

October News
2023



Important Dates:

Friday 27th October school will close 1pm for Staff Training.

Monday 30th October - Friday 3rd November school closed for Halloween Break.

School re-opens Monday 6th November.

Annual Flu Immunisation Programme.

Our pupils will receive the Flu Vaccine on 18th October 2023. The School Nurse team will return in January to administer the vaccine to any children who were not in school on 18th October and whose parents had consented.

October is the month of the Holy Rosary

October is the month of the Holy Rosary. Children will pray a decade of the Rosary every day in school assembly. If your child has rosary beads, they are welcome to bring them into school.

How to Pray the rosary:

Starter Prayers: Our Father, 3 x Hail Mary, Glory be to the Father.

For each story, think about what was happening.

While you are thinking, pray Our Father, 10 x Hail Mary, Glory be to the Father.

The Joyful Mysteries

The Annunciation - when the Angel Gabriel told Mary she would have a baby boy and he would be called Jesus.

The Visitation - when Mary went to see Elizabeth to tell her the news. Elizabeth shared the news that she was also going to have a baby! This son would later be known as John the Baptist.

The Nativity - the great story of Christmas!

The presentation of the Lord Jesus in the temple - as a very young baby, Mary & Joseph brought Jesus to the temple. A wise man told them that he would bring great joy and great sadness.

The finding of Lord Jesus in the temple - At the age of 12 Jesus went missing. He was found talking to the wise men. When Mary said she was worried, Jesus said, "Did you not know I would be in my Father's house?"

Why not pray a decade at home? The children should be able to tell you a little about what they know.



Mental Health Day

Tuesday 10th October will mark **World Mental Health Day**. The theme for this year is Mental Health is a Universal Human Right.

One in five of us will experience a mental health problem at some point in our lives and half of all problems begin **before the age of 14**. Here at St. Matthew's we are committed to promoting resilience and fostering positive mental health and wellbeing for future generations.

School Code of Conduct

Throughout the year we like to remind parents and pupils of our School Code of Conduct and Golden rules. To help with the smooth running of the school we expect everyone in school to play their part in supporting these guidelines.

For a safe and happy school, we are expected to:

- Arrive at school on time
- Wear our school uniform
- Show respect to everyone in school
- Be truthful, well-mannered and kind
- Take pride in our school building and keep it litter free. Look after property
- Walk sensibly and quietly in the corridors
- We work hard and always try our best

Maths Week Ireland begins Monday 16th October.

Children will carry out fun activities in Maths this week.

Breaks & Lunch Times

Thank you for making healthy break and lunch choices for your child/ children. Please only send sugary snacks, chocolate crisps etc on a Friday as an extra treat.

Updates

Please remember to keep school informed should your child be absent for any reason.

Contact details: Please keep school informed of any change of address or contact details.



Our New P1's



After School Clubs

Mondays

Multi Sport Club

P1 - P3 2pm - 3pm

P4 - P7 3pm - 4pm

Transfer Club

P7 3pm - 4pm

Tuesdays

Sounds Club

P2 - P3 2.30- 3:30pm until 17th October.

Gardening Club

P4 - P7 3pm - 4pm until 17th October

Wednesdays

Camogie & Hurling Club

P5 - P7 3pm - 4pm

Thursdays

Dance Club

P1 - P3 2pm - 3pm

P4 - P7 3pm - 4pm

Gaelic Club £2 per child per week

P1 - P3 2.15pm - 3pm

P4 - P7 3pm - 4pm

All children should be collected from the Front Door. Please ensure you collect your child promptly as the coaches need to leave promptly.



Schools NI App

Please Note: Our school monthly newsletter will now be uploaded to our school website and Schools NI App- please download the App and follow our school.

As part of our Eco - friendly goals we will no longer be printing our newsletter.

School Day

All children should be dropped off to school between 8.45am and 9am. Thank you to everyone for following our "pick up" rules. Our children's safety is our first and main priority.

P1 children finishing time will be 2.30pm from Tuesday 3rd October.

Friends of St Matthew's PTA

The links with our PTA are very important to us. We rely on them for fundraising activities to provide extra resources help with transport costs etc for all of our children. If you would like to join the Friends of St Matthew's PTA please email: akealey695@c2kni.net

Our AGM will be held on Thursday 12th October at 3.15pm in school we welcome new members.

Split the Pot.

Our school fundraiser has re-started with the draw taking place **monthly**. The first draw was Friday 29th September. Place your £1 in an envelope with your name clearly marked and return to school for a chance to win half the money collected that month. September's winner was Isla McGonigle.

Nut Allergies



We must ask that you do not send nuts or nut products into school (either for healthy break or packed lunch). This includes peanut paste, nutella, all nuts and cooking oil containing peanut oil, as well as foods containing nuts such as cereals and muesli bars. Thank you for your co-operation.



Are you entitled? Applications for free school meals can be made online on the EA website at <https://www.eani.org.uk/financial-help/free-school-meals-uniform-grants/apply-for-free-school-meals-uniform-grants>


Gelvin Community Association
Coffee Morning in Aid of
Foyle Hospice 
Together we care
Saturday 14th
October
11am - 3pm




The Old School
169 Legavallon
Road
Dungiven
BT47 4QN
All Welcome!

Also on Wednesday evening October 11th at 7.30 pm Gelvin Community Association are having a **Bird Box Making** session. Come along and make a bird box, you can then have a good view of the birds in the garden this winter. You can bring your own materials, especially suitable timber and any suitable tools.

Please like and follow us on Facebook. We would also appreciate if you would leave us a review!



Huge congratulation to Mr Proctor and family on the birth of their new baby boy and to Shona and family on the birth of their new baby girl!!



PE Uniform

Can you please check that you have the correct PE uniform belonging to your child. Some children's items have been misplaced.

If you have any that don't belong to your child, please return them to school.