakers of Other Languages) .These are levelled classes, suitable for all. Please email Iseult Murphy [iseulthscl@gmail.com](mailto:iseulthscl@gmail.com) for more information.
  - Aromatherapy with Paula- Lotion & Potion Making Workshop-Takes place in St Mary's Primary School @9.30am-10.30am on Monday 10<sup>th</sup> of March.
  - Horticulture with Paula-Polytunnel based- starts 26<sup>th</sup> of March 9.30am-12pm -every fortnight on St Mary's Primary School grounds. Wear warm outdoor clothes and suitable footwear!
- Easter Craft Workshop-Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> of March 12.30-2.30pm-St Mary's Primary School.
- Triple P Fear-Less Anxiety Focused Parenting Workshop @10am in St Mary's NS.

*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 [iseulthscl@gmail.com](mailto:iseulthscl@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 [iseulthscl@gmail.com](mailto:iseulthscl@gmail.com) for advice, information or support.

### Birthdays



There are a number of children with a variety of allergies in our school. In the interest of child safety, we ask that parents/guardians refrain from sending in treats for the whole class as a birthday celebration. We also request that parents distribute birthday party invitations themselves, either before or after the school day.

## Attendance Drive



Our annual Attendance Drive is in progress!

We reward our individual classes with termly treats, most improved awards and attendance certificates to acknowledge excellent and improved attendance.

**\*\*Remember to please notify the school with a *written explanation* (written note/message on SeeSaw) for each day that your child is absent \*\***

## School Completion Programme



We are very fortunate that our school is part of the Athlone School Completion Programme (SCP). This programme aims to increase the numbers of young people staying in primary and second level school education and in doing so, improve the numbers of pupils who successfully complete the Senior Cycle, or the equivalent.

SCP work focuses on targeting and providing supports to young people identified to be most at risk of early school leaving and includes identifying and supporting children at risk of not reaching their potential in the educational system because of poor attendance, participation and retention.

SCP support children via initiatives such as:

- Breakfast clubs



- After-school clubs
- Life skills support
- Project worker support
- Parenting programmes
- Therapeutic interventions

SCP supports schools to ensure appropriate procedures are in place to monitor, identify and respond to attendance, participation and retention issues. Iseult Murphy, our Home School Community Liaison may contact you at various times in the year to discuss this programme for your child, should they need support in this regard.

### **Parking, Pick Ups and Drop-Offs**



- The set-down area is for quick drop-offs and pick-ups.
- There is a 10 minute grace period for parents to park in the Fair Green Car Park at drop-off and pick-up times
- 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 and only cross the road with your children at the *designated pedestrian crossing*.
- Please do not enter the school via the roadway into the staff carpark on the junior side-it is extremely dangerous as staff are entering and exiting the carpark at this time.

## **Change of Address/Details**



Please inform Jean, our secretary in the office, if your address, contact number/emergency numbers/emails or any information pertaining to you or your child has changed. Failure to do so may result in you not receiving very important information from the school.

## **Rainbows-Parental Separation / Bereavement Support**



We are very fortunate to have many staff members trained to deliver the 'Rainbows Ireland' Parental Separation and Bereavement programmes. We offer group-based, age appropriate and supportive sessions for children experiencing either a parental separation event or a bereavement event.

If your child needs support around either of these issues please contact Iseult Murphy on 0868354567 to get more information on how to get support.

## Sports, Music & Extra-Curricular



- GAA coaching continues every Friday for 2<sup>nd</sup> Class
  - Rugby continues every Tuesday for 4<sup>th</sup> Class
- Creative Dance -all classes will receive a block by the end of the year.
  - Music Generation for 4<sup>th</sup> Class.
- FAI Soccer Training for 5<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup> class boys and girls.
- GAA training- 5<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup> Class Girls match on Friday 28<sup>th</sup> Feb
  - Athletics in TUS for 4<sup>th</sup> Class
    - Swimming for 4<sup>th</sup> Class
- After school Chess club is now up and running!

## Upcoming Closures



- **Half-Day School Closure-** School will close @ 12pm on Friday 11<sup>th</sup> of April to facilitate staff training on Bi Cinealta Anti-Bullying Procedures.
- **St. Patrick's Weekend-** School will be closed on March 14<sup>th</sup> & March 17<sup>th</sup> 2025.
- **Easter Holidays -** 14<sup>th</sup> to the 25<sup>th</sup> of April 2025 inclusive. School reopens on Monday 28<sup>th</sup> of April @ 9.20am.

\*\*\*

Thank you to all our parents and guardians for your continued support throughout the year!

Kind regards,

---

Ailish Mc Manus

Principal