



# St Mary's Primary School, Cushendall

## Parent Information – May 2021



### Dear Parent / Guardian

I hope everyone is enjoying being back at school and getting back to a little bit of 'normality'. Hopefully the sun will start coming out for longer and we can enjoy lots of outdoor learning and play. Here are just a few updates on what is happening and what we are hoping to plan. Also a few little reminders on a few things which help to keep everything running 'smoothly' in our school.

### FIRST CONFESSION

Congratulations to our Primary 3 & Primary 4 children who made their First Confession yesterday, Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> May. This is a very important milestone for the children in their sacramental journey. Thank you to Fr Whiteford who officiated the ceremony.

### SCHOOL DAY

The school day begins and ends as follows:

CLASS	ENTRY POINT	START TIME	FINISH TIME
P1 & P2	P1 Back Door (entry via playground)	9.15am	2.00pm
P3 & P4	Side Door (entry via playground)	9.15am	2.45pm
P5	Main Door	9.05am	2.50pm
P6 & P7	Main Door	8.55am	3.00pm
<b>IT IS VITALLY IMPORTANT THAT ALL CHILDREN ARRIVE/LEAVE PROMPTLY AT THEIR ALLOCATED TIME TO ENSURE THE SOCIAL DISTANCING GUIDELINES CAN BE ADHERED TO.</b>			

A letter from parents is needed for children who come late to school, go home for lunch or who need to leave before the end of the school day. No child will be allowed to leave school with anyone under 16yrs or without a letter/telephone call from their parents.

### ABSENTEEISM

If your child is absent from school, please contact the office before 10.00am. On return to school your child must have a note to explain their absence. This is an Educational Welfare Office regulation.

### SCHOOL BUS

If your child only uses the bus occasionally you are asked to let the school know at the start of that day. Children will not be allowed to go on the bus unless their name is on our list or we have been contacted by parents/guardians.

### CAR PARKING AT THE SCHOOL GATE

Could all parents please observe the No Parking lines at the school gate. It is becoming increasingly dangerous for the children & staff crossing the road. Please park your car and come and collect your children at the school gate. As always please adhere to the Social Distancing Guidelines and ensure you wear a face covering. Thanks for your co-operation in keeping our children and staff safe.

## **SAFETY**

In order to ensure the safety of everyone in school, please DO NOT use the gates at the carpark entrance either coming to or going from school.

## **'COOL CASH FRIDAY' WEEKLY DRAW**

Thank you to everyone who has supported our fundraising venture. With the money raised we have been able to invest in much needed resources. 2 'Cool Cash Friday' envelopes are sent home to each family on a Thursday with the weekly menu, in the Homework pack. As this is the only 'fundraising' activity we can organise safely at the minute, please could I encourage every family to support our weekly draw. If you require additional envelopes these are available from the school office. Can we remind everyone that only £1 should be put into each envelope but you can enter as many envelopes as you wish each week. All envelopes should be returned by 9.15am on a Friday as the weekly draw takes place on a Friday morning. Late envelopes will be carried into the following weeks draw.

## **GAELFAST HURLING**

We are delighted to welcome Antrim GAA Gaelfast coach Dominic McKinley back to St Mary's. Dominic will be here every Friday until the end of term coaching the P3 – P7 children.

Everyone (P1 – P7) will be taking part in our 'Fun & Fit Friday's' and the children should wear their sports gear to school each Friday.

## **FIRST HOLY COMMUNION**

First Holy Communion for our P4 children will take place on **Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> May 2021** at 11.00a.m. Due to COVID restrictions only the Primary 4 children and their families will be able to attend the ceremony. More details to follow.

## **CONFIRMATION**

P7 pupils will receive the sacrament of Confirmation on **Friday 4<sup>th</sup> June** at 1.30pm. Again due to COVID restrictions only Primary 7 children and their families will be able to attend.

This will be a normal school day for all children P1 – P6.

## **SCHOOL TRIPS**

The 'school trips' will be happening during the week of 7<sup>th</sup> June. This year we will be 'Staying Local' and taking advantage of the beautiful location here on our doorstep. More information will follow.

## **'SPORTS WEEK'**

It looks increasingly likely that we will be unable to hold our regular Sports Day this year. However, we do intend to hold an alternative series of events during the week of 14<sup>th</sup> June. Unfortunately, no spectators will be allowed, again we will keep you updated on our plans.

## **P7 LEAVER'S CELEBRATIONS**

Weather permitting, we hope to hold an 'Outdoor Leaver's Assembly' on Monday 14<sup>th</sup> June, or the first dry day thereafter, as this is taking place outside our P7 parents will be invited to attend. More details to follow.

Friday 18<sup>th</sup> June will be a 'P7 Fun Evening', again more details to follow.

## UPDATED SCHOOL CLOSURES

Just to remind you of the updated closures this month. The Primary School & Nursery Unit will now only be closed on Monday 24<sup>th</sup> & Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> May with normal class resuming on Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> May. End of Term at St Mary's Primary School & Nursery unit will now be 11.00am on Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> June 2021. The updated calendar is available on the school website [www.stmaryspscushendall.com](http://www.stmaryspscushendall.com)

As always please ensure we have your most up to date contact information on file and continue to regularly check your emails (including junk folder), our website [www.stmaryspscushendall.com](http://www.stmaryspscushendall.com) and Facebook page. It is also important to inform us if you have changed address so our records are accurate.

If you have any queries please do not hesitate to contact me by telephone or email [info@stmarysps.cushendall.ni.sch.uk](mailto:info@stmarysps.cushendall.ni.sch.uk).

The majority of our correspondence with you will now be via email so it is vital that you regularly check for new information.

Many thanks for your continued support over this past year and we look forward to more normal times ahead.

*Mrs Helen Magee*

*Principál*

BA (QTS) Hons, PQH(N.I)