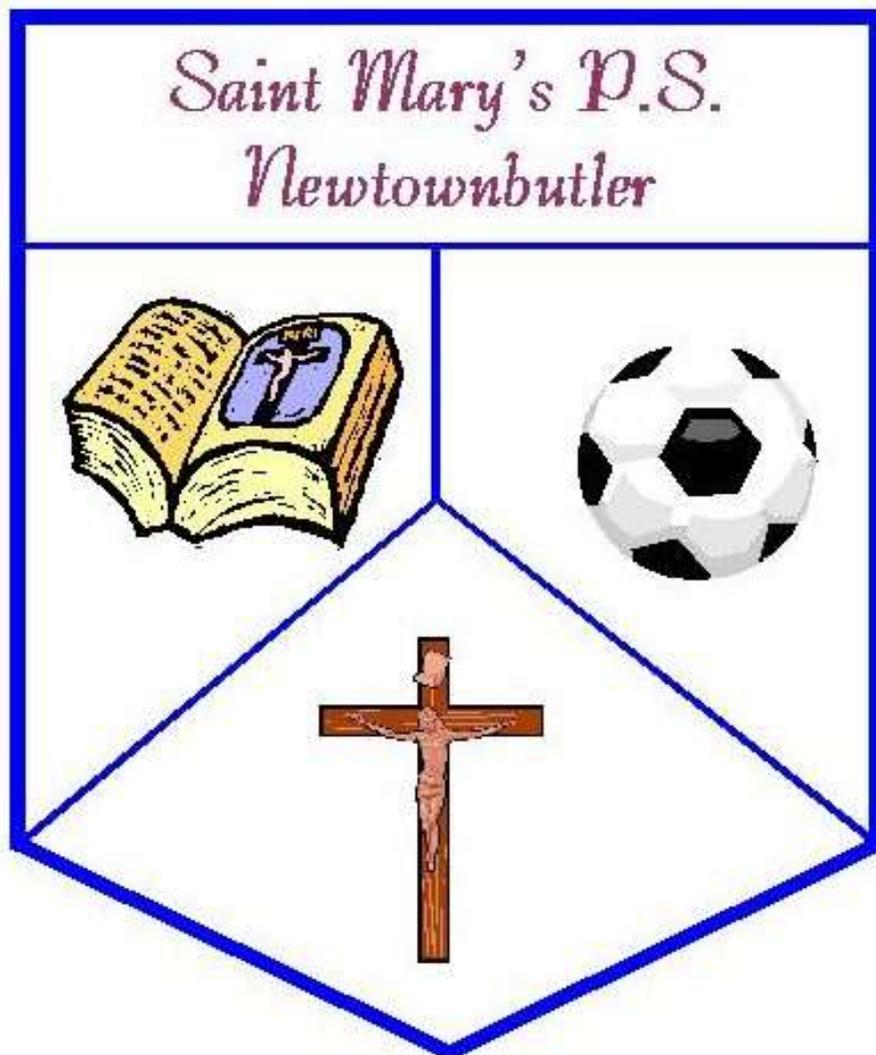


SAINT MARY'S PRIMARY SCHOOL

Newtownbutler



GOVERNORS' ANNUAL REPORT

2020-21

St Mary's Primary School, Newtownbutler Offers

- A welcoming, inclusive ethos, where everyone is cherished, valued and respected.
- Well behaved, happy, confident, motivated pupils achieving high standards.
- A caring, talented, dedicated staff, who meet educational and pastoral needs, while holding high expectations for all pupils.
- Dedicated Governors who are fully involved in the management.
- Supportive, interested, co-operative parents who expect the very best for their children.
- 7 straight classes.
- Results in English and Maths, consistently above NI Average.
- Education for children with special needs, learning difficulties, physical disabilities and / or speech and language difficulties.
- A 'Wrap Around Service' – (Subject to COVID Restrictions)
- Well established transition links with local Surestart, Playgroup, and Post-Primary Schools.
- Links with Parish, Community, Charities, Sporting and Industry Groups.
- Extra-Curricular, Cultural and Sporting Activities including Art, Lego Club, Music, Swimming, Football, Netball, Cycling, Irish & Mandarin.
- Resource area outside Foundation Stage (P1 and 2) Classrooms.
- Separate class toilets for each Foundation Stage Class.
- Multi-purpose sports/assembly hall.
- Attractive and well-stocked Library with books for all primary school ages and abilities.
- An ICT Suite with 22nd Century Technology including: i-pads, Apple TV, video conferencing and a range of assistive technology for SEN.
- Laptop / Tablet Clusters and SMART Interactive Boards in each classroom.
- Resource / Sensory room for individual / small group work and nurture.
- Plans in place for a multi-million pounds state of the art extension and refurbishment.

