

MARY QUEEN OF PEACE PRIMARY SCHOOL

NEWSLETTER SEPTEMBER 2018



DATES TO REMEMBER SEPTEMBER 2018	
Monday 3 September	Morning Club begins (Martinstown)
Friday 7 September	New School Year Mass @ 9 a.m. in the Church
Monday 10 September	Swimming Y5 Singing Lessons begin
Tuesday 11 September	Milk Money Payment Due
Friday 14 September	Piano Lessons begin
Monday 17 September	After School Choir Club begins
Monday 24 September	Staff Training Day School Closed
Tuesday 25 September	PTA Meeting @ 7 p.m. in Martinstown
Wednesday 26 September	Fundraiser: Recycling
Thursday 27 September	Whole School Assembly in Parish Hall

NOTE FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Welcome back to a new school year in Mary Queen of Peace Primary School. I hope that all of our families had a very happy summer. At the start of a new school year we would like to extend a special welcome to our new Y1 pupils. I am sure that there is great excitement in homes all across Glenravel at the thought of starting school. A special welcome also for Mrs O'Mullan's Y3 class, who will be making the big move from Cargan to Martinstown.

The new school year also sees changes in staffing. After many years of service to Glenravel PS and then Mary Queen of Peace PS, Mr Terence Magee has retired from teaching. Mrs Sheila Gallagher has also retired from her post as a learning support assistant. We would like to thank Mr Magee and Mrs Gallagher for their contribution to the school and wish them and their families well for a long, happy and healthy retirement. Mrs Lauren McLoughlin will be joining the teaching staff, initially in Y7. Our very best wishes to Mrs McLoughlin and her class for the new school year.

Over the summer months our ancillary staff have put a great deal of work into ensuring that the school is ready for the staff and pupils in September. I would like to thank Mary, Kate and Christine for all of their work, especially during July when it was very hot inside the school! An interactive whiteboard has been acquired for the Y3 classroom and this will be fitted later this month. Planning to adapt the Cargan building for wheelchair use has been taking place, with the intention to begin work during this school year. The planning work for the new school build has also continued during the holidays and the governors will update the community on progress in

next month's newsletter.

The Morning Club resumes on Monday 3 September. This service has been very well received since the school opened. The cost of the Morning Club will rise to £1.50 per child this year, in order to cover costs. This fee covers the cost of staffing and breakfast; the school does not make money on the service.

The school has been working with the Education Authority (Transport) to bring about improvements to their service. We have been given the exclusive use of a bus and driver for our school's use only. We will not have to share the bus with another school and we therefore hope that the children will be able to get home earlier at the end of the school day.

The support of parents in the pupils' education is very important. We have plans for a parents' reading workshop, following on from last year's successful maths workshop, to help you support your child's learning in this core area of the curriculum. Parents can support the school's work through membership of the PTA. This year our fundraising will focus on purchasing a maths scheme for the school. Parental support with school teams and trips has been a real feature of life in MQP and later in this newsletter there is guidance on safeguarding procedures to allow parents to continue to support the school's work.

My very best wishes to you and your family for the new school year.

Malachy Conlon
Principal

FREE SCHOOL MEALS

Information regarding Free School Meals/School Uniform Clothing Allowance 2018-19:

www.eani.org.uk/i-want-to/fsm/howtoapply/

Further information including eligibility criteria for the 2018-19 school year can also be accessed by logging on to

www.eani.org.uk/i-want-to

UNIFORM

Please ensure that all items of uniform (coats, jumpers, polo shirts, trouser/skirts) are marked with your child's name and class.

Lunchboxes and snack boxes that are used for fruit at breaktime should all be marked with your child's name. If an item is lost, we have a much better chance of returning it to you if there is a name on it.



AFTER SCHOOL CLUBS

Our after school programme begins with: **Choir Club** (Niaomh Rodgers) on Mondays.

Auditions to join the choir will be held in school and the first choir club will be on **Monday 17 September**. The children selected to join the choir will meet every Monday from 3 – 3.50 p.m. The choir will be competing in a number of new competitions this year.

Trials for the cross-country team will also take place later this month (details to follow).

In next month's newsletter we will publish the after school programme for the whole school year. Last year there were 18 clubs covering activities ranging from mindfulness to the environment, sports, the arts, fitness, and quizzes.

TRANSPORT

Transport is organised by the Education Authority.

Queries relating to transport should be addressed to:

Mrs Freda Shanks

Tel No: 028 25661360

E-mail: freda.shanks@eani.org.uk

FEIS na nGLEANN

We are very proud to announce that MQP won the best school award at this year's Feis na nGleann.

Congratulations to everyone involved. The Glendun Shield is proudly on display in the school. The children's art work will be returned during the first week of term.



SAFEGUARDING

Parents provide valuable support for the school with school teams and help on school trips. Parent volunteers are required to complete Access NI clearance. We invite parents to complete this procedure in order to be able to support the school. Forms are available from the school office and the secretary will be happy to assist you with this process.

Supervision for pupils in the playground begins at **8.45 a.m.** Therefore pupils, on both sites, should not be in school before **8.45 a.m.**, unless they are attending the Morning Club.

This an important safeguarding matter.

MASS FOR NEW SCHOOL

The Mass for the opening of the new school year will take place on **Friday 7 September @ 9 a.m.**

Parents, grandparents, family members and parishioners are very welcome to join us for Mass. The children can either sit with their family or join their class. Children should go directly to the church for Mass on Friday morning and support with transporting children back to school would be very much appreciated.

PARENT TEACHER ASSOCIATION (PTA)

Our first Parent Teacher Association meeting for the new school year has been organised for:

Tuesday 25 September @ 7 p.m. in Martinstown. We very much value parental support at Mary Queen of Peace PS. Our PTA does terrific work and we don't have too many meetings! It is always important to have new members who will bring new ideas and commitment to the PTA. You will be made feel very welcome.

BLACK BAG RECYCLING

Our first fundraiser this year will be a Black Bag Recycling. Please place items for recycling in a black bag which can be left at either site: **Wednesday 26 September 2018.**

Thank-you for your support.

Items accepted

Clothing

Curtains

Paired shoes

Belts/handbags

Items not accepted

Dirty/wet clothing

Mats/carpets

Single shoes

Cut off materials



MORNING CLUB

Morning Club, which runs from 8 – 9 a.m. each morning in Martinstown, begins on: **Monday 3 September.**

The cost is £1.50 per session.

