

MARY QUEEN OF PEACE PRIMARY SCHOOL

NEWSLETTER

October 2018



DATES TO REMEMBER		OCTOBER 2018
Tuesday 2 October	School Photographer - Cargan	
Wednesday 3 October	School Photographer - Martinstown	
Thursday 4 October	School Photographer – Martinstown Cross-Community Twinning Programme begins [Y6]	
Friday 5 October	Dental Nurse (Y3/4), (Y5-7) Cross-Country Club	
Tuesday 9 October	Multi-Skills Club (Y4 & 5)	
Wednesday 10 October	Cross-Country Race I @ University of Ulster (Coleraine)	
Friday 12 October	School Council Elections	
Friday 19 October	Road of Hope Shoe Box Appeal	
Monday 22 October – Friday 26 October (inclusive)	School Closed @ 2 p.m. each day for Parent / Teacher Meetings	
Wednesday 24 October	Glens' Storytelling Festival	
Monday 22 October	PTA Christmas Card Return Date	
Thursday 25 October	Whole School Assembly in the Parish Hall Milk Money	
Date to be confirmed	PTA Show Night @ 7 p.m. in the Parish Centre	
Monday 29 October	Hallowe'en Fancy Dress	
Tuesday 30 October – Friday 2 November	Hallowe'en Mid-Term School Closed	

STAFF RETIREMENT

Mrs Sheila Gallagher (Learning Support Assistant) has retired from Mary Queen of Peace PS.



We would like to thank Sheila for all of the work she has done for the school and we wish Sheila, and her family, a long and happy retirement.

Mr Terence Magee has also retired after fourteen years' service in the school. His final class (Y5 in 2017-18) held a special retirement assembly for him and there was also a presentation of a gift on behalf of the parents and pupils of Mary Queen of Peace PS.

Our very best wishes and thanks to Mr Magee for his commitment and service to the school, the parish and our pupils.



SCHOOL BUILDING UPDATE

A communication statement on progress re the new school building project from CCMS and the Department of Education:

Work on the design/planning of the new school building which will be situated on land at Dunaghy Wood is progressing well. The Integrated Consultant Team (ICT), Hamilton Architects have completed RIBA Stage 1 (Royal Institute of British Architects-- Preparation & Brief) and this was submitted to the Department of Education (DE) for consideration and approval. DE have formally approved RIBA Stage 1 in a letter to the school trustee dated 18 September 2018. Hamilton Architects are now progressing the project to RIBA Stage 2 (Concept Design). It is anticipated that this stage will be completed and approved in the first quarter of 2019. When the plans are suitably developed past this stage a Planning Application will be submitted after prior consultation with the school authorities and the local community.

Further updates will be provided as the project progresses through the various design stages.

PARENTS' MEETINGS

Parent/Teacher meetings for Y2-7 classes will commence:

Week beginning Monday 22 October @ 2 p.m. each day.

School will close at 2 p.m. every day for all classes. Your child's teacher will inform you of the date and time of your appointment.

If you have more than one child at the school every effort will be made to arrange appointments on the same day.

PHOTOGRAPHER

The photographer will be in school on Tuesday 2 (Cargan site in morning), Wednesday 3 and Thursday 4 October.



Individual photographs will be taken for school records. Families who have requested a family group photo have been allocated a 10-minute slot and we would ask that you keep to this time. Family photographs will be taken on the Martinstown site, unless otherwise arranged. Please note Primary 7 class group photographs will be taken on Tuesday 2 October (afternoon) but their individual photo will be taken on Wednesday 3 October.

TRANSPORT

Significant improvements have been made to the school bus service this year. Our aim has been to get the children home earlier in the afternoon and to date we have achieved this. The Education Authority has now given us use of a bus for Mary Queen of Peace PS only; we therefore no longer have to share it with another school. Mrs Josie McIlhatton (Board of Governors) has been terrific in helping the school bring about this improvement, with the support of parents. This is an excellent example of the school working together with parents to improve the children's school experience. Thank-you for this.

SCHOOL UNIFORM

A number of school uniform orders were awaiting processing at the end of the summer. The school contacted the supplier, on behalf of parents, and they informed us that at busy times of the year (including August) it may take up to 21 days to process orders.

Last year we held a uniform evening on 9 May. In order to help parents with school uniform we will have a:

School Uniform Fitting Week from 13 – 17 May 2019.

Parents will be able to come to the school from 2 – 4.30 p.m. each day to try on samples of uniform with their children. This will allow plenty of time for the uniform to be ordered for the start of the new school.

If there are any outstanding uniform order queries please contact the school and we will do our very best to help you with this matter.

School uniform can be ordered on-line, directly from the supplier during the school year:

1. Log on to www.schooltrends.co.uk
2. Find our school (BT43 6QH)
3. Choose items for ordering
4. Deliver to home address

Please label school uniform with your child's name.



LEAVERS

We hope our Y7 leavers from 2017-18 have settled well into their new schools.

Thank-you for your contribution to

Mary Queen of Peace PS and good luck in your new schools.



CURRICULUM

Mary Queen of Peace PS has a 3-year School Development Plan (SDP) to manage its curricular, pastoral care, finance and accommodation priorities.

Personal Development & Mutual Understanding (PDMU) is an important part of the children's curriculum. The **School Council Elections** and the whole understanding of rights and responsibilities; democracy and the election process; and being actively listened to is part of our PDMU programme. The pupils' voice is very important in Mary Queen of Peace PS and this was recognised by the inspectors when they visited the school last year, when they noted that the children '*contribute meaningfully to decision making about matters which affect them.*' (ETI, BMIn April 2018).

School Council Elections will take place on **Friday 12 October**. We look forward to the campaigning!

Mutual Understanding is an important element of the PDMU curriculum and this year we will, once again, be involved in the Peace Players' initiative. Y6 will be *twinned* with Harryville PS (Ballymena). Through team games, with a focus on basketball, the pupils will explore mutual understanding.

The school has also formed a partnership with Camphill PS (Ballymena) and together we have successfully applied for a **Shared Education** grant. The Y4 teachers, from both schools, have been working on developing a programme which will improve the pupils' digital literacy skills, while the children learn to work and play together. The first ice-breaker for Y4 will be next month and it's a good one!

AFTER SCHOOL CLUBS

Our provisional programme for the year is:



Activity	Year	Coach/ Teacher	Month
Choir	Y4-7	Mrs Duffin / Naoimh Rodgers	All Year
Cross -Country	Y6-7	Mr Conlon	Sep - Jan
ICT	Y6-7	Mrs Gormley	Oct-Nov
Multi-Skills	Y4-5	Council	Oct - Nov
Dance	Y5-6	Council	Oct-Nov
Needlecraft	Y4-5	Mrs McKeown	Nov-Dec
ICT - Coding	Y4-5	Mrs Gormley	Nov-Dec
Gaelic	Y6-7	Mr McKenna	Oct-Nov Mar-Apr
Eco School	Y6	Mrs McConway	Oct - Dec
Drama	Y5-6	Mrs McLoughlin	Jan-Feb
Camogie	Y6-7	Mrs McAlister	Jan-Feb Apr-May
Hurling	Y6-7	Mr McKenna	Jan-Feb Apr-May
Rugby	Y4-5	Council	Jan-Feb
Boys' Soccer	Y6-7	Council	Jan-Feb
Tennis	Y6-7	Mrs O'Mullan	Feb-Mar
Feis Craft	Y4-5	Mrs Hynds	May-Jun

Where clubs are oversubscribed then names will be drawn from a hat. Children who do not get their initial choice of club will be prioritised for the next club on the timetable.