The high expectations and vision of all ensure that the pupils of

St Mary's Primary School are, confident, eager and ready to

Live Life to The Full

GOVERNORS' REPORT 2020-21

Dear Parents,

Please find enclosed the Annual Report of the Board of Governors of St. Mary's Primary School. The Governors urge you to study the report carefully. It is a record of endeavour and achievement during the past financial year, for which I wish to give due credit to our staff, the pupils and their parents. Gratitude is also extended to Fr Kevin Malcomson, for the chaplaincy of St Mary's.

It must be noted that the 2020-21 year has been exceptional, as the demands of a global pandemic impacted upon all facets of life in school, home and the wider community. The school initially moved to remote learning from 23rd March 2020. St Mary's was able to promptly apply the technology, school website and many licences which were already in use, along with paper packs, to facilitate home learning for all pupils. Remote learning remained in place until 23rd August 2020. Upon re-opening, a class bubble system was introduced, along with many other mitigating measures, which were shared with parents in the form of a detailed return to school plan. During first term, 4 classes moved to remote learning for 10-day periods because of positive cases. One class was forced to do so on 2 occasions. For one week during that term over 60% of teaching staff were working remotely, however the school managed to stay open and provide education for all pupils, due to the commitment of staff and the support of parents and governors. During these periods food parcels were made available to pupils on free school meals. When all schools moved to remote learning for a second period between January and April 2021, St Mary's remained open to vulnerable pupils and children of key workers, for supervised learning. St Mary's have met the challenge of COVID with dedication and innovation, in the interests of every child in our care. This was demonstrated in the overwhelmingly positive response from parents to a survey of online learning in Spring 2021.

I want to avail of the opportunity to highlight significant achievements in the on-going development of St Mary's Primary School as a very good agency of care for all our pupils, in particular:

1. The high standards achieved, the very broad and balanced curriculum which the children experience, the high level of pastoral care provided and the wide range of extracurricular activities on offer.

2. The continued co-operation and very real partnership that exists between St Mary's and other local statutory and voluntary agencies including the Credit Union, GAA, Newtownbutler Community Association and the Fermanagh Hub.

The high quality of provision was affirmed by the Education and Training Inspectorate, following an inspection in 2019 which concluded that the school remains at the 'highest overall level of effectiveness.'

I want to record my special thanks to all my colleagues on the board of Governors. Throughout the past year they have worked very hard, in what is an entirely voluntary capacity on a Board, which meets in the service of your children.

We look forward to continuing to work together as a dedicated team, united by our desire to ensure the very best educational experiences for all the children entrusted to our care in St Mary's Primary School. We assure you of our best efforts at all times and commend this report to you

With Regards,

Rev. Fr. Michael King

Chairperson of the Board of Governors

Date 21.10.21

ST. MARY'S PRIMARY SCHOOL, NEWTOWNBUTLER, BOARD OF GOVERNORS

Trustee representatives

Rev Fr M King Chairperson

Ms C Leonard

Mr E Casey

Mr L Crudden

EA Representatives

Mr T O'Reilly Vice Chairperson

Mr S McGovern

DENI Representative

Mr R McGloin

Parent Representative

Mrs M McCaffrey

Teacher Representative

Miss T McGuigan

Principal

Mrs P Kelly (Hon. Secretary) (Non voting member)

The governors are ultimately responsible for the overall management of the school.

Their main duties include:

1. The oversight of the curriculum.
2. The control of the budget.
3. The provision of information to parents.
4. The selection of staff.
5. The maintenance of the premises (shared responsibility with EA)
6. Policy development and ratification.
7. Fostering links with the local community and pursuing the objectives of Mutual Understanding.

STAFFING FOR 2020-21

Permanent Teaching Staff

| | |
|--|-----------|
| Mrs P Kelly | Principal |
| Mrs C Leonard | VP/P2 |
| Mrs G Fitzpatrick (Substitute Sept-Oct Miss B Clerkin / Nov-April Miss H McCusker) | P1 |
| Miss T McGuigan | P3 |
| Mrs J Soraghan | P4 |
| Miss J Mallen | P5 |
| Mrs R Grew (substitute April Miss Bogue / May-June Mr P Coleman) | P6 |
| Mr N Sludden | P7 |

Substitute Teachers in Place for 2 weeks or more

Miss B Clerkin

Classroom Assistants (Permanent and Temporary)

| | |
|--|----|
| Miss B McGeary | P1 |
| Miss A Boyle, Mrs R. Murphy, Miss K. Mullally. Mr F McCann | P2 |
| Miss K Cadden | P3 |
| Mrs C McCabe | P4 |
| Ms M McConnell and Mrs R Martin | P5 |
| Miss A Martin | P6 |
| Mr J Byrne, Miss N Creighan and Mrs M Murphy | P7 |

