

## OUR LADY'S PRIMARY SCHOOL

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Our Lady's P.S.



# MARCH NEWSLETTER

2<sup>nd</sup> March 2022

Dear Parents/Guardians

I would like to remind you of the following important dates and events occurring in March and during the third term:

**World Book Day:** Friday 4<sup>th</sup> March – non-uniform day (£1 per child).

**Primary 4 Parents' Sacramental Evening:** Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> March @6.45pm (via Zoom: meeting codes will be sent out via text on Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> March).

**P3 & P4 Numeracy Parents' Workshop:** Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> March @7.15pm (via Zoom: meeting codes will be sent out via text on Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> March).

**Green Day:** Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> March – non-uniform day (£1) all proceeds will go to a good cause.

**School Closed:** Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> & Friday 18<sup>th</sup> March (St. Patrick's Day holidays).

**First Penance (P4):** Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> March @ 7pm in the Church of the Immaculate Conception, Tullysaran.

**Primary 6 Post-Primary Transfer Information night for Parents:** Thursday 31<sup>st</sup> March @6.45pm (via Zoom: meeting codes will be sent out via text on Thursday 31<sup>st</sup> March).

**Easter Holidays:** School closed Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> April – 22<sup>nd</sup> April (inclusive). Children finish school on Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> April and return on Monday 25<sup>th</sup> April (normal arrangements).

**Ceremony of Light (P7):** Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> May @7pm in St. Patrick's Cathedral, Armagh.

**Holy Communion (P4):** Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> May @ 11am in the Church of the Immaculate Conception, Tullysaran.

**Confirmation (P7):** Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> June @ 2pm in St. Patrick's Cathedral, Armagh.

**May Closure Dates:** School closed on – 2<sup>nd</sup> (Bank Holiday) & 5<sup>th</sup> (Polling Centre – Stormont Election).

**June Closure Dates:** 2<sup>nd</sup> – 7<sup>th</sup> June (Bank Holidays & Staff Days).

**Summer Holidays:** School closes for summer holidays on Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> June @12noon.

*Any changes will be sent out by text to Parents/Guardians or amended on our website. If you have changed your mobile number/address, please inform the school in writing.*

**Ash Wednesday Mass:** P4-P7 Children will attend Ash Wednesday Mass in the Church of the Immaculate Conception, Tullysaran @ 10am.

**World Book Day:** Friday 4<sup>th</sup> March is a non-uniform day to mark 'World Book Day'. Children may come to school dressed as their favourite character and should bring their favourite book. Teachers will be promoting book related tasks in school this week.

**Primary 4 Sacramental Evening:** Mrs Mc Cloy will host a Sacramental Evening for Primary 4 parents on Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> March @6.45pm. The meeting will be held via Zoom and Mrs Mc Cloy will provide parents with an overview of what the children will be covering in preparation for First Penance and First Holy Communion. It is very important that at least one parent from each family joins the Zoom session (codes will be sent out via text).

**Key Stage One Parents' Numeracy Workshop:** Ms Loughran (Numeracy Co-ordinator) will host a KS1 Numeracy Workshop for P3 and P4 parents' on Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> March @7.15pm, via Zoom. Ms Loughran will focus on mental maths strategies that are being developed in school and how parents can support children in this area of the curriculum. She will also explain how Mathletics is being used to support children with

their learning. We hope that at least one parent from each family will be able to join the Zoom session (codes will be sent out via text).

**Green Day:** On **Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> March**, we will celebrate **St. Patrick's Day** with the children all coming into school wearing something green. We will have a special assembly and some Ceilí dancing to celebrate our Irish culture. All donations will go towards the Trocaire Lenten campaign

**Primary 6 Post-Primary Transfer Information for Parents:** We will host a Primary 6 Post-Primary Transfer Information night for parents on Thursday 31<sup>st</sup> March @6.45pm via Zoom. A link for the Department of Education advice document has been posted on our school website.

**After-school Activities:** We have continued to offer a variety of afterschool activities during January and February: Fiddle, Gaelic and Sports Club. During March we will have: Fiddle, Street Dance, Gaelic, Art and Sports Club. We thank all our afterschool leaders and staff who assist with the supervision of these activities. We plan to offer more afterschool activities after Easter.

**Breakfast & 123 Clubs:** [Breakfast Club starts @8am](#) and children should not be dropped off until this time. Breakfast Club runs from 8-8.40am for a small charge of £2. All children who enter school grounds unsupervised before 8.40am will be brought into Breakfast Club. [123 Club runs from 2-3pm](#) and is open to all P1-P3 children for £3 per child, daily. Children are supervised in their classrooms and are able to engage in free play activities. 123 Club provides children with a good opportunity to mix and play with their peers. Children should be booked into 123 Club however if a child is not collected by 2.10pm they will go to 123 Club. If a child has not been collected by 2.15pm the parent will be charged for 123 Club. Breakfast and 123 Clubs can be paid via Parent Pay. Thank you.

**Parent Pay:** We continue to use Parent Pay to facilitate cashless payments however cash payments may be accepted on some occasions. Please ensure that you keep your payments up to date on Parent Pay to assist us in the running of our school. Thank you.

**COVID 19:** There are no changes to our COVID 19 protocols following recent guidance from DENI. Please contact the school if your child tests positive for COVID. Thank you.

**Board of Governors:** Over the course of the past year there have been a number of changes to our Board of Governors. Monsignor Murray, Mrs Betty O'Neill and Mrs Helen Donnelly stepped down from our Governors. On behalf of the whole school community I would like to acknowledge the immense commitment and valued contributions made by Monsignor Murray, Betty and Helen during their time as our Governors. We greatly appreciate their time, expertise and support.

Three new Governors have been selected to join our Board until reconstitution in 2023. Mr Pat Mallon, our former Principal, is our new Church Trustee; Mr Daniel Copley, is our new Education Authority representative; Colm Mc Gahan, is now our Parent Trustee and Mr Ciaran Mc Cartan, has been elected as our new Parent Representative. We are delighted to welcome our new Governors to our Board and we are certain that they will all be able to make a positive contribution to our school community. Board of Governors play a vital role in the organisation and management of our school. I would like to congratulate Mr Ciaran Mc Cartan on being elected as our Parent Representative and thank Mr Philip Corrigan for putting himself forward for the Parent Governor role. Thanks also to everyone who voted in the election of the parent representative.

Please contact the school if you have any queries or concerns and keep up to date with school events via our school website and app. Thank you for your continued support.

All the best and take care

*Tomás Mc Kee*

**Mr Tomás Mc Kee**

**Principal**