**** St Mary’s Convent Primary School**

***Bunscoil Clochar Mhuire***

***Trim, Co. Meath.  
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Awarded Green Flag  
June ‘05/’07/11/13

***Imlitir 2***

4th September 2017

***Every Day Counts at St Mary’s Convent Primary School***

***31st August - 1st September 2017***

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Room** | **Attendance** | **Room** | **Attendance** | **Room** | **Attendance** | **Room** | **Attendance** |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 01 | 94.8 % | 08 | 85.7% | 16 | 94.6% | 26 | 85.7% |
| 02 | 96.6% | 09 | 92.3% | 17 | 95.8% | 27 | 94.2% |
| 03 | 96.4% | 10 | 96.2% | 18 | 96.3% | **30** | **100%** |
| 04 | 96.4% | 12 | 93.8% | 19 | 88.9% | 31 | 93.8% |
| 05 | 92.3% | 13 | 91.7% | 20 | 88.5% |  |  |
| 06 | 95.8% | 14 | 91.4% | 23 & 24 | 89.2% |  |  |
| **07** | **100%** | 15 | 86.2% |  |  |  |  |

*Well done to rooms 7 & 30 on having full attendance for the first 2 days of school. Please note that notification in writing, with the reason for all absences, to the teacher is required. A letter or note in the homework journal will suffice.*

A chairde,

Junior Infants are now lining up in the yard in the mornings, but will be collected from their classrooms in the afternoons. They have all settled in well, thank God, and most of the mammies and daddies are doing ok! Can I stress to parents/guardians, all through the school, that if any child is having difficulties settling in to let us know. Thanks. May I remind all parents of all classes ***not*** to line up with your child in the morning. You are creating a dependence. Drop and go or wait behind the line or to one side. All parents/guardians who remain in the yard, are asked to keep the pathways clear to allow the lines to enter the school and to wait until they are all in, before leaving. This is to ensure that the children have unrestricted access to the walkway to their classrooms.

Parents bringing their children to school by car are asked to park sensibly in the car park outside the school gates. **Please do not park in the spaces reserved for school buses and school taxis.** Please do not drive within the school grounds, as this is a danger to the school children. Parking in the school grounds is reserved for staff only.

At this stage all pupils are expected to have their full uniform and tracksuit. If for some reason your child is unable to wear his/her uniform please write a note to his/her teacher in the homework journal. Please put some form of identification on **all items** of uniform clothing, in particular the jackets and jumpers, and check with the school if any are lost.

All pupils are also expected to be in school on time. School starts at 9.20a.m.

We are updating our records, please let us know if you have changed address, telephone number, contact person, doctor etc.

Pupils who cycle to school are asked to wear a safety helmet at all times, and to be vigilant, especially at junctions. Bikes must be dismounted on entering the school premises.

### Please note that Friday 15th September is Jersey Day. The pupils may (if they wish) come to school in a sports jersey of their choice, with the bottoms of the school tracksuit. Voluntary contributions of €2 will be collected for our “Sports Fund”. The current balance of our Sports Fund is -€137.12 (debit)

**Volunteer Parents.** Parents/Guardians who are in a position to do voluntary work, please contact the school. We have a Tuesday morning group – Meitheal – who meet from 9.30-10.30. They help prepare work for the younger pupils. Meitheal is a bit of cutting, a bit of pasting, some photocopying, a chat, a cuppa, and a well spent hour. On other days, this year, we are looking for volunteers to “listen” to Junior Infants reading, to help with ICT and to help with Library (on Fridays). If this is you or you would like more details, please phone Helen in the office.

The **school photographer** will be coming on Friday 22nd September, as mentioned in our school Calendar. He will be taking photographs of all children. If you **do not wish** your child to have his/her photograph taken, please let us know. A note in the Homework Journal will suffice. Group photographs will be taken for Junior Infants and Sixth Classes only. Proofs will be available before purchase, about two weeks afterwards. **Please ensure that your child is in school uniform (Senior Infants to Sixth classes) and not tracksuit on this day, Junior Infant children to wear tracksuit.** Please note that the school has requested a mug shot of each pupil for school record purposes.

**Friendship Week**

This year it will from September 18th – 22nd and each class will be undertaking activities and lessons which promote positive relationships in our school. This is an ideal time to remind those who have not already done so to read our school ‘Anti – Bullying Policy’ given out on enrolment and also contained in our homework journals. Spare copies can be e-mailed to you (we are a Green School!) on request.