Ancillary / Auxiliary Staff

| | |
|-----------------|-----------|
| Miss D McAviney | Secretary |
| Mr S Maguire | Caretaker |
| Mrs A Maguire | Cleaner |
| Mrs S O'Neill | Cleaner |

Supervisory Assistants (Lunchtime)

| | |
|-----------------|----------------|
| Miss D McAviney | Miss B McGeary |
| Miss A Boyle | Mrs J Soraghan |

M McConnell, K Cadden, A Martin, C McCabe (additional supervisors to facilitate the class bubble system (additional COVID funding))

| | |
|--------------|-----------------|
| Mrs J Wilson | Crossing Patrol |
|--------------|-----------------|

General Report

The school maximum enrolment number remains at 244 pupils.

Enrolment in April 2020 was 169. Whole school pupil attendance for 2020-21 was 96.2%

The Curriculum

The day-to-day organisation of the curriculum remains the principal's responsibility. The governors' control of the curriculum is, however, determined by the Education Reform Order.

It is our responsibility to ensure that a broad and balanced learning experience is provided for all pupils. The school continues to develop its curriculum provision; policies are in place and reviewed and updated as required.

During the 20-21 year additional funding has been used to employ Engage teachers to work with targeted individuals and groups, as identified through evaluation and monitoring of progress.

Pastoral Care

The governors and staff of the school continue to place a high priority on pastoral care and the general welfare of all the pupils and will continue to promote positive and caring relationships between pupils, parents and staff. St Mary's P.S. provides a caring environment within which the academic, personal, social and spiritual potential of each child is developed. The pastoral dimension permeates all school activities.

The Governors and staff of St Mary's have a primary responsibility for the care, welfare and safety of the pupils in our charge and we will carry out this duty through our Pastoral Care Policy which aims to provide a caring, supportive and safe environment.

Extra-Curricular Experiences in St Mary's P.S.

Throughout the 20-21 year the children's access to extracurricular activities was somewhat limited due to COVID restrictions.

A qualified GAA coach, provided coaching in the school once a week from September to December. All external sporting events and competitions were cancelled during the year.

Following a successful application, Primary 3 participated in the Forest Schools' Programme.

School trips were not permitted during this year, due to COVID mitigations. The school did however provide pupils with virtual access to museums, galleries etc and all pupils watched a virtual pantomime in December.

The senior classes participated in the Daily Mile and a range of mindfulness strategies were incorporated into the PDMU curriculum. Relax Kids was provided for P3.

All children are encouraged to bring healthy breaks to school and all pupils are encouraged to bring water to sip during the day.

We value our links with the local Post Primary schools. 96% of our 2021 school leavers were able to access a place in their first preference school for Post-Primary Education. We wish all the children continued success and happiness as they move onward from St Mary's. There was a community wide celebration for the P7 class, who had missed their last term in Primary School. Following a virtual Leavers' Mass, the families gathered in their cars at the church and formed a cavalcade through the town. The wider community joined in the celebrations and the pupils and their families returned for out-door, socially distanced ice-cream.

We continue to benefit from Extended Schools Funding, which has allowed us to provide a range of activities including additional games and activities at break times, outdoor play and virtual learning experiences. Extended Schools funding was also used to support the running costs for a new school bus which was donated by St Kevin's College.

The school also values its links with the community and its participation in the life of the parish. The priests, teachers and parents continue to work together in the preparation of children for the sacraments. Despite being originally postponed due to COVID, Confirmation and First Holy Communion were celebrated by Fr King and Fr Malcomson in August and September respectively.

We are especially grateful to our school chaplain, Fr Kevin Malcomson, for his dedicated commitment to the spiritual development of the pupils.

Fund Raising

A donation of £1000 was received from the Newtownbutler Credit Union towards school

funds. Parents provided a voluntary donation towards online learning subscriptions which were used widely during periods of school closure.

Organisation and Management

The Board of Governors can report that the school is progressing well; thanks are due to the Principal, Vice Principal, teaching staff, ancillary and auxiliary staff, parents and pupils and to the clergy of the parish.

Staff have been designated to take responsibility for core areas of the curriculum. Staff also undertake duties in a wide range of educational, administrative and pastoral areas. In response to the COVID 19 Pandemic, the school has undertaken additional risk assessments and associated management plans which follow DE and PHA guidance. Core policies and procedures have been reviewed and adapted to reflect the changing needs and potential risks in school.

The Leadership and indeed all staff are constantly striving to provide opportunities which will assist the development of children's information finding and I.C.T. skills and enable them to engage in more project work and enquiry-based learning, thus enabling them to become more independent learners. Children at St Mary's are at the forefront of using information and communications technology (ICT) to enhance their work. During the 20-21 school year, there was further investment in ICT, including the replacement of all remaining Interactive Whiteboards with Smart Touch Screen Panels. All existing desktops were replaced. Additional Chrome Books and mini hubs were sourced and issued as needed to support remote learning.

