

# St Mary's Primary School



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Welcome to our first school newsletter of 2024! We're excited to bring you updates each term, sharing the fun and exciting things happening with our pupils. Stay tuned for news on school events, student achievements and much more as we celebrate another wonderful year of learning and growth!

A special welcome to all our new pupils, who seem to be adjusting happily to their new school surroundings. We wish all our students a happy, fulfilling and safe school year ahead!

A warm welcome also to our new staff members joining us this year.

Ms. Ellen McVeigh - Junior Infants

Ms. Sinead O'Reilly - First Class

Ms. Martina Osborne - Second Class

Ms. Mary Hegarty - Fifth Class

Mr. Hogan - SET (Special Education Teacher)

We are delighted to have them on board!

Finally, a heartfelt congratulations to Ms Colgan on the birth of her son recently.

We are all looking forward to the coming year and thank you all again for your continued support. Go raibh míle maith agaibh go léir.

Niall Spain



## Tag Rugby Coaching

Pupils from 4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> classes have been enjoying playing tag rugby under the guidance of Edenderry RFC CCRO Seán Brien. The games are getting more competitive every week!



## Cross Country

30 athletes from 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> classes recently travelled to Tullamore to take part in the Offaly Schools Cross Country competition. Huge congratulations to all the pupils who took part and a special well done to Ayla, Róisín, Fiadh and Daniela who all won individual medals and also to our 5<sup>th</sup> class girls' team of Anna, Merna, Daniela and Fiadh who won 2<sup>nd</sup> team!



## Parents' Association

Our Parents' Association held their first meeting on September 18<sup>th</sup> and are delighted to welcome so many new members for this year. We have lots of exciting ideas for the children and we are looking forward to getting started with our first event of the year "The Witches and Wizards Walk" on our annual dress up day for Halloween. We welcome new members at any stage throughout the year so don't be shy, come and get involved.

### Boys' Gaelic Football

Congratulations to our boys' Gaelic football team who have qualified for the Offaly Cumann na mBunscol final. The boys have trained incredibly hard all year and we are very proud of their achievements. They will play Geashill NS in O'Connor Park, Tullamore this Tuesday the 22nd. Ádh mór a bhuachaillí.



### Hurling

The boys from 4<sup>th</sup> - 6<sup>th</sup> classes are busy practising their hurling skills in preparation for the Cumann na mBunscol hurling competition next spring. They are showing tremendous progress under the coaching of Mr Carey and Mr Judge.

### Creative Places Edenderry

A group of 4<sup>th</sup> class pupils will be involved in exciting improvisation and creative vocal and percussion workshops with the Creative Edenderry team. This will culminate in an evening performance on Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> December in our school hall. Several community groups will be involved in the Creative Edenderry project.



### Peace Proms

All 3<sup>rd</sup> Class Pupils will be taking part in Peace Proms which involves a workshop in Dublin and a big concert in the RDS on Saturday February 1<sup>st</sup> at 2pm with a full orchestra. Tickets are available from [www.peaceproms.com](http://www.peaceproms.com) from November 1<sup>st</sup>. Pupils are busy learning the songs and the dance moves.



### Fighting Words

Anne from Offaly Fighting Words will be completing writing workshops with pupils from 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> classes during the coming weeks.

### County Champions

Well done to the Edenderry Ladies U14 football team on their recent success in the county championship. We were delighted to welcome these girls and their mentors to the school along with their trophy and cup. Well done especially to all the past pupils of St Mary's who are on this team.



### Swimming

Our pupils will be getting swimming lessons this year in Portarlinton Leisure Centre. 4<sup>th</sup> class pupils will swim in Term 2 and 5<sup>th</sup> class will swim in Term 3.

### Music Generation

Almost 50 pupils from 3<sup>rd</sup> to 6<sup>th</sup> class take part in violin lessons each week with Lucy from Music Generation. They are learning to play their instrument and read music. Well done children!

Danna Davis gives weekly music classes to all pupils from Junior Infants to 2<sup>nd</sup>. The pupils love the songs, rhythms and percussion with Danna.

On Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> October all Music Generation pupils along with some visiting music generation schools joined together for a wonderful celebration of music and song in our school hall for the Céilúradh Mór (Big Celebration) of 10 years of Music Generation in Offaly. They got to sing, play and move with the big band which had come on the day.

### Girls' Gaelic football

The girls' football team from 4<sup>th</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> class competed in the Cumann na mBunscol Autumn League. They recently faced tough competition in matches against Scoil Bhríde and Killeigh National School, coming up short in both games. Despite the results, the team displayed fantastic teamwork and determination. Their weekly Tuesday training sessions with Ms Farrelly, Ms O'Connor and Ms Gorman have greatly helped the girls improve and stay motivated.



### Secondary School Visits

The 6<sup>th</sup> class students enjoyed their visits to St Mary's Secondary School and Oaklands earlier this term. Both schools arranged comprehensive subject taster sessions to help our students get a feel for some of the subjects on offer including home economics, science, graphics and more. It was a fun and informative experience for our students, who enjoyed the opportunity to ask questions and get a sense of the school communities.



### School Garden

We would like to say a big thank you to Amanda Braddock for all her time and energy. We are immensely grateful for all she does in our school garden. September and October have been busy months in the garden. The pupils in sixth class rolled up their sleeves and got rid of some weeds in the garden and the polytunnel. They also harvested lots of potatoes which Amanda kindly cooked for them. The fifth class pupils planted daffodil bulbs. We can't wait to see them bloom in spring. 🌸 The pupils are excited about our pumpkin harvest next week. Hopefully each class will get a pumpkin to raffle. 🎃🎃🎃

### Health and Safety Reminder

We would like to remind all parents that school starts at 9:20 a.m., when teachers will collect classes from their lines. Please note that parents are responsible for their children until this time, and children should not be left unsupervised before 9:20 a.m.

Additionally, please be mindful when parking outside the school. Please try to keep footpaths clear and ensure you follow all road safety guidelines. Thank you for helping us keep the area safe for everyone.



### Inter School Quiz

Well done to Emily, LillyAnne, Sadhbh, Emma, Katalina, Dhanvi, Ellarose and Derrel who took part in the inter primary school quiz in St Mary's Secondary School!

### Junior Infants

We would like to welcome our 44 new Junior Infants to St. Mary's PS. We are delighted at how well the children have settled. Ms. Egerton and Ms. McVeigh are very proud of all the hard work the children have put in since the beginning of the school year. Well done boys and girls!

### Shoebox Appeal

As usual, we will be collecting shoeboxes for the Team Hope Christmas Shoebox Appeal. Further details will be given to the children shortly.

### Dates For your Diary!

- Witches Walk - October 25<sup>th</sup>
- Parent Teacher Meetings - November 20<sup>th</sup> & 21<sup>st</sup>
- St. Mary's PS Open Week - November 26<sup>th</sup>, 27<sup>th</sup> & 28<sup>th</sup> 2pm - 3pm
- Communion - May 10<sup>th</sup> at 2pm
- Confirmation - June 7<sup>th</sup> at 2pm