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| T:\logo\Capture.JPG  ***Principal: Miss R Robinson***  ***B Ed (Hons) M ED PQH***  ***Tel: 028 38851778***  ***Fax: 028 38852568*** | **St Mary’s Primary School**  **84 Maghery Road**  **Maghery**  **Dungannon**  **Co Tyrone**  **BT71 6PA** |
| **09/02/2021** |  |

**9th February 2022**

**Dear Parents,**

**I hope this finds you well. Just an up-date on life in St Mary’s and some forthcoming events.**

**This week was a huge success with all children participating in activities to support Mental Health and Internet Safety week. The children enjoyed the work in class and we thank you for your support with home activities. We all hope for our children, that this enhances the importance of keeping safe.**

**Unfortunately, with Covid, things can change quite quickly and I acknowledge that this can make life difficult for parents and children. I can only assure you that we inform parents as soon as we can of any changes to school life.**

**Our School and Eco Council, with community support raised £540 towards the Air Ambulance. We have a very independent bunch of community activists for the future and it is great to see it. Thank you also for your support.**

**Ms Colette Delargy from Maths Buddy is coming to Maghery to work with parents on Maths. Dates have been previously issued on the website and are on the school calendar. Our recent feedback from parent questionnaires suggested that parents wanted more support with helping their children at home. These courses were organised in response to this feedback. To date we have had very little up-take on places. We would value if more parents could attend so please ring the office to secure a place. We have extended this date now to 24th February. Please do your best to come along and support us, and also reap the benefits of Colette’s expertise in Maths.**

**The first round of the Malachy McGeeney cup will be on the 28th February. This sees us competing against Eglish, Tullyherron and Newtownhamilton. Our PTA will provide treats for the teams. More details to follow. On Friday the 25th February, we will also take part in a Gaelic Blitz in St Patrick’s Armagh. Cumann na mBunscol insist on gum-shields being worn so please ensure they are brought to school on both days.**

**21st February begins a programme on Drugs Awareness for Primary 6 and 7.**

**First Confession will be in Our Lady Queen of Peace Church Maghery on the 11th March. We are beginning preparations for this. Primary 4 have been learning the Confiteor and Act of Sorrow and it would be of great help if you could continue this practise at home.**

**The 3rd March is World Book day. Staff have come together to organise a range of activities for this week. Our theme will be based around the Roald Dahl book Matilda. More details to follow. On Thursday 3rd March we will have a dress up day along with a movie showing of Matilda. Dress up day does not have to be expensive. It can be based around a book character or children can wear their pyjamas. There will be a Movie tuck shop on the day organised by the School Council which will allow children to buy cinema treats. Please send no more than £2 with your child which will go towards the cost of treats. If your child has any allergies, please contact the school before this week and we work with you to arrange an alternative range of treats.**

**We have made a number of requests for old tee-shirts/aprons etc for Primary 4/5 art work and we would hope that you could ensure that these are sent in with your child in the near future. It protects uniform. Art and Design is a big part of the curriculum.**

**Swimming will begin for Primary 4-7 with the exception of those children who are preparing for the transfer. These lessons will begin in South Lake Leisure Centre every Friday starting on 4th March. As EA will not provide a bus due to Covid restrictions, our PTA have kindly offered to organise and contribute towards the hire of a private bus which will reduce the costs. The cost will be £4 per week or £20 for 5 weeks. Please consider sending a swimming cap to keep hair dry.**

**Please always remember that as a staff we are here to listen to your concerns. Should you have any issues we would value that you would please contact the class teacher. This is the correct procedure to follow.**

**Mrs Delaney and myself will meet with any parents who wish their child to sit the transfer test 2022. Letters were sent home via the Primary 6 pupils. Please ring the office to arrange a meeting for Monday 21th February 2022.**

**Yours faithfully**

**Miss R Robinson**