



St. Ronan's Primary and Nursery School

January 2023 Newsletter

New Year - Welcome back everyone and a Happy New Year to you all.

Admissions 2023 - Admissions to Nursery and P1 for September 2023 open on Tuesday 10th January 2023 at noon. The process will close at noon on Friday 27th January. Applications after that will be considered as late applications. The process will take place online on the Education Authority website portal (www.eani.org.uk/admissions). To facilitate parents in making an application, the school can offer assistance in this process. Please call the school Office to make an appointment.

Admissions criteria for Nursery and P1, as well as the school prospectus and lots of information / photographs can be viewed on the homepage of our school website (www.stronansps.com).

Staff - We congratulate Mrs Donna Kille and her husband Daniel on the birth of a baby girl. Congratulations to Mr McArdle and his wife Sara who got married in December. We offer Miss Judge and her fiancé Oisín every good wishes as they were engaged recently.

First Penance - takes place for P4 pupils on Thursday 9th March at 7pm in Holy Cross Church.

Confirmation - The Sacrament of Confirmation will be celebrated on Friday 24th March in Holy Cross Church. Mr Foy's class at 2pm and Mr Shannon's class at 5pm.

First Holy Communion - takes place on Saturday 6th May at 11am for Mrs McGirr's class and 2pm for Mr Hanna's class.

Catholic Schools Week - 23rd - 30th January 2022. The theme this year is 'Catholic Schools - Walking Together in Faith and Love'. As in other years, there is a programme of in-class activity which takes place with a different lesson each day.

Grandparent's Day - We hope to have an event for grandparents during Catholic Schools Week. More details to follow.

Parish Children's Mass - The next Mass will be held on 5th February at 11am in Holy Cross Church.



Hurling / Camogie - The Fermanagh Indoor Hurling / Camogie competition takes place on Thursday 12th January from 10am to 2pm at the Castlepark Centre. Best of luck to the children taking part.

Trees - A huge thank you to Eoin McCaffrey and his team for planting trees around the school grounds in mid-December. Thanks also to Eoin for involving the P7 pupils in this work and for delivering a very worthwhile presentation on pollination and biodiversity. The trees will enrich our grounds and provide a necessary habitat to many creatures as well as a focus for our continued environmental work within the school.

Irish Language - Michelle Furey will provide Irish language lessons to all children P1 - P7 every Tuesday over a 10-week period beginning 10th January. The emphasis will be on acquiring vocabulary and conversation through fun and interactive activities. Cost will be borne by the school.

Tin Whistle - Children in classes P5 - P7 will avail of tin whistle lessons on a Friday morning over a period of 9 weeks beginning Friday 6th January. The school has purchased tin whistles for all pupils. Cost will be £1 per week (£8 in total). Children are required to practise regularly at home and to bring tin whistle and folder to school each Friday.

PE - Some teachers are reporting increasing numbers of children not taking part in PE. This is a worrying trend as PE is part of the statutory curriculum like any other subject and children are required to take part. On occasion a child may have an injury or a short-term medical reason as to why they can not take part. This should be the exception and not a regular and recurring trend. This will be monitored over the new few weeks.

Absence - As always we ask parents to be vigilant to the symptoms of flu, Covid 19 and Scarlet Fever. The period before the holidays was a particularly challenging period with a lot of children absent due to illness. Hopefully we have passed the peak but I ask you to continue to be cautious and to keep children off school if they are feeling unwell.

Basketball - P7 pupils will be offered after school basketball sessions over a 5-week period beginning Tuesday 10th January from 3 - 4pm. The cost is £1 per week (10, 17, 24, 31 January, 7 February).

Active Travel - We continue to encourage children to walk, cycle or scoot to school. This promotes an active and healthy lifestyle while also reducing congestion in the car park.

Swimming - Mr Shannon's P7 class will attend swimming lessons in the Lakeland Forum on Thursday afternoons beginning 12th January. Cost is £3 per child per week.

Safeguarding Team - Members of the Safeguarding Team for the 2022/23 school year are:

Chairperson	Mrs Anne Hoogerboord
Designated Teacher	Mr Eamon Shannon
Deputy Designated Teachers	Miss Laura Power Mr Brian McGrath
Designated Governor	Mrs Maria McKenna

Healthy eating - The school encourages healthy eating at breaktime and lunchtime. Sweets and fizzy drinks are not encouraged as they provide little food value to children. Some children are coming to school with little nutritional food value in their lunch boxes. Children may bring a water bottle to school daily.

Behaviour - A high standard is expected from all children in the school. The staff has high expectations of everyone when it comes to behaviour inside and outside the classroom. If a child is disruptive in class, this disrupts their own learning but also impacts negatively on the learning of others. In such cases, a call will be made to parents to discuss the situation further and to ensure such disruption does not happen frequently.

PTFA - The PTFA is currently looking for new members, particularly from parents in Nursery, P1, P2 and P3. Over the last few years, the number of activities has been curtailed and there has been few opportunities to bring new members on board. Parents from any class are welcome to join. If you wish to become involved, your support would be very much welcomed and appreciated. Please inform the office or any PTFA committee member if you wish to join.

December events - The month of December was particularly busy throughout the whole school. We were able to hold our annual concert once again and we had brilliant performances from P1, P4AMG, P4PH and P6SMA. A huge effort went into preparation and we thank pupils, staff and parents for their support.

Carol singing took place at Ulster Bank, EuroSpar and Colorado Residential home.

Cards and Christmas wishes were sent to the residents of Gortacharn Nursing Home.

The school parish choir showed off their excellent singing skills at the parish Carol Service.

Donations of food were presented to the local food bank.

January Dates

Mon - Thur	Homework Club (3 - 5pm)
Mon - Fri	P1 / P2 waiting facility (2 - 3pm)
Tuesday	Irish language classes (Michelle Furey) P1 - P7
Tuesday	Musical Pathways (P3 - P4)
Tuesday	Relax Kids with Nuala Groogan
Tuesday	Speech and Language Therapy (Lisa McGillin)
Tuesday	After school basketball P7
Wednesday	GAA Coach KS2
Wednesday	REACH programme (P5 - P7)
Wednesday	Play Therapy (Lisa McManus)
Thursday	Clarinet tuition
Thursday	Swimming P7ES
Friday	PE P1 - P4 (Ross Belshaw)
Friday	Tin whistle (P5 - P7) Tutor: Steve McGurn