



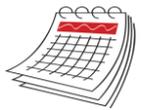
St. Malachy's PS

Newsletter

October 3rd 2018

UPCOMING DATES AND EVENTS

5 th October	Start of year school Mass, 10.00am
12 th October	Shared Education 'Big Breakfast' in Millburn PS from 7.45am
16 th October	Doherty Cup preliminary round match, University of Ulster 1.00pm
16 th October	P1 trip to Somerset Forest
17 th October	P2 trip to Garvagh Forest
18 th October	Sustrans, 'Feet First Families Day'
22 nd October	P7 trip to the RADAR safety centre in Belfast
23 rd October	Parent teacher interviews: School closes for pupils at 1.00pm
25 th October	Hallowe'en Disco: 1.00pm P1-P3, 2.00pm: P4-P7
26 th October	School closes at 3.00pm for Hallowe'en break



SCHOOL WEBSITE

www.stmalachysps.co.uk

SCHOOL TWITTER

@StMalsColeraine

FLU VACCINATION PROGRAMME

The school will be visited by a team of nurses on Monday November 5th to administer this year's Flu Vaccination. For any parent new to this programme it is a simple nasal spray which causes no distress to the child. If you would like your child to receive the vaccination and haven't already returned the form, please do so as soon as possible. Any pupil missing school on the 5th of November will have to get the nasal spray vaccine from his/her doctor.

NUT ALLERGY

We currently have a pupil in the school with a nut allergy who could suffer a life-threatening anaphylactic shock if exposed to nuts or produce containing nuts. We ask you to make sure that the food items you send to school for your child's break or lunch do not contain nuts. We really appreciate your support in helping us to keep our school nut free.

SACRAMENTAL ENROLMENT CEREMONIES

The enrolment ceremonies for First Reconciliation & First Holy Communion will take place during 11.00am Mass on Sunday 11th November. The enrolment ceremony for Confirmation will take place at 11.00am Mass on Sunday 18th November.

ROAD OF HOPE SHOEBOX APPEAL

The school has decided to become involved in this very worthwhile appeal again this year. For our new parents the idea behind this appeal is to fill a shoe-box with toys, sweets and other presents to give as a gift to a needy child who otherwise would receive no present this Christmas.

Over the past few years we have had a terrific response to this appeal. Last year we collected a very generous 118 shoeboxes.

All boxes collected will go either to Bosnia, Croatia, Romania or Africa. A leaflet which will provide further details on what may be put into each box and a checklist to show the contents of each box is now available from Mrs McAuley.

Please read this carefully before completing your box. All shoe-boxes need to be returned to the school on or before **Thursday November 8th**.

Please help us to help others in need and to bring happiness to a child this Christmas.



SCHOOL COUNCIL

Congratulations to our new school councillors. Our elections were a great success and the classes who voted for the councillors took their duties very seriously and they enjoyed the formality of using the ballot box and the ballot papers. It gave them a sense of what it is like to vote in a government election. Well done to all the pupils who put themselves forward for election, you were all terrific.

During our first meeting earlier in the week the new council have shown that they will be bringing great ideas from their classes to discuss on lots of issues. All of the members made their own contributions to the meeting.

The new councillors for each class are

- | | | |
|---------|----------------------|--------------------------|
| ○ P3: | Corey O' Neill | Ella Gaile /Heidi O'Loan |
| ○ P4: | Odhran Ferguson | Lois Mc Allister |
| ○ P5: | Olly Friel | Lauren Doherty |
| ○ P5/6: | Sean Kelly | Arista Kamila |
| ○ P6: | Caelen O'Neill | Ella Louise Mc Afee |
| ○ P7: | Zac Booth/Zach Coyle | Caitlin Quinn |



PARENT TEACHER INTERVIEWS

We are looking forward to meeting with you to discuss how well your son/daughter has settled into his/her new class and to discuss his/her progress this term. These are planned for the week beginning Monday 22nd October. The pupils will **finish school at 1.00pm on Tuesday 23rd October** to enable teachers to host these meetings. Your child's teacher will send you a date and time for your meeting by the end of next week. We work together as a staff to ensure that brothers & sisters get appointments on the same day.

HALLOWE'EN HOLIDAY

School closes at 3.00pm on Friday 26th of October for the Hallowe'en break and will re-open for pupils on Monday 5th November.

MATHS WEEK 14th -22nd October

During maths week the boys and girls will challenge themselves to learn their times tables and number bonds to improve their quick recall. They will also be exploring how maths is all around us and will be presented with lots of maths related questions. Try out some of the Maths Puzzles with your child on <http://www.mathsweek.ie/2018/2015/10/resources-puzzles/>

WALK TO RUN PROGRAMME

In St. Malachy's we value the importance of being active and are once again undertaking our walk to run programme. Each week the classes will walk or run (depending on age and ability) around the playground to develop their fitness and health.

HOMEWORK

We ask you to please ensure that your child completes the non-written part of his/her homework each night including their reading homework, (AR) Accelerated Reading, mental maths and spelling. These parts of homework are as important if not more important than the written parts. There are many useful websites available to help your child practice these skills. Please ask if you would like details of some websites or apps. There are some useful links available on the school website under the Kid Zone tab.