Staff Development

As part of our development plan, staff have been engaged in a range of In-Service Training programmes. Emphasis during 2020-21 has been on the well-being of all members of the school community. All teachers and classroom assistants completed WSNA Level 3 Nurture Training and the PBSP CALM Plan.

Governors also continue to attend training on a range of topics including the appointments process and safeguarding.

Reporting to Parents

Parents were invited to Annual Parent Teacher consultations, which took place by telephone and in some instances by video link. A written report was issued to all parents in June. As always, parents and teachers had many other individual formal and informal correspondence throughout the year as required. Records of Achievement were completed by Primary 7 pupils.

The school has also contacted parents by letter or telephone call at other times during the year if there were any immediate or urgent concerns about a child's well-being, progress or behaviour.

Bulletins, newsletters and the school website are used to share and celebrate the range of activities and successes which take place in school throughout the year. While St Mary's had already established the use of the 'Seesaw' App pre-pandemic, this has been further developed as a way of sharing learning and information between school and home.

Parents were - and are- always welcome to discuss any concerns they may have regarding their child's progress or welfare by contacting the school to make an appointment with the class teacher or the principal.

Premises and Security

We thank the parents for their co-operation in relation to our efforts to maintain good security in the school. There is an access control system on all external doors. In keeping with DE and PHA guidance, parents should not enter the school building, other than in exceptional circumstances, when pre-arranged. During class times access to the school is via the main front door. Visitors are asked to use the buzzer system to report to reception. While these arrangements may prove inconvenient at times we are sure you will agree that the safety and security of the children is of paramount importance.

EA Contract Services continue to provide the cleaning and the grounds maintenance services. The regular staff work extremely hard to maintain high standards. We appreciate their hard work and dedication.

Teachers are to be commended for the school's achievements and on the quality of pastoral care and good standards of discipline which the children enjoy. Thanks are also due to the staff of EA and CCMS for their support and guidance. The Governors also wish to express thanks to all external agencies, the catering staff, and the bus operators, who continue to provide a careful and valuable service.

Building and Maintenance

In the Spring of all flat roofs and the school telephone system were replaced. The School Enhancement Programme progressed to development stage, with plans being designed for a multi-million pounds extension and renovation.

+ + + +

Standardised tests continue to be monitored and evaluated by staff and governors to maintain and where possible, improve standards. The whole school average standardised score for English was 101. The GL NI average had dropped from 100 to 98 in 2020. The average Maths score in St Mary's was 98. The GL NI average had dropped from 100 to 97. In English, 86% of pupils are working within their cognitive ability and in Mathematics 90% are working within this range.

The Governors are pleased to have this opportunity to express sincere gratitude on behalf of pupils and parents to the teachers and to the ancillary and auxiliary staff for the dedication, commitment and professional care which they have shown to the pupils, as affirmed in September 19 when the Education and Training Inspectorate found that St Mary's remains at 'the highest level of effectiveness'.

The Governors and staff greatly appreciate the support and partnership of parents. We are confident that St Mary's Primary School is well placed to serve the needs of your children and we look forward to another successful year in 2021-22.

FINANCIAL REPORT 2020/21

The school is responsible for the management of its own budget, allocated by the Education Authority. The Board of Governors has overall responsibility but the day-to-day responsibility is exercised by the Principal and Vice Principal.

The budget is calculated by the Education Authority using a formula which applies to all schools. The main element in the formula is the age and number of pupils attending the school. Other factors considered include social deprivation (based on the number of pupils receiving free school meals) and additional school allowances, related to the size and design of the school buildings which effect running costs e.g., floor area. During the 20-21 financial school year significant additional funding was made available to provide COVID response, well-being support and the Engage teaching programme.

BUDGET (Financial Year April 2020 - March 2021)

| INCOME | | EXPENDITURE | |
|--|-------------------|--------------------|------------|
| Budget Share | £549,154 | Teaching Costs | £489,282 |
| Carry over from 18/19 | £173,807 | Non-Teaching Costs | £82,331 |
| Additional Funding | £72,661 | Other Costs | £61,211 |
| Total | 795,622 | Total Expenditure | £646,783 |
| | | Surplus in Year | £162,798 |
| School Funds Academic Year 20-21 | | | |
| Starting Balance | £54,294.80 | Expenditure | £7,110.28 |
| Income | £9,475.96 | Closing Balance | £56,660.48 |
| Saving Summit Account Academic Year 20-21 | | | |
| Starting Balance | 24,470.90 | Expenditure | £0 |
| Income | £14.28 (interest) | Closing Balance | £25898.90 |