



## St Mary's Primary School, Cushendall Parent Information – November 2020

Firstly, can I begin by thanking you all for your support in helping us make these very strange times a little easier to manage for our children. There have been a lot of changes to our daily routines but as ever the fantastic children in our Primary School and Nursery Unit, have adapted to all these new experiences and taken everything in their stride. Let's hope that we can return to our 'normal' schooldays in the not too distant future. In the meantime, as you will see we've tried to keep a few of our 'old favourites' albeit in an *alternative* form.

### CHRISTMAS JUMPERS

We had asked that all children, before this Friday (27<sup>th</sup> November), bring in a Christmas Top, which will be kept in school until the end of this term. Please ensure that your child's name is clearly marked on their jumper. Keep an eye on our Facebook page & school website for the '*One Year Only St Mary's Alternative 2020 Christmas Show*'

### 'ALTERNATIVE' CHRISTMAS LUNCH

Our school Christmas lunch will be on Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> December. This will be a non-uniform day and the children can wear their Christmas Jumper (which will already be in school). School will close after lunch at:

1.00pm	-	P1, P2, P3, P4
1.15pm	-	P5, P6, P7

Please ensure if you want your child/children to have the Christmas lunch, that their Menu is completed and returned to school on Monday 7<sup>th</sup> December.

### OPEN MORNINGS

Unfortunately, we cannot invite all our prospective Parents and Children to come and visit St Mary's this year. However please keep an eye on our Facebook page and School Website ([www.stmaryspscushendall.com](http://www.stmaryspscushendall.com)) for some exciting news from us all at St Mary's!

The application process for Primary School & Nursery Unit is completed online. Please note that the children already attending St Mary's Nursery Unit who hope to return for a second year MUST ALSO APPLY for a pre-school place.

Information regarding the admissions procedure and admissions criteria will be published on the EA website ([www.eani.org.uk/admissions](http://www.eani.org.uk/admissions)) on Friday 18<sup>th</sup> December 2020

**On Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> January 2021 at 12noon**  
**the online application procedure opens on the EA website [www.eani.org.uk/admissions](http://www.eani.org.uk/admissions)**  
**to apply for a funded Pre-school place/Primary One place in September 2021.**

The online portal closes at 12noon on Friday 29<sup>th</sup> January 2021.

### CHRISTMAS PARTY DAY

Usually by now we are getting very excited for our annual trip to the Grand Opera House .... yet another event that has fallen foul of COVID!!!! But not to be outdone we have planned an '*alternative*' surprise for our children. We are bringing the Pantomime to St Mary's and on Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> December will be having our 2020 Christmas Party and watching the Online Pantomime 'Beauty & The Beast'. This will also be a non-uniform day and children can wear their Christmas Jumpers today as well.

## CHRISTMAS CARDS & PRESENTS

Unfortunately, another tradition that we are going to miss this year in school is the children bringing Christmas Cards and presents into school for their classmates, this cannot happen due to the risk of COVID transmissions. Also can I ask that parents do not buy presents for school staff this year for the same reason, instead perhaps consider making a donation to the food bank via Cushendall Development Group Office.

## ST MARY'S WEBSITE & FACEBOOK PAGE

Please remember to regularly check our website – [www.stmaryspscushendall.com](http://www.stmaryspscushendall.com) and Facebook Page to keep up to date with everything that's going on in our Primary School and Nursery Unit.

## COOL CASH FRIDAY'S

Thank you to everyone who has supported our fundraising venture. With the money raised we have been able to invest in further iPads for each class along with other much needed resources. 'Cool Cash Friday' envelopes will be sent home to each family on a Thursday with the weekly menu. 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 9.00am on a Friday as the weekly draw takes place on a Friday morning. Late envelopes will be carried into the following weeks draw.

## 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 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.

## IMPORTANT DATES

**Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> December** - Christmas Dinner – School Closing at:  
1.00pm - P1, P2, P3, P4  
1.15pm - P5, P6, P7  
NO AFTERNOON NUSERY SESSION

**Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> December** - Christmas Party Day

**Friday 18<sup>th</sup> December** - End of term - Primary School and Nursery Unit will close at:  
11.00am - P1, P2, P3, P4  
11.15am - P5, P6, P7  
NO AFTERNOON NUSERY SESSION

**There will be no kitchen facilities on 18<sup>th</sup> December,  
Children should bring their own snack for morning break.**

**Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> January 2021** - New Term begins

## EMAIL

Please ensure we have your most up to date contact information on file and continue to regularly check your emails (including junk folder), ALL CORRESPONDENCE will be sent to you via email at this time.

As always, if you have any concerns regarding your child/children please feel free to contact me at any time.

*Mrs Helen Magee*  
*Principál*