

St. Mary's Primary School



Tel : 046 9731424

Roll No. 16013V

Email: info@stmaryspsedenderry.ie

Principal: Mr Niall Spain Deputy Principal: Ms Caroline Stone

Web: stmaryspsedenderry.ie

Facebook @stmaryspsedenderry



Dear Parent(s)/Guardian(s),

Welcome to our final school newsletter of the 2025/26 school year! As you read through, we hope you'll agree that it has been a really lovely year here at St. Mary's for both our pupils and staff.

A big well done to all of our students for their hard work, progress and achievements throughout the year. I would also like to say a sincere thank you to our staff for the care, dedication and energy they bring to school life each day.

We are very grateful to all our parents and to our Parents' Association for your continued support—it makes such a difference and is always appreciated.

A special **congratulations** to our pupils in 6th Class and Réaltaí Beaga as they finish their time with us. We wish you the very best of luck and happiness as you move on to the next stage of your journey.

Wishing all our families a safe, happy and enjoyable summer. We look forward to seeing everyone back in the new term, rested and ready for another great year together. Bainigí taitneamh as an tsamhraidh — enjoy the summer!

Beir bua agus beannacht,
Niall Spain and Staff

Active Schools Week

Active School Week took place from 2nd–5th June and was a fantastic celebration of fun, fitness and teamwork. Throughout the week, pupils enjoyed a wide variety of activities including soccer, football, golf, yoga, gymnastics, active homework, fun stations, cycling and much more.

The week concluded with our whole school walk on Friday, with every class taking part and enjoying the experience together. A special thank you to the Parents' Association for organising an ice cream van for all the pupils to enjoy after the walk. It was a wonderful treat and the perfect way to end the week. Active School Week was filled with energy, fun and memorable experiences, and was thoroughly enjoyed by everyone involved.



Let's Get Active Challenge!

Ms. McDonnell's 2nd Class recently took part in the Let's Get Active Challenge, organised by the Irish Heart Foundation. The challenge encourages the children to be active for at least 60 minutes every day, helping them to develop healthy habits while having fun. Each pupil received a challenge booklet to complete over the four-week programme. The booklet was packed with fun activity ideas. The challenge ran for four weeks, from 18th May to 12th June. A big thank you to Ms. Mc Donnell and to all the pupils involved.

Camogie & Hurling

Both our camogie and hurling teams played in county finals this term. Our camogie team played St Cynoc's and after a tough match they emerged as the winners. Our hurling team played against our neighbours St Pats but unfortunately did not win on the day. Well done to all these girls and boys. We are very proud of you all!

Confirmation & Communion

Second class pupils received their First Holy Communion on Saturday April 25th and the sixth class students celebrated their Confirmation on Saturday April 18th in St. Mary's Church. Well done to the children for all their preparation in the run up to the days.



Sixth Class Graduation

The parents and students of 6th class enjoyed a wonderful evening in St. Mary's Hall to celebrate this year's graduation. Thank you to the Parents' Association for organising the refreshments and the parents of 5th class for donating treats.

School choir

A huge thank you to our school choir for their beautiful singing at both First Holy Communion and Confirmation in St. Mary's church. Thank you also to Ms. Stone, Ms. Cunningham and Ms. McDonnell for all the work you have put into the choir this year.



Fiddle Fiesta

Pupils from 3rd to 6th class who are taking violin lessons as part of Music Generation participated in "Fiddle Fiesta" in Athlone with renowned music educator Veronica Urrego. They played with other musicians as part of a huge string orchestra working on rhythm, melody and ensemble playing. It was a fantastic experience for all involved.

School tours

The annual school tour is always a highlight of the year for our pupils, and this year was no exception. If you are looking for some inspiration for days out over the summer holidays, check out where all our classes went.

Realtaí Beaga – Kidz & Co

Junior Infants – Lullymore

Senior Infants – Clonfert Pet Farm

First class – Fort Lucan

Second class – Emerald Park

Third class – Butlers Chocolate Factory & JumpZone

Fourth class – Explorium

Fifth class – Alive Outside

Sixth class – Bay Sports



Music Generation

The pupils from fourth class recently took part in a Music Generation workshop in the Athlone Indoor Arena. The pupils formed a choir with pupils from other schools and had a great time performing songs. A huge thank you to Danna Davis for her help in preparing the classes.

Realtaí Beaga

We are delighted to celebrate the children who graduated from Réaltaí Beaga this year. Throughout their time with us, they have shown tremendous growth, resilience, and enthusiasm for learning. Each child has developed unique strengths, built friendships, and achieved important milestones that we are incredibly proud of.

As they move on to the next stage of their educational journey, we wish them every success, happiness, and confidence in the future.

Congratulations to all our graduates—you will always be a valued part of our school family!

Kayaking on the Canal

5th and 6th Class pupils enjoyed an exciting kayaking session on the canal. It was a fantastic opportunity to enjoy the outdoors, build new skills, and have lots of fun with friends. A wonderful day was had by all.



Garden Fete

Our Garden Fete was a wonderful success, and despite the wet weather, the day was enjoyed by all. We would like to sincerely thank all the parents for their generous donations and support, which helped make the event such a success. A special thank you to the sixth class pupils and their teachers for their hard work, enthusiasm, and help in organizing and running the fete. We would like to express our sincere gratitude to Amanda, our gardening volunteer, who works with all the classes throughout the year and whose dedication and support are greatly valued. A special thank you also to Ms Kenny who has worked with Amanda and all the classes all year to create such a beautiful space.

GAA Coaching & Swimming

The pupils from Junior Infants to 2nd Class enjoyed GAA coaching this term with Ciarán Breen. Fourth and fifth classes enjoyed swimming lessons which took place in Portarlinton Leisure Centre.

Offaly Sports Partnership

Offaly Sports Partnership were running several National School programmes during 2026. Our school was selected to be part of these brilliant initiatives. There was a Fittest School Challenge open to all pupils' 1st to 6th class and an 8-Week Gymnastics Pilot Programme. Both programmes were very successful. The pupils learned many new skills and had great fun. 13 of our pupils won medals in the Fittest School Initiative!

Tesco Stronger Starts Cooking Demo

Recently, the three 5th Classes took part in the Tesco Stronger Starts cooking programme. Chef Bernard visited the school and led an engaging cooking demonstration with all of the classes. The children cooked a delicious pasta dish while learning about food safety, kitchen hygiene and the importance of using fresh ingredients. Everyone thoroughly enjoyed the experience and each pupil received a recipe book to take home. As part of the programme, Ms Guinan's class also visited our local Tesco store, where they were given a behind-the-scenes tour and had the opportunity to practise budgeting and other valuable life skills.

St. Mary's Secondary GAA Blitz

The 5th Class pupils recently took part in the annual St Mary's Secondary School GAA Blitz. All of the children represented the school with great enthusiasm and pride as they competed against local schools. We entered six teams in total and had an excellent day of football. Our Girls Red Team enjoyed a particularly successful tournament, winning five games and reaching the final, where they were narrowly defeated by St Conleth's, Derrinturn. All of our teams performed admirably, displaying great skill, teamwork and sportsmanship throughout the day. We would like to thank Mr Gonoud, the staff of St Mary's Secondary School and the Transition Year students for organising another fantastic event.

Dates for the Diary

- Friday June 26th – school closes at 12pm for the summer holidays
- Thursday August 27th – school reopens after the summer holidays
- October Midterm Break – school closing on Friday October 23th and reopening on Monday November 2nd
- Confirmation – Saturday April 17th
- First Holy Communion – Saturday April 24th