

January News
2023



Welcome back, we hope you had an enjoyable and safe Christmas Break and are ready for a new Term. We were delighted to welcome back all our children and staff for Term 2. We would like to wish our entire school community a Happy New Year!

Important Dates:

Wednesday 1st February Grandparents Day 1.30pm
13th - 17th February Mid Term Break
Service of Light TBC
Confirmation: Saturday 11th March at 11am St Patrick's Church Dungiven.
First Holy Communion Saturday 6th May 11am St Matthew's Drumsumr
Please note the Additional May Bank Holiday on Monday 8th May.

School Updates

Congratulations to Mrs Quigg on the birth of her beautiful baby boy Emmett Quigg. Mum and baby are both doing well.

Children Starting P1 in September 2023.

If you know anyone starting P1 in September 2023. Applications are being made online again this year. The Parent Portal for Online Applications opened at Noon on 10th January and closes Friday 27th January at 4pm on...

<https://www.eani.org.uk/parents/admissions/applying-for-a-school-place>.



Catholic Schools Week

Sunday 29th January is the start of Catholic Schools Week. The theme for this year is "Walking together in Faith and Love". We will celebrate Grandparents Day during this week on Wednesday 1st February at 1.30pm.

Winter

As the weather has turned colder we ask that you send a coat to school with your child as we endeavour to spend some time outdoors every day. Also please ensure your child has a pair of indoor shoes to change into when they come in to school.

Also please notify school in writing of any change of contact details, because we use these to notify parents of any changes eg exceptional closures etc.

Thank You!

We would like to thank everyone who donated to SVDP. With your help we raised £200

Breakfast Club runs daily from
8am - 8.40am £1 per child per
day.



**After School Clubs will resume Monday 9th
January.**

Mondays

Multi Sport Club - Block 2

P1 - P3 2.15pm - 3.15pm

P4 - P7 3.15pm - 4.15 pm

Stay & Play/Homework Club

P1 - P7 Until 4.15pm £2 per child

Tuesdays

Stay & Play/Homework Club

P1 - P7 Until 4.15pm £2 per child

Wednesdays

Traditional Music Club

P4 - P7 3pm - 4pm

Thursdays

Dance Club - Block 2

P1 - P3 2.15pm - 3.15pm

P4 - P7 3.15pm - 4.15 pm

All children should be collected from the Front Door.

Please ensure you collect your child promptly as the
coaches need to leave.

PTA Christmas Fundraiser

The PTA would like to thank everyone
who bought squares for the Hamper
Draw.

Absences

Please remember to keep school
informed should your child be absent
for any reason. If your child is feeling
unwell you can check the PHA website
for up-to-date guidance on whether
you should keep your child off school.
The link is.

<https://www.publichealth.hscni.net/sites/default/files/2019-11/Do%20I%20need%20to%20keep%20my%20child%20off%20school.pdf>

Teachers will communicate homework
etc via Seesaw.

School Collection

Thank you to everyone for following our
"pick up" rules. Our children's safety is
our first and main priority. Please
remember do not park on the school lane.

School Closures for the rest of the School Year

Monday 13th - Friday 17th February.
(school re-opens Monday 20th February)

Half -Term & Teacher Training

Friday 17th March.

St Patrick's Day

(School closes 11.30am Wednesday 5th April)

Thursday 6th April- Friday 14th April.
(school re-opens Monday 17th April)

Easter Holidays

Monday 1st May

May Day

Monday 8th May

Additional May Bank Holiday

Monday 29th - Wednesday 31st May
(School re-opens Thursday 1st June)

May Bank holiday and Teacher Training

School closes 11.30 am Friday 30th June for Summer!

Attendance Tiers from The Department of Education:

I am writing to advise you of updated Guidance for Schools recently issued in respect of monitoring and reporting pupil attendance. As you will be aware, attending school regularly is important for all children because of the link between attendance and attainment. Regular attendance at school, combined with high-quality teaching and learning, ensures that pupils get the best possible outcomes from their time in compulsory education.

The Department of Education has been considering how it can better present pupil absence statistics to help inform and support schools, parents, and pupils regarding pupil attendance. The Department of Education will now measure pupil attendance in TIERS and we as a school, will also monitor attendance and communicate attendance INFORMATION TO PARENTS/ CARERS IN Tiers also. The tiers, as created by The Department of Education, are outlined below:

TIER 1a

Pupils recognised as "Regular Attendance" missing 0% - 0.49% of school. Roughly less than 1 day per month.

TIER 1b

Pupils recognised as "At Risk Attendance" missing 5% - 9.9% of school. Roughly 1+ day per month.

TIER 2

Pupils recognised as "Chronic Attendance" missing 10% - 19.9% of school. Roughly 2 - 3 days per month.

TIER 3

Pupils recognised as "Severe Chronic Attendance" missing 20% or more of school.

In future communication regarding attendance, we will be using the Tier system to update parents and carers.

For up-to-date info you can follow us on:

Schools NI app. Download it from your app store and type in Our school name St Matthew's Primary 296 Drumsurn Road Limavady BT49 OPX.

School Website: <https://www.stmatthewsprimaryschool.com/>

LITTLE RASCALS' COMMUNITY PLAYGROUP

Spaces available for our Junior Club - NO SESSION FEES APPLY - Sessions run on a Mon & Tues from 12.15pm to 2pm.

The Junior Club is funded by The Pathway Fund and is for children in their pre pre school year (children are eligible to start when they reach the age of 2 years and 10 months). If you would like an application form or any more information, please send an email to little.rascals2@yahoo.com or call 777 67501.