



ST MARY'S



NEWTOWNBUTLER AUTUMN NEWSLETTER

**OCTOBER
2025**

Happy Mid-term! We hope this newsletter doesn't "scare" you too much; we promise it's all treats and no tricks! Mid-term is here and we have a cauldron full of spellbinding activities and achievements to share with you. Here's what's been brewing in St Mary's:

Welcome to our P1 Pupils



Languages at St Mary's

We are pleased to have accessed funding from Fermanagh and Omagh District Council, to continue Irish Lessons with our KS2 pupils. Mr Maguire is our tutor. The South West College also continue to fund our Mandarin Tutor, Mr Song weekly.



Physical and Emotional Welbeing



Our students are staying active and healthy! Welcome our new Gaelic coach, Dearbhla. A huge thank you to the First Fermanaghs for funding extended coaching throughout the year. We're also pleased to continue our collaboration with Nathan from Core Kids. Keep an eye out for our invitation to register for new P2 and P4 After School Sessions coming in November and December. Additionally, we are committed to enhancing emotional wellbeing, implementing Nurture strategies daily and especially every 'Nurture Friday' when classes have the opportunity to practise skills that foster emotional regulation and resilience for life. We have been pleased to introduce the Beyond Bricks Lego Programme to P3 and 5 this half-term. Adrian and his assistant Mindwise tutors have led sessions, where children assume the roles of engineer, supplier and builder. They reflect the demands of each role, how to work as a team and how to manage emotions when things don't go as we planned. Mrs R Fitzpatrick and Miss McCann have observed these lessons and look forward to rolling the programme out to their P2 and 7 classes next term.

Home School Links

We place great importance on fostering strong relationships with parents. A heartfelt thank you to the numerous parents who attended our Curriculum Meetings in September, as well as those who supported the recent KS2 Maths Workshop.

- We engage in regular consultations with parents, and our uniform consultation is currently accessible on our website's homepage.
- If you believe something is going well at school, we encourage you to share your thoughts through the Compliments Corner on our site.

Remember, your concerns are our concerns. Should you have any questions, please reach out to your child's class teacher via Seesaw, or contact the school office to arrange a call-back or appointment.

Remember to keep up to-date by downloading our app from the homepage of our website.



Download App





Restart a Heart

We were delighted to take part in the Restart a Heart live lessons in October, when P3-7 pupils learned how to perform basic CPR in case of emergency. Thank-you to all the parents who also inked in at home.



Achievements and Awards



Here's a snapshot of some of our Feis champions! We're on the edge of our seats for more winners rolling in soon for handwriting, own poetry and music.

We proudly recognise the diverse accomplishments of our pupils, both in academics and extracurricular activities, during class and our weekly assemblies. A special shout-out goes to all those who received certificates for Accelerated Reading, Mathematics, Pupil of the Week, 100% Golden Time, Attendance, Feis awards, swimming, and many other notable achievements.




Safeguarding

Mrs Corless has been appointed a Senior Teacher and is now the Designated Teacher for Safeguarding and Child Protection. Mrs G Fitzpatrick and Mrs Kelly are Deputy Designated Teachers. We continue to deliver a preventative curriculum to safeguard pupils, for example addressing bullying, E-safety and recently all classes again participated in the 'NSPCC Speak Out, Stay Safe Programme'. Information on the programme can be accessed through this QR Code.



Our new School and Eco Council members, were recently elected by their classmates through a democratic process.

They will meet monthly with Mrs Kelly to represent the views of their peers.

Shared Education



P2 and 4 are currently participating in weekly sessions with their peers from Newtownbutler and St Joseph's P.S.



Outdoor Development



We are thrilled to announce that we have received funding from the Department of Education to improve our outdoor learning space. This includes adding drainage and expanding the area for our new Buddy Hut, mud kitchen, bike circuit, and sand pit in the upper playground. The project is expected to be completed by early November, and we will keep you updated on the progress through our website.

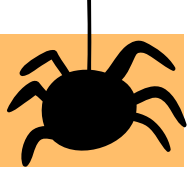
St Mary's in DE Pilot AI Reading Programme



We are pleased to announce our successful bid to take part in the Amira AI Reading Pilot. Our P3, P5, and P7 classes have undergone benchmark assessments and are now starting this personalised, interactive computerized program aimed at improving their reading skills. We eagerly anticipate tracking progress and sharing our findings later this year.



Loving Maths at St Mary's



Recently, our attention has been on Mathematics. We extend our heartfelt thanks to the parents who took part in the KS2 Parent Workshop, where Katrina from Numerasee provided a treasure trove of ideas for enhancing Maths learning at home. We are excited to announce another workshop for parents of P1-4 pupils scheduled for November. Parents can sign up through our website's homepage. During Maths Week, classes engaged with some particularly thrilling mathematical challenges. We appreciate all the parents who sent in photos demonstrating how their children perceive Maths in their everyday lives. A video showcasing some of these photos is now accessible for viewing on our website or via the QR code below..

Try This Maths Puzzle at Home!

Puzzle: The Missing Number Challenge

$$\color{red}\blacktriangle + \color{blue}\bullet = 10$$

$$\color{blue}\bullet + \color{green}\bullet = 14$$

$$\color{red}\blacktriangle + \color{green}\bullet = 12$$

What is the value of each shape?

Hint: Try solving it like a system of equations. You can use trial and error or write down what

