



AUTUMN BULLETIN

SEPTEMBER 2022

Welcome – A warm welcome to everyone. We hope you all had a relaxing and enjoyable good summer break. A special welcome to our new Primary 1 pupils and those who joined other classes.

Many of you may have seen the planning permission in the local papers for our multi-million-pound renovation and extension. The building programme has been a little delayed but is expected to commence in 2023. We appreciate parents' understanding that non-urgent maintenance, such as painting, grounds work etc is on hold, while we await the commencement of the major building work.

SCHOOLStaff Development Day - [Monday 26th September](#)**CLOSINGS:**Mid-term break: [Monday 31st October through Friday 4th November](#)**IMPORTANT DATES:**

SEPTEMBER	OCTOBER
	14 th Ditch the Dark Day
21 st School Mass 10am	17 th Maths Week Ireland
27 th Walk to School Week	20 th Flu Vaccine
	28 th October Halloween Fun Dress-up Day

CHECK OUT THE CALENDAR ON OUR WEBSITE FOR FURTHER UPDATES.

PARENT LINKS:

We are pleased to resume our annual Curriculum meetings for parents this September. **We also plan to re-form our Parent Support Group. Parents will be invited to volunteer later this term.**

SCHOOL WEBSITE & APP:

Please download the app version of our school website for news, updates and reminders. The calendar is a particularly useful feature to keep informed.

SCHOOL MASS

To celebrate the start of the new school year, Fr Kevin will celebrate Mass with the school community at 10am on Wednesday 21st September in the Church of the Immaculate Conception. Parents and families are invited to join us. Mass can also be viewed through the parish webcam. First Confessions will be on Wednesday 1st March at 7pm. First Communion will be on Saturday 6th May at 11am.

BEHAVIOUR:

St Mary's prides itself on being a friendly, caring school where **bullying behaviour is not tolerated**. The revised Anti-Bullying Policy, reflecting new legislation, was shared with parents last school year and like all core policies, is available on the website or from the school office. There is a rolling **preventative Anti-Bullying programme** in place in all classes and from time to time additional assemblies, workshops and other events are also provided. If you as parents have any worries or concerns about your child's well-being please do not hesitate to see the class teacher or myself. Allegations of bullying are taken seriously, the NI Anti-Bullying Assessment Matrix is used to address concerns and formal records are maintained. Please note that Golden Time is also used as a behaviour management strategy from P2-7. **Pupils who achieve 100% Golden Time will be awarded a certificate at the end of each half-term. Think Time Discussion Sheets will be sent home with pupils for a parental signature following incidents of unacceptable behaviour.**

CONCUSSION:

I urge parents, that if a child has suffered a knock on the head outside school, please make us aware, so that we can take the necessary precautions to prevent / address a possible secondary concussion.



MEDICINES:

It is our policy that medicines should not be administered by school staff, except in cases where a health plan has been agreed for long-term medication. **Please do not send antibiotics, cough mixture, pain relief etc. with children.**

ABSENCES:

Parents should **report absences via the button on the website** homepage. Parents should send a message to the class teacher on Seesaw **if their child needs to leave school for an appointment.** Our attendance is completed electronically in class at 9.10am. If children arrive after registration, this must be recorded and will affect the overall attendance percentage for that pupil. Reasons for absence must also be noted on our computer system and will be accessible to the Education Welfare Officer. We are obliged to refer to the Welfare Service when attendance drops below 85% (28 days in the year, the equivalent of almost 6 weeks of school).

UNIFORM:

Once again we must congratulate the children for the excellent turnout in school uniform. We ask that for safety children wear suitable footwear and only stud earrings. It is **VERY IMPORTANT** that each item of uniform be **clearly marked** with the child's name. Please note that only **plain navy trousers** should be worn (ie without stripes or emblems) Following the uniform code is part of respecting the rules of school and school be adhered to as such.

HEALTHY EATING:

We continue to promote our healthy eating policy and ask that children bring only **fruit or other healthy snack for break.** **The school dinner menu complies with the Nutritional Guidelines** (as overseen by the EA). We do ask that packed lunches also contain healthy food. We continue to offer breakfasts /brunches or snacks to classes on occasion. Parents will be notified through Seesaw when classes are to be offered these.
NO CHOCOLATE, CRISPS OR EVEN TRACES OF NUTS OF ANY KIND IN PACKED LUNCHES PLEASE!!

BOOKING DINNERS:

All dinners must be pre-booked and paid through the school money app. It is a great help if parents can mark their child for either lunch or dinner on the app, irrespective of whether they are booking a paid dinner.

SCHOOL / ECO COUNCILS:

We are very keen that the children's voice is considered in school decision making and that they learn the processes and benefits of democracy. P5-7 classes are currently running elections for members to sit on the School and ECO councils. New members will bring the views of their classmates to a meeting with Mrs Kelly in the coming weeks.

We always aim to work closely with parents and again ask you to feel free to contact the class teacher or me about any queries or concerns you may have.

I wish one and all a happy and rewarding school year. We expect all our pupils to work to the best of their ability, respect each other and hopefully enjoy all aspects of school life.

Mrs. P Kelly
PRINCIPAL



Parking at school



Children who are collected by car will exit through the church gate, so as to reduce the roadside danger at bus times.



For the safety of pupils, we ask that the school car park is reserved for staff and disabled access only.

We all want to ensure that all pupils can enter and exit school in the safest possible manner.