



St. Mary's Primary School,
67 Downpatrick Street,
Rathfriland,
Co. Down,
BT34 5DQ
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www.stmarysrathfriland.co.uk

28th August 2022

Dear Parents,

I hope you have all had an enjoyable and relaxing summer. We are all looking forward to welcoming back our existing pupils and extend a warm welcome to our new pupils. We hope this will be a happy and enjoyable year. To that end I would appreciate if you would take the time to read carefully the following information.

P1

Wednesday 31st August – Friday 9th September

8.55 am to 12 noon – they will enter the P1 classroom from the playground. Parents may accompany the P1 children to the classroom on the first day but please allow them then to enter independently after this.

Children will be collected from the **playground gate** at 12 noon (previously we had said they would be collected from the buzzer door)

From Monday 12th September – Please see the entrance and exit times below.

P2 – P7

Return to school on Thursday 1st September.

Collection Times – Monday to Thursday	Collection Times – Friday
1.55 pm P1 children	1.50 pm – P1 & siblings
2.00 pm P2/3 children	1.55 pm – P2/3 & siblings
3.00 pm P4, P5 and P6/7 children	2.00 pm –P4, P5 and P6/P7

Please ensure you have informed the teacher if there is a change to who is collecting your child/children.

P1 – P4 children must be collected from the playground gates where they will wait with their class teacher.

P5-P7 - Please speak to your child about their return to home arrangements eg walking, being collected etc.

Playground

The Playground is supervised from 8.40 am to 8.55 am each morning by a member of staff. Please do not send your children into the yard before 8.40 am.

Secretary

We have a new secretary (Miss Webb) who will be in the office from 9 am – 12 noon each day. We extend a warm welcome to her.

Contact Details

It is essential that you provide the school with up to date contact details and especially the main contact number for the text messaging service.

EZ Payment

We will no longer be using EZ Payment. This is for a couple of reasons: EA have communicated that they will be providing a cashless system free of charge to schools in this academic year and therefore I don't wish to enter into a further year paid contract and also some parents experienced issues with the system last year. **Therefore we will be returning to cash coming into school.** It is my hope that the EA system will soon be available. Refunds will be made to those who have credit currently on the App.

Dinners

Dinners will be available from Thursday 1st September. The menu has been posted on the website. The cost of dinners remains at £2.60 per day. Please pay dinner money **ONLY ON FRIDAY.**

Lunches – please ensure your child has their lunch with them when they arrive at school to prevent unnecessary return trips from parents with lunches.

Please inform school as necessary re: allergies or special dietary requirements by Wednesday 31st August before 3 pm.

Breaktime Snacks/Lunches/Water Bottles

In St. Mary's PS we implement a Healthy Breaks Policy – this consists of water (not flavoured), pieces of fruit/vegetables. Crackers, fruit yoghurts etc do **not** form part of Healthy Breaks.

Uniform

Please ensure all items of uniform have name labels.

PE

PE Uniform will be required on Monday, Wednesday and Friday. Children wear their PE Uniform on these days.

O'Neills orders may be collected from the school hall on Tuesday 30th August and Wednesday 31st August.

For any further orders, the O'Neills online shop will soon be available. I will communicate this to you when it is ready.

After School Clubs

Burns Skills Basketball and Football. Further information will follow regarding the dates.
Guitar for P5/6/7 – Ms Phillips will be sending out a letter.

P7 Transfer Class – will begin week beginning 5th September (will be either Monday or Thursday)

Swimming

P6/7 will begin swimming on Tuesday 6th September. The cost of a swimming session has gone up but the cost will remain at £4 for the present. Swimming is part of the PE Curriculum and not optional.

Child Protection and Safeguarding

Mrs. L Farrelly is the Designated Teacher for Child Protection and Mrs. J. Fitzpatrick is the Deputy Designated Teacher.

Curriculum Meetings

Curriculum Meetings will take place on the dates below in classrooms:

P1 – Tuesday 13th September at 2 pm

P2/3 – Monday 12th September at 2 pm

P4 – Wednesday 14th September at 3 pm

P5 – Wednesday 21st September at 3 pm

P6/7 – Thursday 15th September at 3 pm

I would encourage you to attend these meetings as the teachers will be providing important information about the year ahead, explaining how various strategies are used in class, information on what you can do to help your child at home and to provide you with an opportunity to ask any questions you may have.

P5 – Mr. Gribben will be teaching P5 the first two days of term and then will resume with them on Thursday 22nd September. I will be teaching P5 in the intervening time.

P2/3 – Mrs. Fitzpatrick will be teaching P2/3 on Wednesdays up until Mr. Gribben returns on 21st September.

Parent/Teacher Meetings

Face to Face Parent/Teacher Meetings will take place in the week beginning Monday 24th October after school each day. Individual teachers will be in touch closer to the time.

Teacher Emails

Teachers can be contacted directly:

Mrs. Fitzpatrick – jfitzpatrick072@c2kni.net

Mr. Donnan – ndonnan694@c2kni.net

Miss Walsh – twalsh705@c2kni.net

Mrs. Farrelly – lfarrelly837@c2kni.net

Miss McConville – mmcconville950@c2kni.net

Mr. Gribben – dgribben473@c2kni.net

Hygiene

The children will continue to use the hand sanitisers on their entry to school and these are also located at the entry into each classroom. I would appreciate if you could reinforce this with your children.

A reminder that school is closed on Monday 26th September for staff training.

Thank you for your support and co-operation and I look forward to us all working together to make the incoming year a successful and happy one.

Yours sincerely

Margaret McConville