***Be Healthy Week***

*Our Healthy Eating Policy will be officially launched during our Be Healthy Week – Sept 11th – 15th . This policy was revised through consultation with staff, students and parents. as part of our first target for our Health Promoting Schools Flag. The revised policy is available to read in the homework journal and will be available on our website also.*

*Due to the incidence of severe allergy to peanuts and mixed nuts amongst some pupils in our school, we ask parents/ guardians to be vigilant in the following:*

* *Avoid peanuts or any other type of nut in school lunches*
* *Avoid giving peanut butter sandwiches, chocolate spreads containing nuts such as Nutella, and nut based breads and cereal/health bars containing nuts*
* *Ask children not to share their lunches.*

***A strict” Nut Free Zone” policy will be in place in classes with specific pupils with nut allergies. These classrooms are rooms 9, 13 and 30.***

*St Mary’s cannot guarantee that all parents / guardians in our school will comply with the above and, for that reason, our school does not purport to be a “nut free school”.*

## *In order to make our revised Healthy Eating Policy a success we need the support of parents and guardians. You can do this by:*

* *Providing a healthy, well-balanced lunch for your child.*
* *Encouraging healthy eating*
* *Informing the school in writing, of any child’s special dietary needs*
* *Assisting in the implementation of school policy by not allowing their child to bring fizzy drinks, crisps, sweets, chocolate bars, chewing gum, “Fast Food” or other junk food to school*
* *Avoid sending in party bags or treats when birthdays occur. The teacher will be obliged to return this food unopened.*
* *Following the Green-Schools guidelines, reduce packaging and re-use bottles and lunchboxes where possible.*
* *Taking part in our TRY IT FRIDAY initiative which encourages children to try a new* ***healthy food*** *on Friday. You can choose together what new food they will try by including it in their lunchbox on Friday.*

*We are lucky in St. Mary’s as the majority of children do bring a healthy lunch to school.*

*Sinéad Minogue HPS coordinator*

**Communication**

This *Imlitir*is also being sent to you via email as well as this hard copy. If you have not received it by email, please let us know. Next week we intend sending **ONLY** email copies, hard copies will only be available on request. Separated parents are asked to let us know if two copies are required and if two text numbers are required for text communication. *Imlitreacha* can be sent by email to the parent not living in the family home. We often use texts to communicate also. Please let us know if you change your phone number.

**Monies Owed:** Please note that payments can be facilitated online and in instalments. Contact us for further details.

**Voluntary Contribution:** Please note that this is a request for €50 per family that goes towards computer equipment and other associated materials, as well as technical support and extra teaching. This can also be facilitated online and in instalments. Thanks.

Finally, we have replaced all the white tables and chairs in Room 4 over the summer break. That means that we now have 30 chairs (€5 each) and 15 tables (€10 each) for sale. They are suitable for pre-school and some Junior Infants. We also have four Sixth Class size tables for sale @ €10 each. All furniture is in good condition. We also have a few old school benches for sale @ €45. Contact the school, if interested.

***Internet Safety:***

***Cyber-bullying awareness workshops****will take place in St Mary’s from****27th - 29th of September****for pupils in****3rd, 4th, 5th and 6th Classes****. The classroom based workshops will be facilitated by Paula O’Connor. Paula is a cyber-bullying and internet-safety expert. She is the force behind the****“Don’t Be Mean Behind Your Screen”****initiative and has appeared on television programmes such as*Prime Time *and*Claire Byrne Live*. Items under the microscope at the daytime workshops will include mobile phones, the internet, social media and practical strategies to deal with online bullying.*

*Technology is advancing at an unbelievable pace. It is important that all parents/guardians are fully equipped with up-to-date knowledge and information about the ever-increasing dependence of the youth on mobile/smart phones, the inherent risks that can develop around social media and the necessity of parental supervision when children are online.****Paula will deliver a 'not-to-be-missed' presentation for parents/guardians on Thursday, September 28th at 7.30pm in the PE Hall.***

***ALL PARENTS/GUARDIANS are welcome to attend the information evening,****so please come along, listen to Paula's advice, ask questions and be an informed parent/guardian.*

*Mr Galligan*

Mise le meas



Cóilín Ó Coigligh,

Príomh Oide.

[**Green News**](#greennews)

[**Community News**](#communitynews)

**Nathanna na Seachtaine:** Go raibh maith agat. (Thank you)

**Seanfhocal na Míosa:** Tús maith, leath na hoibre!

**Dates to Remember**

**Assembly:** Friday @ 11.10 All classes except Junior Infants

**Meitheal:** Every Tuesday morning 9.30-10.30.

**Mini-Rounders**: 3rd and 4th Classes - Mondays 3-4pm, beginning Monday 4th Sept

**Rounders**: 5th and 6th Classes - Mondays 3-4pm, beginning Monday 4th Sept

**Camogie:** Starts Wednesday 6th 3.00-4.00 p.m. Third – Sixth Classes

[**Green News**](#greennews)

As we begin another school year and embark upon a new Green theme, we must acknowledge the great commitment and determination of the Green Committee that worked arduously over the past two years. The concept of Global Citizenship took a new and broader approach to the green theme of litter and waste management. We had a lot to learn and apply to our school context but with the help and dedication of the pupils, teachers and parents on our Green Flag committee, we were enabled to achieve this. Alongside this work on recycling and composting, many other green projects were kept going by keen enthusiasts and must also be acknowledged. Among these are our gardeners, our walkers and our cyclists.

