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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** |
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16th Aug 2021

Dear Parents,

I hope this finds you all well and I hope that you and your families have had a great Summer break.

On September 1st we welcome back all the children to St Mary’s and I wish them and staff a fabulous year ahead.

The Government Funded Summer Scheme which ran from 4th – 16th July was a terrific success. The combination of Sports, Mindfulness and Well- Being Activities and STEM were thoroughly enjoyed by all. The coaches all commented on the excellent behaviour of our children which makes us all proud.

We are also indebted to Mark, Thomas and their team for the excellent work they carried out on our Eco Area. This has provided us with an excellent first hand learning centre which our children will enjoy immensely.

These past two years have been difficult, and although many engaged in on-line learning, face-to-face teaching is irreplaceable. Schools have been promised a Covid subsidy to support academic learning. We are fortunate to be able to use this funding to provide Literacy and Numeracy support for children this school year. Individual children will shortly receive a letter about this. Should you wish to discuss this further, please do not hesitate to ring.

**Parent teacher meetings** for Primary 2-7 will take place at the end of October. Dates and times to be confirmed.

**Uniforms**

Last year was an exception with limited availability of School shoes and PE uniforms in shops. We would appreciate your support in reverting back to our established practice of plain black leather shoes (no markings/no trainers except for PE). The yellow polo-shirt also should include our school logo and can be purchased in Jameson’s. Our PE uniform is a white plain polo-shirt and navy shorts/bottoms (no markings/labels/brands). Proper school uniform represents pride within our children, our school and the wider community, and creates uniformity. Thank you in advance for your support.

**Allergies and Healthy Eating**

The school is a nut free zone. This also applies to products which contain nuts. Please also send water, not juice in bottles to school. A healthy school break should be sent. Please check some bars and yogurts etc which are deemed healthy however contain a lot of sugar.

**Medical Register and Medication**

Before returning to school, parents need to ensure that their child’s medication and medical plans are up-to-date. Any changes should be brought to the school on Wednesday 1st September.

**Website**

We have been up-dating our school website with policies and I ask you to take time to read these. Further polices will be added throughout the school year.

**The School Day**

We still await any information or legislation from our Education Minister. However, from news reports, it would seem that bubbles within schools are no longer mandatory. Therefore please can children assemble in the school yard before 9.15 am where a teacher will be on duty. In the interests of Child Protection and Health and Safety especially with Covid still being prevalent, parents must remain outside the school gates. Should you need to speak with a teacher please ring the school. Children are now asked to bring a school bag to school, their own stationary and also hand sanitizer.

**Front Gate and Safety**

Discussions regarding the safety of our children at the front gate have been on-going over the Summer with the relevant authorities and it is hopeful that something will be done about the speed of traffic very soon. In the interim, at home time, children will not be released until an adult comes to the gate to collect them. Please do not beckon children to leave the line and meet you as this makes safety a harder issue for staff. Children will not be sent to people who remain in cars. It is too dangerous. Please rely this message to those who may collect your child. I ask you to work with staff on this as we have the safety of our children at heart.

School Mass will take place in Our Lady Queen of Peace Church at 11 am on Friday 17th September.

Flu Jab will take place on Monday 4th October. St John the Baptist Football Blitz on Thursday 23rd September.

PE will be on Wednesday’s and will begin on Wednesday 8th September. After School’s PE will also take place for Primary 1-3 (2.00-3.15) and Primary 4-7 (3.15-4.15) Costs to be arranged. Children can wear their school PE Gear to school that day. We are hopeful that other After-School’s clubs will ensue during this term.

Please remain attentive of our website for any further up-dates. I hope you enjoy the rest of the holidays and that we will be blessed with some warm weather before school returns!

Miss R Robinson