

January/
February News
2024



Welcome back, we hope you had an enjoyable and safe Christmas Break and are ready for a new Term. We were delighted to welcome back all our children and staff for Term 2. We would like to wish our entire school community a Happy New Year!

Important Dates:

Friday 2nd February - P6/7 Grandparents Assembly
School will close at 1pm - Wednesday 7th, Thursday 8th and Friday 9th February for Parent teacher meetings.

12th - 16th February Mid Term Break

Confirmation: Saturday 13th April at 11am in St Patrick's Church Dungiven

First Holy Communion Saturday 18th May 11am St Matthew's Drumsurn.

Children Starting P1 in September 2024.

If you know anyone starting P1 in September 2024. Applications are made online again this year. The Parent Portal for Online Applications opened at Noon on 9th January and closes Friday 26th January at Noon on...

<https://www.eani.org.uk/parents/admissions/applying-for-a-school-place>.



Catholic Schools Week

Sunday 21st January is the start of Catholic Schools Week. The theme for this year is "Catholic Schools as communities of service".

Our P6/7 Class will hold a Grandparents Assembly on Friday 2nd February more details will follow.

Winter

As the weather has turned colder, we ask that you send a coat to school with your child because we endeavour to spend some time outdoors every day. Also please ensure your child has a pair of indoor shoes to change into when they come into school.

Also please notify school in writing of any change of contact details, because we use these to notify parents of any changes e.g. exceptional closures etc.

P2 - P7 Parent Teacher Meetings.

School will close at 1pm on Wednesday 7th, Thursday 8th and Friday 9th February to facilitate Parent teacher meetings for P2 - P7 children. Invitations and time slots will be sent out in due course.

Breakfast Club runs daily from 8am - 8.40am £2 per child per day.



After School Clubs will resume Monday 8th January.

Mondays

Multi Sport Club

P1 - P3 2pm - 3pm

P4 - 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.

PTA Christmas Fundraiser

The PTA would like to thank everyone who bought squares for the Hamper Draw or entered the Raffle.

S.V.D.P Fundraiser - with your help we raised £235. Many thanks to everyone who donated.

Absences

Please remember to keep school informed should your child be absent for any reason. If your child is feeling unwell you can check the PHA website for up-to-date guidance on whether you should keep your child off school.

<https://www.publichealth.hscni.net/publications/do-i-need-keep-my-child-school-english-and-translations>

School Closures for the rest of the School Year

Monday 12th - Friday 16th February.
(school re-opens Monday 19th February)

Half -Term & Teacher Training

Monday 18th March.

St Patrick's Day

(School closes 11.30am Thursday 28th March)

Friday 28th March - Friday 5th April.
(school re-opens Monday 8th April)

Easter Holidays

Monday 6th May and Tuesday 7th May

May Day

Monday 27th May

May Bank holiday

School closes 11.30 am Friday 28th June for Summer!

THE POST-PRIMARY TRANSFER PROCESS FOR PARENTS OF CHILDREN IN P6

The Department of Education has a booklet available to P6 parents at: [Advice for P6 Parents - January 2024.pdf \(education-ni.gov.uk\)](#)

Attendance Tiers from The Department of Education:

I am writing to remind you of updated Guidance for Schools recently issued in respect of monitoring and reporting pupil attendance. As you will be aware, attending school regularly is important for all children because of the link between attendance and attainment. Regular attendance at school, combined with high-quality teaching and learning, ensures that pupils get the best possible outcomes from their time in compulsory education.

The Department of Education has been considering how it can better present pupil absence statistics to help inform and support schools, parents, and pupils regarding pupil attendance. The Department of Education will now measure pupil attendance in TIERS and we as a school, will also monitor attendance and communicate attendance INFORMATION TO PARENTS/ CARERS IN Tiers also. The tiers, as created by The Department of Education, are outlined below:

TIER 1a

Pupils recognised as "Regular Attendance" missing 0% - 0.49% of school. Roughly less than 1 day per month.

TIER 1b

Pupils recognised as "At Risk Attendance" missing 5% - 9.9% of school. Roughly 1+ day per month.

TIER 2

Pupils recognised as "Chronic Attendance" missing 10% - 19.9% of school. Roughly 2 - 3 days per month.

TIER 3

Pupils recognised as "Severe Chronic Attendance" missing 20% or more of school.

In future communication regarding attendance, we will be using the Tier system to update parents and carers.

For up-to-date info you can follow us on:

Schools NI app. Download it from your app store and type in Our school name: St Matthew's Primary 296 Drumsurn Road Limavady BT49 OPX.

School Website: <https://www.stmatthewsprimaryschool.com/>

LITTLE RASCALS' COMMUNITY PLAYGROUP

The Parent Portal for Online Applications opened at Noon on 9th January and closes Friday 26th January at Noon on...

<https://www.eani.org.uk/parents/admissions/applying-for-a-preschool-place>.

If you would like any more information, please send an email to little.rascals2@yahoo.com or call 777 67501.

Do I need to keep my child off school?

Chicken Pox

Until all spots
have crusted
over

Conjunctivitis

No need to stay
off but school
or nursery
should be
informed

Diarrhoea & Vomiting

48 hours from
last episode

Glandular Fever

No need to stay
off but school
or nursery
should be
informed

Hand, foot & mouth

No need to stay
off but school
or nursery
should be
informed

Impetigo

Until lesions are
crusted & healed or
48 Hours after
commencing
antibiotics

Measles or German Measles

4 days from
onset of rash

Mumps

5 days from
onset of swelling

Scabies

Until after first
treatment

Scarlet Fever

24 hours after
commencing
antibiotics

Slapped Cheek

No need to stay
off but school
or nursery
should be
informed

Whooping Cough

48 Hours after
commencing
antibiotics

Flu

Until
recovered

Head Lice

No need to stay
off but school
or nursery
should be
informed

Threadworms

No need to stay
off but school
or nursery
should be
informed

Tonsillitis

No need to stay
off but school
or nursery
should be
informed