

# MARY QUEEN OF PEACE PRIMARY SCHOOL

## NEWSLETTER SEPTEMBER 2019



<b>DATES TO REMEMBER SEPTEMBER 2019</b>	
<b>Monday 2 September</b>	<b>Morning Club begins (Martinstown)</b>
<b>Friday 6 September</b>	<b>New School Year Mass @ 9 a.m. in the Church</b>
<b>Monday 9 September</b>	<b>Swimming Y5 Mrs Sharkey Singing Lessons begin</b>
<b>Tuesday 10 September</b>	<b>Milk Money Payment Due</b>
<b>Wednesday 11 September</b>	<b>PTA Meeting @ 6.30 p.m. (Martinstown)</b>
<b>Friday 13 September</b>	<b>Piano Lessons begin</b>
<b>Monday 16 September</b>	<b>After School Choir Club begins</b>
<b>Wednesday 18 September</b>	<b>New School Build Public Meeting in the Parish Centre @ 7 p.m.</b>
<b>Friday 20 September</b>	<b>Fundraiser: Recycling</b>
<b>Thursday 26 September</b>	<b>Whole School Assembly in Parish Centre for Fr Lyons</b>
<b>Monday 30 September</b>	<b>Staff Training Day School Closed</b>

## **NOTE FROM THE PRINCIPAL**

Welcome back to a new school year in Mary Queen of Peace Primary School. I hope 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 Y1 pupils and the new pupils who are joining classes throughout the school.

A new school year also brings changes. Towards the end of August we learnt that Fr. Lyons was moving to a new parish and at this time too, his own father passed away. Our prayers and best wishes are extended to Fr. Lyons and his family. Fr. Lyons will be missed by the people of Glenravel and he has left a wonderful legacy. Later this month we will stage a special assembly for Fr. Lyons, to celebrate his eleven years in the parish.

Fr. Conor McGrath is our new Parish Priest and on behalf of the pupils, staff, parents and governors I would like to extend a warm welcome to Fr Conor.

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.

Adaptations to a mobile classroom in Martinstown, to allow for disability access, are almost complete and work is also due to begin on the Cargan site to improved disability access. This will include new ramped access to the school; making one very large classroom, by combining two of the existing rooms; and the installation of a disability toilet and changing area.

The second of two public consultation meetings on the new school build will take place on Wednesday 18 September from 7 – 9 p.m. in the Parish Centre.

The Morning Club resumes on Monday 2 September. This service has been very well received since the school opened. The cost of the Morning Club is £1.50 per child. This fee covers the cost of staffing and breakfast; the school does not make money on the service.

The support of parents in the pupils' education is very important. Over the last numbers of years, we have held workshops for parents to show how learning in school can be supported at home. The workshops have been very well received and further events will take place in the course of the school year.

Parents can also support the school's work through membership of the PTA. A brochure from the PTA has been included with this newsletter, explaining what the PTA does and how you can assist this work. I would encourage you to consider joining the PTA this year and you will be made feel very welcome.

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 2019-20:

[www.eani.org.uk/i-want-to/fsm/howtoapply/](http://www.eani.org.uk/i-want-to/fsm/howtoapply/)

Further information including eligibility criteria for the 2019-20 school year can also be accessed by logging on to [www.eani.org.uk/i-want-to](http://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.



## **HEALTHY EATING at BREAKTIME**

It's back to school and after the summer treats, I am sure that we are all now ready to start a new school year with healthy eating at breaktime and healthy lunchboxes.

Fruit is by far the best break and the preferred snack for the majority of the children. The numbers of pupils drinking milk is also very high. Some of the children also take a bread-based product at breaktime e.g. a small sandwich.

There are breaktime snacks that are not appropriate, including Frubes and cheese strings. One treat is acceptable, and this should be kept for lunchtime.

Your support, and you have provided overwhelming support, is needed to ensure that the Healthy Break policy works and is fair to all of the children.



## **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 16 September**. The children selected to join the choir will meet every Monday from 3 – 3.50 p.m. This month will also see the start of Rugby Club (Y4/5), with the support of Mid & East Antrim Council.

Trials for the cross-country team will also take place later this month (details to follow), with the first race of the season on Wednesday 9 October at the Ulster University, Coleraine.

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.



## **JOB OPENING**

Temporary Employment Register:

There are a number of lunchtime supervisor roles available in the school – 5 hours per week.

Please contact the school secretary.

## **SAFEGUARDING**

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 is an important safeguarding matter.

## **MASS FOR NEW SCHOOL YEAR & Fr. LYONS' ASSEMBLY**

The Mass for the opening of the new school year will take place on **Friday 6 September @ 9 a.m.**

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

We will also hold a whole school assembly on Thursday 26 September for the children to thank Fr Lyons for his work, in the school and parish, over his eleven years in Glenravel.

## **PARENT TEACHER ASSOCIATION (PTA)**

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

**Wednesday 11 September @ 6.30 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: **Friday 20 September 2019**. Thank-you for your support.

## **MORNING CLUB**

Morning Club, which runs from 8 – 9 a.m. each morning in Martinstown, begins on: **Monday 2 September**.

The cost is £1.50 per session.

