



St. Mary's Primary School

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Early Intervention (Autism) Class



We are still accepting enrolments for our Early Intervention Autism class. Please contact the school on 046 9731424 for further details.



School Choir

Dear Parents and Guardians,

I hope you all enjoyed the St. Patrick's Day celebrations this week. This month has been full of activity here in St. Mary's.

Our *Seachtain na Gaeilge* celebrations brought great fun and excitement, with pupils learning and using their Irish through songs, music, dance and enjoyable activities throughout the week.

Bhí an spóirt ag na páistí i rith na seachtaine. As we head towards the Easter break, I want to thank you for your continued support and wish all our families a very happy and restful Easter.

Le gach dea-ghuí,
Niall Spain

St. Mary's School Choir will sing at our Confirmation on Saturday 18th April at 11am and First Holy Communion on Saturday 25th April at 11am.

Hoodies

6th class received their hoodies this month. This was an exciting occasion and well-deserved experience for our senior students. They are looking great in navy.



VEX Robotics

Mr. McNevin's and Mr. Kelliher's classes took part in the VEX Offaly Robotics Championship on February 5th. Both classes performed excellently after months of hard work designing, building and programming their robots. Mr. McNevin's class finished in a very impressive 4th place overall, while Mr. Kelliher's class won the competition, claiming the Excellence Award, Teamwork Champion Award, and the Skills Challenge. This success meant that Mr. Kelliher's team went on to represent St. Mary's Primary School and Offaly at the VEX Ireland Championships in MTU Cork on February 26th. The team performed brilliantly at national level, finishing 6th overall and achieving an outstanding 3rd place in the Skills Competition.



School Garden

We are delighted to share the exciting planting that has been taking place in our school garden. Each class has been busy planting different seeds and helping our garden grow.

Our Junior Infants started us off by planting lettuce seeds. We are looking forward to watching them grow and learning how vegetables develop. Senior Infants planted marigold seeds as well as pea seeds. These pretty flowers and tasty vegetables will make a wonderful addition to the garden. First Class planted lobelia seeds. We can't wait to see the bright flowers appearing in the garden beds. Second Class planted allium seeds, which will grow into beautiful decorative flowers. Third Class planted wallflower seeds and Livingstone daisy seeds. These will add lots of colour and variety to our garden. Fourth Class planted sweet william seeds. These flowers are known for their lovely colours and sweet scent. Fifth Class planted snapdragon seeds and tomato seeds. We are excited to see both the colourful flowers and the delicious tomatoes grow. Finally, Sixth Class planted sunflower seeds and nasturtium seeds. The sunflowers will hopefully grow tall and bright, while the nasturtiums will add vibrant colour.

We would also like to say a very big thank you to Amanda, our wonderful volunteer, for giving her time and helping the children in the garden. A special thank you to Bernard, our caretaker, for his support and help with maintaining the garden area and of course we also thank Ms Kenny for coordinating everything!

We look forward to watching all of these seeds grow over the coming weeks. Well done to all the classes for their fantastic work in helping our school garden flourish!



Active School Flag

Every day we are doing Active Lines after break as part of the Active Flag Programme. Each class took part in fun Busy Breaks for the month of

February. Our active leaders are doing a great job. Keep your eyes peeled for a special event - 'Skip around the World'- coming soon! We love being fit and active in St. Mary's.



School Musical

Our December school musical, performed over two nights by pupils from 4th–6th class, was a wonderful success. The performances reflected weeks of hard work, commitment and dedication from the children. A sincere thank you to our pupils for their enthusiasm and talent, to our staff for their guidance and support and to the families who came along to enjoy the shows.

Football Skills Competition

Joe and Daniela from 6th class are representing St Mary's in the Offaly football skills competition in Kilcormac. We wish them well.



Peace Proms

Pupils from 3rd class travelled to the RDS in February to take part in the Peace Proms concert. They danced and sang their hearts out and had great fun! Thank you to all the families who came along to support the children and a special thank you to Ms Cunningham and Ms Hegarty who prepared the children so well!



Rugby

Girls from 5th and 6th attended a tag rugby blitz in Tullamore on Monday 9th March. This was arranged to mark International Women's Day. The girls enjoyed the event and had lots of opportunity to play games and test out their skills.



Leinster Schools Minor Swimming Gala

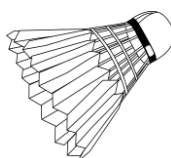
Congratulations to the pupils who represented St Mary's at the Leinster Schools Minor Swimming Gala in the National Aquatic Centre recently and best of luck to Liam and Zoey who qualified for the All-Ireland Schools Minor Swimming Gala at the end of this month!

Swimming

Our 4th and 5th class pupils are currently receiving swimming lessons in Portarlinton Leisure Centre. The lessons will continue until Easter.

Camogie & Hurling

Our hurlers and camogie players are busy preparing for the Offaly Cumann na mBunscol competitions that will begin after the Easter holidays. Best of luck to you all and to your coaches Ms O'Connor, Ms Gorman and Mr Carey.



School Badminton Competition

Congratulations to the pupils who represented the school at the Offaly Schools Badminton Championships recently. Rían, Meehaul, Milly and Luca won the Plate final!



Soccer Street League

It has been a busy month for soccer in our school. Pupils from 4th, 5th and 6th class have been taking part in a street league held during break time in our school hall. The games started on Thursday 12th February and have been running every day up to the final on Tuesday 10th March. There has been a great turnout of players with 56 boys and 45 girls taking part, some playing on teams for the very first time.

Players from these leagues will now go on to represent our school at the FAI 5 a-side soccer tournament, held in Tullamore.

The boy's tournament is on Tuesday 24th March, with the girl's tournament taking place on Thursday 26th March.

Anti-Bullying (Bí Cineálta) Policy

The Anti Bullying (Bí Cineálta) policy is currently being reviewed through surveys with pupils and parents. The policy is available for everyone to read online on our school website www.stmaryspsedenderry.ie.

Code of Behaviour

The Code of Behaviour has been reviewed and ratified by the Board of Management in recent months. It is available to view on our school website www.stmaryspsedenderry.ie.



Fundraising

Don't forget to use our orange Re-turn bin in the school yard. Every bottle or can makes a difference in raising funds for our school!

If you shop in Tesco, please support our fundraiser by collecting the blue tokens in Tesco and putting them in the box at the door. The more tokens we collect, the more money we raise!

Health & Safety

Please don't remain in the yard between the 2pm and 3pm pickups. It is not safe for our pupils to use the yard with their class if there are adults in the yard.

E-scooters are not permitted in the school yard and no pupil should use their bicycle or scooter within the school grounds.

Dates for the Diary

Monday March 23rd - School closing at 2pm for staff training

Friday March 27th - School closing for Easter holidays at 12pm

Monday April 13th - School reopening after the Easter holidays

Saturday April 18th - 6th class Confirmation

Saturday April 25th - 2nd class Communion

Wednesday May 27th - School closed for staff training