WOW (Walking on Wednesdays) resumes this Wednesday. Meet up at Mornington House or at the Matchbox at 9:00 am. The WOW teachers will escort the pupils to the school from there. Walking to school links perfectly with our Be Active and Healthy Schools initiatives. We would encourage our pupils to walk even one day per week. Well done to those who walk everyday.

A Cycling Day (COW) will be organised later in the month.

Our Sensory and Wild Flower garden is in full bloom at present. The Trim Tidy Towns committee brought a team of judges to visit it over the summer and they thoroughly enjoyed the experience.

Recycling continues at St Mary’s. We accept small plastic bottles, cans, mobile phones, postage stamps, ink cartridges and toilet rolls.

***Remember Green is cool at home, at school and around the globe!***

**[Community Notices](#communitynews)**

**Limelight Theatrics** - Performance Singing/Musical Theatre classes.  \*Tuesday evening 6.15pm to 7.15pm (Under 12's)  & 7.30pm to 8.30pm (Over 12's) Wednesday 7.15pm to 8.15pm (mixed)

**DRAMA CLASSES**:  Tuesdays  5.15pm to 6.15pm (mixed age)  Wednesday 4.30pm to 5.30pm (mixed age) Wednesday 6pm - 7pm (Over 12's) Classes commence the week of 12th of September. Contact  Carmel McKiernan BA, LIBSD on 0863923334 for further info

**Boyneside Speech & Drama**. Classes take place after school in St Michaels Primary School. And commence on Wed 6th and Thursday 7th September for students from senior infants to leaving cert.

Contact Dorothy on 087-2201981 or email [dorscully@gmail.com](mailto:dorscully@gmail.com)

Something for everyone at **Breathe Yoga & pilates**, Mum & Baby yoga Mondays 11.30am, Baby massage Fridays 11.30am, pregnancy yoga Thursdays 7pm. For more info & to book see [www.breatheyogapilates.ie](http://www.breatheyogapilates.ie)

**Grainne Kennedy Stage Academy** is a brand new performing arts school opening in Trim this September. Offering tuition in dance, drama, song and musical theatre to boys and girls aged 3-18, our aim is to build confidence, nurture talent and have fun! Join renowned choreographer Grainne at a FREE trial class on Sep 18th in Trim GAA from 4-5pm to see what's on offer. For more information, call 0863566061 or search GKStageAcademy on Facebook!

**AFTER SCHOOL CLUB** Taking place in St. Mary's School Trim from 2-3pm Mon - Friday in room 5 starting on the 18th September Only €6 a day or €25 for 5 days Mon-Fri Application forms available from reception. Booking required a week in advance of start date to insure space, and rebooking and payment made the previous Thursday each week after. Kids will be provided a small snack and entertained with Lego, Art & Craft, Board games, quizzes, card games, puzzles and lots more fun activities! Run by an experienced Childcare Professional Parent who is fully Garda Vetted and Insured. Contact Julie O'Donohue to book your child's space by texting 0868505310, emailing [juliekerins@hotmail.com](mailto:juliekerins@hotmail.com) or via a PM on the Facebookpage:[www.facebook.com/TrimAfterSchoolClub](http://www.facebook.com/TrimAfterSchoolClub)  
  
**Jiggle 'n' Jump** Music & Movement classes for little ones (8mths-4yrs) running upstairs in Trim GAA on Tuesdays 9.45-10.45am €7 a class or 4 class card for €25 Only €5 during September and all money raised on Tuesday 5th September is going to Crumlin Children's Hospital via Jack O'Donohue's A Bit of a Walk Fundraiser.   
  
Also available for Kids Party Entertainment! Various characters and themes with fun games, dancing, face painting and prizes! Clown, Pirate, a number of different Princesses, 80's Disco Diva, sporty Diva and Super Heroes available. Birthdays, Weddings, Christenings or family fun events.......in your home or in a venue, packages to suit any needs or budget. Contact Julie on 0868505310 or on Facebook [www.facebook.com/jigglenjump](http://www.facebook.com/jigglenjump)

**Touch typing course:**

Venue: St Marys NS, Trim,  Day and time :  Monday's @ 4.30 , Date: September 25th. Contact Jackie on 086-3780842

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A touch tying course designed to develop the typing skills of children 8 years & upwards in a classroom environment with a qualified tutor. You can join the course any time as your child works at their own pace in a small class environment so each child gets the individual attention they need. Free trial first lesson.

This class is for all children but particularly helpful to kids with learning differences such as Dyslexia, Dyspraxia and Autism.