



# St Mary's Primary School, Cushendall

## Parent Information - October 2019

### NEW SCHOOL YEAR MASS

Mass to celebrate the beginning of our new school year for our Primary School & Nursery Unit children and staff will take place in **St Mary's Church** at **1.30pm** on **Friday 4<sup>th</sup> October**. It would be lovely to see all our families there to join us as we ask God to bless us at the start of this year. **The children P1-P7 should be collected from the Church at 2.00pm.** (Everyone will be walking from school to the Church so please ensure your child brings a coat in case of wet weather). Children who are taking lunch are asked to bring their lunch in a disposable bag as schoolbags and lunchboxes will be left in school over the weekend.

### NSPCC DAY

The NSPCC are visiting St Mary's on Monday 7<sup>th</sup> October to deliver their Speak Out, Stay Safe Programme. **We are asking every child to donate £1 and wear something Green on our NSPCC day**

### P1 SPECIAL WELCOME

On Friday 11<sup>th</sup> October the School Catering Department invites Primary 1 Parents/Carers to sample our School Dinners. This is an opportunity for Primary 1 parents/carers to sample school dinners alongside their child. Come along at 12.15pm to the school dinner hall. Children's Dinners (£2.60), Adult Dinner (£3.35). If you would like to join your child for dinner on this day please indicate your choice on the Weekly Menu which will be sent home on Friday 4<sup>th</sup> October.

### MACMILLAN COFFEE AFTERNOON

We invite everyone to join us at our Annual Macmillan Coffee Afternoon on **Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> October 2019** from 1.30 – 3.00pm. All proceeds going to Macmillan cancer support. We had a great afternoon last year raising a fantastic £780.00! We hope with your support to do even better this year. So join us for a cuppa and a treat!

**Please leave all bun and cake donations in the hall on Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> October. Many thanks**

### FLU VACCINATION

The school nursing service will be coming to St Mary's on Friday 18<sup>th</sup> October to carry out the Annual Flu Vaccinations. If you have not returned your Child Health Form envelope which was sent home with every child last month, please do so immediately.

### PARENT / TEACHER MEETINGS

**Parent/Teacher Meetings for all children Primary 1 – Primary 7 will take place on**

Tuesday 22 <sup>nd</sup> October	-	1.10p.m. - 3.00p.m.
Wednesday 23 <sup>rd</sup> October	-	1.10p.m. - 3.00p.m.
Thursday 24 <sup>th</sup> October	-	1.10p.m. - 3.00p.m.

Appointment letters will be sent home this week.

**N.B. All children\*\* (P1-7) will go home at 1.00p.m. on the above dates.**

\*\* (Except for Children attending Dance Afterschool Club who can stay in school. Session times for Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> are: **P1 & P2: 1.00 – 2.00pm & P3 – P7: 2.00 – 3.00pm.**

## **ROAD OF HOPE SHOEBOX APPEAL**

It's hard to believe we are talking about Christmas already! This month we are having our annual 'Road of Hope' charity appeal. Leaflets have been sent home to all families to explain and once again we have been asked to make a special appeal for boxes for the older children and the elderly. We had a fantastic response last year from everyone in the Primary School and Nursery Unit when we sent off 108 shoeboxes.

\* Additional leaflets are available from the office if other family members, friends or neighbours would like to take part. All shoeboxes should be brought to school on / before **Monday 21<sup>st</sup> October**.

## **'WALK TO SCHOOL' DAYS**

Our 'Walk To School Days' for this month will be **Friday 11<sup>th</sup> & Friday 25<sup>th</sup> October** and the usual arrangements apply. Everyone should meet at Red Bay Boats or on the footpath opposite the Police Station on the Coast Road at 9.00a.m. As always, children in P.1-4 must be accompanied by an adult so please make arrangements with each other to ensure your child in P1-4 has an adult to walk with. (The ratio required is 1 adult/6 children.) In the meantime, please remember to encourage your child/children to walk to/from school as much as possible.

## **PARENT HELPER REQUEST**

Are you (parent/grandparent/other relative/carer) available to help supervise children on outings in the local community or on school trips? If you are able to help in any way, please contact the school as soon as possible as we really do need your help. All our helpers who would like to fill in an Access NI form can contact the school office at any time. It is essential that anyone who helps out with school trips or provides transport to various school events are vetted annually. I would encourage as many helpers as possible to fill in the form as soon as possible.

N.B. Thank you to everyone who helped us last year. If you are able to help again this year please contact the school office.

## **HEALTHY EATING**

Can I remind everyone that as part of our school policy, children are asked to bring a healthy option for Morning Break, i.e. fruit, vegetable pieces, scones/sandwiches (with non-sweet filling), milk or water. Please do not send crisps, fizzy drinks etc.

Only water is permitted in the children's drinking bottles that are used in the classroom for during the school day. If your child wishes to have cordial with their lunch that is permitted.

Thank you to everyone for your co-operation with our new 'envelope' ordering system. Just to remind everyone that the dinner/break menu is sent home on a Friday. A Menu sheet should be completed for each child and then placed, along with the correct money, in an individual envelope, sealed and labelled, with the correct money and placed in the allocated tray in their classroom.

## **TEST TEXT MESSAGE**

A text message will be sent to each household on Thursday (3<sup>rd</sup> October), reminding everyone to check our website for daily updates. If your nominated number does not receive this message, please contact the school office immediately.

## HALLOWEEN FUN

- 🎃 **Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> October** Storyteller Liz Weir is organising a Hallowe'en Storytelling morning for the children.
- 🎃 **Friday 25<sup>th</sup> October** children are allowed to come to school in fancy dress. We are asking for a £2 contribution from all children which will go towards our Hallowe'en fun morning. Can we please ask that no one wears a clown outfit of any description as we are aware they can cause distress to young children. The welfare of all of our children is paramount and I hope you will support us in this decision.

### IMPORTANT DATES

<b>Friday 4<sup>th</sup> October</b>	New School Year Mass
<b>Monday 14<sup>th</sup> October</b>	P7 RADAR Trip
<b>Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> October</b>	Macmillan Coffee Afternoon
<b>Friday 18<sup>th</sup> October</b>	Whole School Flu Vaccination
<b>Monday 21<sup>st</sup> October</b>	Shoebox Collection
<b>Friday 25<sup>th</sup> October</b>	Hallowe'en Holidays – School will close at 1.00p.m. There will be no Afternoon Nursery Session today. Primary School & Nursery Unit will re-open on Monday 4 <sup>th</sup> November.

Please remember that all updates will be provided through our school website – [www.stmaryspscushendall.com](http://www.stmaryspscushendall.com) and Facebook page.

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

*Mrs Helen Magee*  
*Principál*