

September News from St. Mary's

Dear all,

We are up and running for another school year. It's wonderful to have our school community together again. We're delighted to see familiar faces and new ones, a warm welcome to our new pupils and their families.

School Times

- Our official start time for school is 8.50am. There is a gathering time for pupils to arrive and official teaching time begins at 9.10am. It is always a good idea if pupils can arrive in good time to catch up with their friends and to get ready for the busy day ahead.
- Pupils may come on to the school grounds at 8.40am. A teacher will call any pupils waiting outside the gate at 8.40am and supervise them in their class lines in the playground until 8.50am when class teachers will collect their pupils. Parents of Infant classes are welcome to drop children to their line and go.
- The Board of Management cannot accept responsibility for any child on the school grounds before 8.40am and after 2.40pm. School finishes for Junior and Senior Infants at 1.30pm and for all other classes at 2.30pm
- On wet days the teacher on morning supervision may bring the children in to the school hall at 8.40am. We encourage all pupils who are walking to school on wet days not to arrive at school before 8.40am. All pupils need a coat coming to and from school & for playtime in the yard.

Visiting Teachers

Tuesday: Jess from CADA will deliver the PE strand: Dance. All classes are timetabled for 30 minutes.

Wednesday: We look forward to Stan Beamish's return to share his RE stories with us. Stan will visit each class.

Thursday: Initially Junior Infants, Senior Infants, 1st & 2nd Classes will enjoy learning hurling & football skills with Brendan O'Driscoll.

Friday: Canon Elaine visits us for Assembly for the whole school and visits a classroom every other week

After School Activities

Monday: Hockey at Garryduff 3pm – 4pm

Wednesday: Chess in the school hall

Friday: Swimming in Douglas Pool

Upgrades to yard

You will notice that the good fairies were busy over the Summer holidays and the painting on our Junior Yard looks fantastic. Huge thanks to our Parent Association for their hard work & to all of you for your support to make this happen. Also, a shout out to Ballygarvan Mens' Shed for repainting our garden benches.

Our lovely new bike shed was provided free of charge by Green Schools/Safe Routes to School. This was only available to schools who are actively involved in the Green School accreditation. Thank you to all the staff involved.

Birthday Treats

If your child is celebrating their birthday and would like to bring in treats for their classmates, please note that these treats will be sent home with each child at the end of the day. Treats from pupils will not be opened in school, this is so that parents can decide if the treats being provided are suitable for their child to eat. Please do not feel obliged to send in treats for the class when it is your child's birthday!

School Attendance

As you are all aware, school attendance is very important for all children. Good attendance at school supports children to achieve their full potential.

- In circumstances where a child is removed from class during the school day the parent/guardian responsible will sign the sign-out book in the school corridor. This will note the date and time the child leaves the school. This document will also record the date and time of the child's return to class should the absence be for a brief period.
- Children who are absent for more than 20 days at school must be reported to Tusla and this is done periodically. The school is obliged by law to submit a School Absence Report and parents will be notified in writing when this happens.
- However, if the school has serious concerns about a child's attendance at school, the school is obligated to make a referral to the Educational Welfare Board requesting school and family support.

School Uniform and Tracksuit

Class teachers have advised of days to wear uniform and tracksuit. Please make your best effort to stick to these days.

School Communication

We encourage open communication with parents and would love to hear from you. Please communicate with your child's teachers and with the school by Aladdin. Please keep in mind that teachers are actively teaching their classes from 8:50 AM to 2:30 PM, so responses will not be immediate. If you have an urgent message please telephone the office.

If parents wish to make an appointment to speak to a teacher, please do so by sending a notice via Aladdin, making a phone call to the office or by sending an email to carrigalinens@gmail.com.