

# St. Mary's Primary School



## New Faces in Primary 1 with their Buddies



Pictured are the new Primary 1 pupils who have started school yesterday.

We welcome Rafael, Hollie, Fionn, Isaac, Charlie, James, Nathan, Matthew and Nicholas.

They are pictured with their P7 Buddies; Flynn, Catherine, Grace, Aaron, Matthew, Henry, Daniel Conall, David, Josie, Lucia, Roise, Darragh and Kate.

We also welcome Caoimhe to P2 and George to P4. We hope that our new pupils settle in and enjoy their first year.



## School Assembly

Mrs Hughes' P3-4

Class will present an Assembly on Friday 29th September at 1.30pm.

All parents, families and friends are welcome to attend.



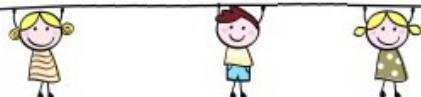
Staff and pupils of St. Mary's PS, are taking part in the annual World's Biggest Coffee Morning, on Friday 29th September hosted by Macmillan Cancer Support. The coffee

morning will take place from 9.30am - 11.30am in the School Sports Hall. Everyone is invited to come along for a cuppa and chat and support this worthy cause. More details to follow.



**WE ARE MACMILLAN.**  
CANCER SUPPORT

## Shared Education



St. Mary's, in partnership, with Newmills PS have secured funding again, for 2017-18 from the Shared Education Signature Programme. This will allow Foundation Stage pupils to

take part in 12 Outdoor Play lessons together. Key Stage 1 & 2 classes will participate in nine shared lessons with pupils from Newmills PS.

## SCHOOL MOTTO

Staff were keen to adopt a new school motto for St. Mary's PS. At weekly assembly the staff consulted with the pupils to allow them to offer their ideas for the school's new motto. The following words & phrases were suggested; caring, learn, enjoy, happy place, together, family, achieve, community, sharing friends, believe, every child matters, grow, be positive. After much discussion St. Mary's School Motto is:

*Caring, Sharing and Learning Together*





As part of the school's literacy for term 1, we are celebrating Poetry Month in

October.

The pupils will participate in Poetry workshops with local Poet, Mrs Maura Johnston, on Wednesday 18th October.



## Sickness in School

Should your child feel unwell in school, we will contact you to let you know and, if necessary, arrange for collection. It is therefore vitally important that the school has up-to-date contact details for parents— as well as a contact number in case of Emergency. Please contact Majella in the school office if your details have changed.

It is also the policy of our school to make contact with parents should your child receive a bump to the head. It is then left to parents' own discretion whether the child stays in school or is taken home. Please see notes on Concussion below.

### WHAT IS CONCUSSION?

A concussion is a brain injury which is usually caused by hitting your head or a fall. Concussions must be taken seriously. It is important to be able to recognise the signs and know how to respond.

### SPOT THE SIGNS

If your child has been hit on the head or fallen, you need to look out for signs like these:

- A headache
- Feeling dazed or confused
- Feeling drowsy or sleepy
- Feeling sick
- Feeling 'irritable' or 'in a fog'
- Having difficulty remembering things
- Any other change in normal behaviour

Concussion does not always involve losing consciousness; you must take any of these symptoms seriously.

## Get prepared for P.E.!

Please ensure your child brings in their P.E. Kit this week. This kit should be left in school so that P.E. lessons & Afterschool Clubs are not missed when children forget their gear. Children will then be encouraged to bring the kit home half-termly for washing.

As children are involved in P.E. activities both indoors and outdoors (weather permitting), the following items should be available:

### School PE Uniform

- Plain white round neck T-Shirt and navy shorts or School sports kit jersey and school kit shorts
- Plimsolls or trainers
- Navy track suit bottoms for outdoors

As part of the school's PE policy, and in the interests of health, safety and hygiene, children are required to change their clothing to participate in PE lessons. Children are reminded that PE uniform (e.g. track suit bottoms) may **not** be worn to school on days when PE is to take place as the 'changing' policy must be consistently followed. We thank parents for your co-operation with this.



### SWIMMING

Swimming begins for P5-6 on Wednesday 13th September 2017

P6-7's swimming commences Wednesday 10th January 2018.

P3 begin swimming on Wednesday 11th April 2018.



### DRAMA

Drama commences on Tuesday 12th September for all pupils with Miss Stephanie Faloon.

## Oxford Owl Maths

[www.oxfordowl.co.uk/maths/](http://www.oxfordowl.co.uk/maths/)

Check out 'Oxford Owl Maths' online – a free website to help support you and your child with maths ideas. Designed for children aged 3-7, you'll find age-specific maths advice, tips and lots of fun ideas, games and e-books to help you enjoy maths with your child.

A website is also available to develop children's reading at:

[www.oxfordowl.co.uk/reading/](http://www.oxfordowl.co.uk/reading/)

## Linguistic Phonics

The school adopts a 'Linguistic' approach to the teaching of Phonics. This approach provides children with strategies to help them problem-solve words for both reading and writing. There are five principles that underpin Linguistic Phonics:

1. Sounds are represented by letters.
2. A sound may be presented by one or more letter.
3. The same sound can be represented in more than one way.
4. Longer words are made up of syllables.
5. The same spelling may represent more than one sound.

Listen to the sounds at

[www.focusonphonics.co.uk/sound.htm](http://www.focusonphonics.co.uk/sound.htm)

## School Uniform

- Parents are asked to ensure that their child's name is clearly marked on all school uniform, coats, school bags, lunch boxes and P.E. clothing.
- Your co-operation is greatly appreciated.
- Many thanks in advance.

More school news from St.Mary's PS next month!