



St Mary's Primary School, Cushendall

Parent Information – March 2020



WALK TO SCHOOL DAYS

Our 'Walk to School Days' for this month will take place, weather permitting, on **Friday 13th & Friday 27th March**. As always, it would be great to see as many children, parents and carers as possible joining in and the usual supervision arrangements apply.

FIRST CONFESSION

Children in Primary 3 will be making their First Confession in the Church on **Thursday 26th March at 10.00am**. Children should come to school in the usual way and wear their school uniform. Parents and other family members are asked to be in the Church for 9.50am. to attend 10.00am Mass. First Confessions will take place directly after Mass. Full details will be sent home at a later date. Parents may take children out for a treat afterwards if they want and return them to school in time for lunch at 12.30pm.

TERM 3 MILK MONEY

The amount due for Term 3 is **£9.90**. Money should be paid on/before **Wednesday 25th March**. *NB: Please ensure you send the correct money with your child and milk, dinner and break monies must be in separate amounts for each child. We would greatly appreciate your co-operation in this matter. (Please do not send cheques for milk/dinner money.)*

SCHOOL DAY

Class begins at 9.15am. Children should come to school after 9.00am. However, if due to work commitments your child needs to be in school before 9.00am. they can be supervised from 8.40am. onwards in the 'Morning Waiting Area' outside the school library. Please send a note to the office for our records if your child/children need to come in before 9.00am.

A letter from parents is also 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.

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.

CAR PARKING AT THE SCHOOL GATE

Everyone is asked to please observe the road markings at the pedestrian gate and not park on the double yellow lines. This will help the children to cross safely when coming to or going home from school.

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.

SPONSORED EVENTS FOR CHARITY

It's almost Easter and, as in previous years, we will be having sponsored events for charity during Lent with all funds raised being donated to Trocaire and another charity nominated by the school.

Sponsor forms will be sent home with every child later this month and the sponsored events will be held during the week beginning Monday 6th April.

ANNUAL EASTER EGG ROLLING FUN

As yet, no date has been set but it definitely be held during the week beginning Monday 6th April – the week we get our Easter holidays. Children wishing to take part in our 'Easter Egg Roll' are asked to paint a hard-boiled egg and bring it to school on the day, we will let you know the date when we have an idea of the weather forecast for that week.

'COOL CASH FRIDAY' WEEKLY DRAW

As you are probably aware, the Education Sector as a whole is currently experiencing financial difficulties. Cutbacks in school budgets have left schools trying to 'balance the books' as best they can. Good financial management by staff and governors has allowed our school to manage our finances prudently through these difficult times.

However, due to the ongoing cutbacks, we felt that it was necessary to try to raise further funds for the benefit of our pupils. We decided to run a weekly 'half the pot' draw – 'COOL CASH FRIDAY'. We send home 3 envelopes to every family each week to sell to family and friends. If you require more envelopes these are available in the secretary's office at all times. Half of what is collected each week will go to the school, while one lucky winner will receive the other half.

Please try to support this fundraising initiative as all the money is spent directly on much needed resources for our children. Thank you.

IMPORTANT DATES

Tuesday 17 th March	-	Staff Development Day. Holiday for all Primary and Nursery children
Thursday 26 th March	-	First Confession at 10.00am. (Primary 3 children)
Thursday 9 th April	-	Easter Holidays / School & Nursery close at 11.00am.
Monday 20 th April	-	New Term Begins
Wednesday 6 th May	-	Confirmation 4.00pm. (Primary 7 children)
Friday 8 th May	-	Baker Day – Primary School & Nursery Unit Closed
Saturday 16 th May	-	First Holy Communion 11.00am (Primary 4 children)
Friday 22 nd May	-	Staff Development Day. Holiday for all Primary and Nursery children
Monday 25 th May	-	May Holiday - Primary School & Nursery Unit Closed

Mrs Helen Magee

Principál

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