St. Ronan's Primary and Nursery School

Bunscoil agus Naíscoil Naomh Rónán

April 2023 Newsletter

Easter holidays – School closes on Wednesday 5th April at 12 noon for the Easter break. There will be no dinners or buses home. School re-opens for the Summer Term on Monday 17th April.

Confirmation – Congratulations to the Primary 7 pupils who received the Sacrament of Confirmation.

Retreat - P7 children will take part in a retreat on Lough Derg on Thursday 27th April.

Children's Parish Mass – The next Children's Mass takes place on Sunday 7th May at 11am in Holy Cross Church. There has been a great attendance at all the Masses and it is great to see so many children and families attending.

Strike Action - As there is no forthcoming offer from the employing authorities to address the pay issue and cuts in education, all five teacher unions have communicated that a full day strike will take place on Wednesday 26th April. Further details will be sent out in advance.

Cumann na mBunscoil - Well done to the boy's team who represented Fermanagh in the Ulster Indoor Finals in Magherafelt recently. They showed some brilliant individual skill and teamwork during the competition.

Well done also to the P7 team who represented Fermanagh at the Ulster Cumann na mBunscol quiz.

Big Walk and Wheel – Well done to all the children who walked, cycled or scooted to school over the two-week period. A big thank you to members of the PTFA, parents and staff who helped out. It would not have been possible without you all. It was good to see less traffic in the carpark in the mornings! Try to keep up the walking now going forward.

Gold Ambassador School - Sustrans has selected St Ronan's Primary and Nursery School as the first school in Northern Ireland to be its Gold Ambassador School. It is in recognition of ll the great work to promote active travel. As an Ambassador School we will be communicating with other schools on how to make active travel a success in their settings.

Active Week - We held a very successful 'Active Week' with all children becoming involved in movement and sports. Thank you to all of the coaches, students, etc who helped us along the way to provide a great experience for pupils. Thank you to Mr Foy for his organisation skills.

Admissions 2023 – Parents who applied to admit their child into Nursery or Primary 1 in September 2023 will receive notification of their applications on Thursday 27th April. Notification will be through the EA website and we will also issue letters from the school.

Budget Cuts - You will have seen on the news over the past week, the decision taken to end a number of programmes. 'Engage' employed a teacher in the school on a full-time basis to help children to catch up in their learning after lockdown periods. The Board of Governors has decided to fund the teaching post until the end of June as this vital resource is still needed. 'Happy Healthy Minds' employed a Play Therapist one afternoon a week to work with children who are finding themselves in difficult situations in their lives. This programme has brought much needed assistance to many children. We will endeavor to keep this programme going until the end of June despite drastic cuts.

Children receiving free school meals will see payments cease during holiday periods beginning immediately. The overall education budget has seen an overall cut. With prices continuing to rise, it will inevitably mean that there will be further strain on services in the school. This is not what the staff or Board of Governors want as it affects every child in the school. We will endeavor to maintain quality learning and teaching experiences for all children and aim to give them what we can to enhance their primary school experience.

Regular Diary Dates

Monday	After school sport
Tuesday	Early Literacy class (from 8:30am)
	Musical Pathways (3MB, 3RF, 4AMG, 4PH)
	After school sport
Wednesday	Irish class (P1-P7)
	GAA Coach - Pat Cadden (KS2)

Thursday	Early Maths class (from 8:30am)
	Clarinet tuition
	Swimming - P7
Friday	PE (P1 - P4)