



St. Mary's Primary School

20 Cloughcor Road, Ballymagorry, Strabane, Co. Tyrone. BT82 0BE.

Telephone No: 028 7184 1237

Principal: Mrs A Devine

Tuesday 18th October 2022

Dear Parent/Person with responsibility,

MATHS WEEK

Monday 17th October – Friday 21st October marks Maths week. The pupils of Cloughcor will be celebrating all things Maths this week. As part of our School Development Plan, we are endeavouring to focus on practical maths, specifically highlighting the development of problem-solving skills. Classes will take part in a 'Puzzle Day' on Tuesday 18th October whereby class teachers will be providing opportunities for active, practical maths activities in their classrooms. All pupils at this stage should have a Mathseeds/Mathletics username wherein weekly activities have been set by class teachers. It is important that your child engages and completes the activities set.

ANTI-BULLYING QUESTIONNAIRE

Schools are asked to review policies on a regular basis. In order to do this, I will be sending an Anti-Bullying form out via a text message to you as parents of children here at our school to gather thoughts and opinions. The information gathered will be used to update and revise our School Anti-Bullying Policy. I would ask that you complete the form once you receive it. Thank you!

AFTERSCHOOL CLUBS

To date our P4 pupils are engaging in Debutots on a Thursday and they have football with Marty Gormley on a Friday. Our P3/P4 started Irish dancing with Mr McCrystall last week and it is proving to be a very popular after school club!! It is my intention to give P4-P7 a four-six-week Debutots programme, Irish dancing and football after school sessions one day per week from 3-4pm. Dates will follow.

ULSTER GAA

Geraldine will return to teach Gaelic to P3-P7 pupils on **Thursday 20th October**. We would ask that your child wears his/her PE gear to school on Thursday.

FAMILY CLUB

This year parents of children in P1/P2 who had older siblings in P3-P7 were asked to complete an expression of interest to see if they would like their child to stay in until 3pm each day. We had a very healthy response and our P1/P2 pupils with older siblings are supervised Monday-Friday until 3pm. A weekly fee of £3.00 is collected at the beginning of each week. Please ensure payment is made every Monday.

EA MUSIC TUITION

Karen has been back teaching pupils in P6/P7. Some recent recruits from P5 have started learning to play the clarinet/flute. If your child was selected to play a musical instrument it is important that he/she brings his/her musical instrument to school every Friday.

SCHOOL PHOTOGRAPHER

As you are aware the school Photographer was invited in to take individual/sibling photographs. Proof samples were sent home to parents on Friday 14th October. If you wish to purchase the photographs, please follow the instructions provided by Tempest Photography.

SACRAMENTAL MEETING

Fr Sweeney has organised a sacramental meeting on **Monday 24th October** at the Sacred Heart Chapel, Derry Rd, at 7pm for the **parents** of our P4 and P7 pupils. Sacrament dates have been confirmed. The Sacrament of Confirmation will take place on **Saturday 11th March at 11.00am** and the Sacrament of the Eucharist will take place on **Saturday 13th May at 11.00am** at the Sacred Heart Chapel, Derry Rd.

SWIMMING

P6 pupils have signed up to a ten-week swimming programme at Riversdale Leisure Centre. The pupils are enjoying their sessions and it is lovely to see the boys and girls grow in confidence – well done P6!

ACCELERATED READING

Our P4 pupils have started Accelerated Reading and it has been met with positivity. Your child will have been given a target to reach so it is important that your child reads daily at home to ensure he/she reaches the target set.

DENIS, LIBRARY VAN

Denis visits our P4 & P5 pupils on a fortnightly basis. Please ensure your child brings his/her library card to school on **Wednesday 26th October** if you would like your child to borrow a book from the library van. Thank you!

SCHOOL CLOSURE

School will be closed for Halloween Holidays on **Monday 31st October – Friday 4th November** (inclusive). Pupils may wear their Halloween Costumes to school on Friday 28th October. Please ensure costumes, props are clearly labelled to avoid confusion and tears if misplaced!!

WORLD DRAWING OF GOD DAY

Thursday 3rd November marks World Drawing God Day. This is based on the book “Drawing God” by Karen Kiefer. Our pupils are invited to draw how they see God. If you would like your child to take part in this activity, their pictures can be sent into class teachers on Monday 7th November.

SCHOOL MILK

School milk will re-commence for Term 1 from **Monday 7th November – Friday 16th December** (inclusive) at a cost of £6.00. If you would like your child to avail of milk throughout Term 1 please send £6.00 in a clearly marked envelope with all of your child’s details to school by **Wednesday**

26th October as the milk order needs to be placed with Grove Dairy on **Friday 28th October** before we break for Half Term.

SCHOOL NURSING TEAM

The School Nursing Team will be in school on **Tuesday 25th October** to administer the Nasal Flu Vaccine to those pupils who have been given consent.

TRANSLINK

Whilst on bus duty, I have noticed that some pupils are using the bus without a topped up Translink pass. It is important that your child brings his/her bus pass to school daily if using the Translink double-decker and that bus cards are topped up. I am aware that times are becoming increasingly hard for everyone at present, however, if you would like your child to avail of the Translink bus service, I would be most grateful if you could have bus cards/passes topped up for journeys taken.

Yours Sincerely,



SCHOOL PRINCIPAL



