

MARY QUEEN OF PEACE PRIMARY SCHOOL

NEWSLETTER October 2016



DATES TO REMEMBER		OCTOBER 2016
Wednesday 5 October	Art Club (Y4/5) Mrs Davies Board Games Club (Y4/5) Mrs McConway	
Thursday 6 October	GAA Club (Mr McKenna)	
Wednesday 12 October	Final Dance Club Cross-Country Race (I) in Ballymoney PTA Meeting @ 7 p.m. in Martinstown	
Monday 17 October	Maths Week	
Tuesday 18 October	Final Basketball Club	
Tuesday 18 October	School Photographer - Cargan	
Wednesday 19 October	School Photographer - Martinstown	
Thursday 20 October	School Photographer – Martinstown & Family Photographs	
Friday 21 October	School Council Elections	
Monday 24 October	Final Swim for Mr McKenna’s Class	
Thursday 27 October	Whole School Assembly	
Monday 31 October – Friday 4 November	Hallowe’en Mid-Term School Closed	
Monday 7 November	School Re-Opens Swimming Begins for Mrs Davies’ Y5 Class	
Monday 7 November – Friday 11 November	School Closed @ 2 p.m. each day for Parent / Teacher Meetings	

CURRICULUM

Mary Queen of Peace PS has a 3 year School Development Plan (SDP) to manage its curricular, pastoral care, finance and accommodation priorities. Our curriculum priorities for 2016-17 include:

ACCELERATED READER

The Key Stage 2 (Y5-7) pupils have started their Accelerated Reader programme. This is a new curriculum initiative, which aims to increase the number of books children read independently. The programme carefully matches each child to a book that is right for them and manages their progress through the use of computer testing.

We have had a very positive response from the children who have, in only the first two weeks of the project read **314 books** and a total of **1,367,302 words**.

Accelerated Reader is one of our School Development Plan priorities and £7000 has been spent to date on this initiative.

Mrs Geraldine McKeown will lead this work as Literacy Co-ordinator.

MATHEMATICS

We will be developing mathematics lessons and raising the profile of maths in the children’s curriculum and lives. Work begins this month with Maths Week (starts 17 October

2016). Look out for activities to improve mathematics thinking and problem solving in the children’s work at home and in school.

Mrs Fiona McConway will lead this work as Mathematics Co-ordinator.

PTA

Thank-you for the wonderful response to our first meeting of Mary Queen of Peace PS PTA Meeting. We had 57 parents in attendance at our first meeting. This is a very positive indication of the support amongst our parents for the school. We will hold our first committee meeting early next month (Mrs McConway will write to you) and we will then stage our first event for the children at Hallowe’en.

ACTIVITY DAYS

We held two fantastic team building days at the pitch. The children worked and played really well together and we were certainly impressed by their willingness to give every activity a go – even the climbing tower.

The activity days were organised to promote teamwork and celebrate the opening of Mary Queen of Peace PS. We appreciate the support of Ardclinis Outdoor Adventure and The Big Lottery’s Celebrate programme in staging both days. There are some fantastic pictures on the school’s website.

MORNING CLUB

Following consultation with parents we were able to open our Morning Club on the Martinstown site. There has been a fantastic uptake of this service and we are delighted to be able to support parents with the Morning Club.

Thank-you to Christine and Karen, our two assistants, who have done so much to get this new initiative up and running.



AFTER SCHOOL CLUBS

September was a busy month with the start of our after school programme. Already this year the children have had:

Basketball Club

Dance Club

Singing Club

Next up we have:

Cross-Country Club (Mr Conlon)

Art Club Y4/5 (Mrs Davies)

Board Games Club Y4/5 (Mrs McConway)

GAA Club (Mr McKenna)



SCHOOL COUNCIL ELECTIONS

The pupils' voice will be very important in Mary Queen of Peace PS. Last year the Council provided many positive suggestions for the new school. The activity days, after school programme and whole school assemblies were the children's ideas.

This month we begin the election campaign for Mary Queen of Peace's School Council. We want the children to understand how democracy works, so we plan to make the elections as real as possible with the pupils preparing manifestos and posters. The election will also be held under Electoral Office rules with polling booths and ballot boxes.

We look forward to hearing how the children have settled into the new school, what they think is going well and how we can work together to improve the school.

SCHOOL SPORT

Our first ever Mary Queen of Peace PS teams took to the field of play at Cumann na mBunscol's Gaelic football tournament. This was a proud moment for Mr McKenna and the boys. To make it even more memorable we won our first ever competition!



Later this term there will be a competition to design a kit for all of our school teams. Our next school competition will be cross-country running for our boys' team and girls' team. Good luck everyone!

STAFF

Congratulations to Mrs Ciara O'Mullan and family on the birth of her son Oisín.



WEBSITE

We have had such positive feedback on our school website and it has been very busy. In its first ten days there were **4,671** visits to: www.mqpglenravel.com

Thank-you to Martin McCarry at MMC Solutions for all his work with the website.

Our school website aims to keep you informed about events and key dates in the life of the school. It is also about celebrating everything positive that the children achieve in their curricular and extra-curricular work. We are, like you, proud of the children.

The website will also, importantly, keep you up to date with what your child is doing in class, in their termly topics and the areas of the curriculum that we are working on in our School Development Plan.

Mrs Laura Gormley will lead this work as Information Communication Technology (ICT) Co-ordinator.

MUSIC TUITION

One of Mary Queen of Peace's aims is to develop the children's talents in music, the arts and sport. Our tuition programme is already up and running with singing, violin and piano classes. Some children may have missed out because the programmes were oversubscribed. If you wish, you can add your child's name to the waiting lists.

PUPIL of the MONTH

Mrs Davies' Y5 class led our first ever whole school assembly at Mary Queen of Peace Primary School and we also had our first presentations of Pupil of the Month certificates. This was a great day for the school.

To celebrate the day we had a fruit breaktime treat!

SCHOOL BUILDING UPDATE

The Trustees and the Board of Governors continue to work with the Government Departments of Education and Infrastructure, along with the Borough Council and CCMS to resolve the planning issues surrounding the delay for a new school building.

The planning comment that a footway is required to be included in the scheme of work has raised the budget allowance and a way forward is being developed. DENI officials are proposing that a technical feasibility study be undertaken to consider building a school on the site of the Martinstown school, the GUBA, car park and play park which would identify if it was suitable for a 9 classroom based school.