



ST MARY'S PRIMARY SCHOOL & NURSERY UNIT
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15th June 2020

Dear Parents / Guardians

I hope you are all staying safe and healthy. I trust that the children are managing well and enjoying the activities their teachers are preparing for them each day.

Please find enclosed your child's Annual Report.

I have been planning to contact you as soon as I could regarding arrangements for the end of this academic year. I had also hoped that I would be able to give you much more information regarding our on-going planning for the school's re-opening. Schools are awaiting definitive advice from the government regarding issues such as which year groups are to be prioritised next term for example. Until such information is forthcoming many of the questions we share unfortunately remain unanswered. I hope you understand.

We had dearly hoped to have given our wonderful Primary Sevens a fitting send off in person. Unfortunately, in the circumstances we can't. There is work going on behind the scenes to celebrate them and their time in St Mary's in another way as I write to you. I hope the school's our P7's will attend are aware that they are extremely fortunate to have the children in their care. We will miss them all dearly.

By now we should have welcomed our new Primary One and Nursery children to an initial meeting and information session at school and nursery. Again, unfortunately we cannot. We will postpone this very important milestone and enjoy it when it is safer to do so. Contact will be made with each family to provide information for the induction process prior to it happening.

Please find below the class arrangements for the incoming academic year 2020-21

Class	Teacher
Nurs	Mrs Parker (3 days) / Mrs Magee (2 days)
P1 / P2	Mrs Boyle (4 days) / Mrs Magee (1 day)
P3 / P4	Mrs Magill
P5	Mrs Black
P6 / P7	Mrs Fyfe

Principal: Mrs Helen Magee
BA (QTS) Hons, PQH (NI)

Planning for the re-opening 2020-2021

- The Minister of Education has been widely publicised discussing 'Blended Learning' and a 'Phased Return to School, starting with Priority Groups'. This will mean that it will not yet be possible for all children to be in school with their teacher all week. A timetable will be drawn up.
- We await the Minister's guidance and direction for school re-opening. In the meantime, our internal health and safety planning and risk assessments are underway, taking account of PHA and government guidance which is presently available.
- Teaching staff will be preparing for learning and teaching in this new pedagogy and approach of blended learning. Next term this will involve some face to face teaching in school, some online learning and some home learning for all pupils.
- I will soon publish what would have been our proposed school calendar for the next academic year on our school website. Please note that these dates are subject to nearly guaranteed change over the course of the year. Start dates will certainly be very different for different classes / nursery sessions. I hope the school calendar can at least give a general idea of our plans.
- Once we have received a clear directive and start date from the Minister, further information will be communicated to all parents/guardians.

Sacraments have been dearly missed this year. These very important milestones in the lives of our children and our school and wider community will take place when it is safe to do so and when we have agreed the way forward with Fr Whiteford.

My intention is to be as clear and transparent as possible with all families when a clear plan is developed for our return to school. Communication is key to enabling this. Please watch for notifications on our school website www.stmaryspscushendall.com and on our Facebook page (St. Mary's PS & Nursery Unit Cushendall). Please also ensure to check your email account regularly (including your Junk Folder) as you may miss important information. Please also inform us if any of your contact details change.

Resources to support parents are being made available in school and also through specially developed pages on the EA website. These can be accessed at <https://www.eani.org.uk/support-learning>

It has been a very challenging few months for everyone, not least for all our pupils and our families. We look forward to welcoming the boys and girls back to school and formally continuing their education. Thank you all for your continued support. Please do not hesitate to contact me should you have any queries with regard to these issues using the email address: info@stmarysps.cushendall.ni.sch.uk

On behalf of the whole staff team, teaching and non-teaching, we wish you and your families a restful and relaxing summer holiday.

Yours sincerely

Mrs Helen Magee
Principal