ONLINE SAFETY

For information on how to keep your child safe online please log onto the NSPCC website to get some great support and advice. www.nspcc.org.uk/children-safe/share-aware

CREDIT UNION SAVERS

Each week the local Credit Union collect savings from our savers in school. The boys and girls love seeing their savings grow. Anyone else who wishes can open an account and make a deposit each Friday at school.

SUSTRANS: FEET FIRST FAMILIES

Following the success of our 'Feet First families Day' last year we will be holding the same event again this year on Thursday 18th October. 'Feet First Families' is an initiative from Sustrans aimed at inspiring school communities to transform their travel habits on the school run. Schools all across the country will be getting together to make their school a 'car-free zone' and encouraging families to use their **Feet First** to walk, scoot or cycle to school.

On Thursday 18th October the main car park at the front of the school will be a car free zone and we will use the space to hold some fun activities with the pupils. Please come along when you drop your child to school and have a cup of tea/coffee in the car park and see the activities we have set up for the pupils to use with their class during the day.

Our aim is to encourage our pupils to become more active while also reducing pollution and congestion.

WALK OR WHEELIE WEDNESDAY

This year as part of our Sustrans activities we would like to introduce our 'Walk or Wheelie Wednesday' where pupils and parents (where possible) walk, cycle or scoot to school. This links closely with our eco-school activities as well as encouraging our pupils to be active and healthy.

SHARED EDUCATION

Our Shared Education projects are well underway for our third year. So far, the P5, P5/6 and P6 classes have all met with their partner classes in Millburn PS. This year we are delighted that they will have the opportunity to work with the PGCE (Education) students in the University of Ulster on their shared projects. The P5 class are developing their skills in storyboarding and animation while the P5/6 and P6 class are working together on STEM (Science Technology Engineering Maths) activities. P4 will begin their activities in the coming weeks and P7 in December once the transfer tests have been completed for those sitting the exams.

The P1, P2 and P3 classes will begin their activities with their friends in Harpur's Hill PS in the coming weeks. They will begin their projects with shared visits to Somerset Forest (P1), Garvagh Forest (P2) and Hezlett House (P3).

THE BIG BREAKFAST

For those of you who attended the free 'Big Breakfast' in Millburn last year as part of our shared education project well it's back again.

Date: Friday 12th October

Place: Millburn PS

Time: from 7.45

Why not come along with the family, have a free 'big breakfast' and a chat and then take your children to school. Anyone who went last year really enjoyed it.

COME ALONG AND SHARE THE FUN, EVERYONE WELCOME

ST MALACHY'S PS & MILLBURN PS SHARED EDUCATION PROGRAMME

ICT Levels 1 & 2 Certificate in Essential Skills for all. **FREE!!!**

After the great success of our Year 2 Shared Education Programme we are delighted to announce that our Year 3 programme has already begun for most classes. In partnership with the Northern Regional College we are giving parents and other family members the opportunity to take part in the ICT (Information, Communication and Technology) Level 1 & 2 Certificate in Essential Skills. The course will be hosted at Millburn Primary School and will run for 27 weeks in total. It will be completely FREE OF CHARGE! We feel that this is a great opportunity to develop your computing skills and gain a certified qualification in ICT. If you have an interest in taking part in this programme, please contact the school and we will make sure you have your place on the course.

MOUNTSANDEL DAY

Mrs Walsh's class had a great day learning about Mountsandel along with the pupils from Irish Society PS. They discovered how the Mesolithic people hunted, cooked and lived in Mountsandel and how important it is as part of our history. Many thanks to the Rotary Club for organising the day.

PARENTS' ASSOCIATION UPDATE

THANK YOU

On behalf of the whole school community I would like to thank our wonderful Parents' Association for their hard work over the past year to fundraise for the school but also for organising all of the fun activities for the pupils. We are extremely grateful for their donation of £4000 to the school. This will be put to great use. THANK YOU!

FUND RAISE FOR FREE

If you are intending to do some Christmas shopping online and haven't already registered with the easy fundraising company then please do so. Every time you shop online through the website the school receives a percentage towards school funds. It does not affect the way you shop, is completely secure and raises funds for the school to purchase much needed resources. Please pass on the website address to family and friends. The more people shopping online the more we raise. If you need any help registering with the site, please contact a member of the parents' association.

Use the link

[easyfundraising.org.uk/ST MALACHYS PTA](https://easyfundraising.org.uk/ST_MALACHYS_PTA)

Many thanks.

SMARTIES CHALLENGE

Early next week each child in the school will be given a tube of *Smarties* by the Parents' Association. What we want you to do is to enjoy the sweets and then between now and Christmas to pop your 20p's into the tube. When your tube is full send it into school. Each tube returned will be entered in a raffle which will take place during our final assembly before Christmas. We hope that each family will take part in this fundraiser. All funds raised from the *Smarties* tubes will be used for the benefit of all pupils.

Thank you !

HALLOWE'EN DISCO

This year's Halloween disco will be held on Thursday October 26th in the school Assembly Hall. **Admission to the disco will be £2.** The boys and girls will also receive refreshments and a glow stick provided by the Parents' association during the disco.

We are looking forward to seeing the wonderful selection of costumes. Pupils may come to school in their costumes but please ensure he/she has warm clothing for break and lunchtime. If your child wishes to wear fancy dress make-up they may come to school with the make-up on in the morning. The disco will run from:

1.00pm – 1.45pm for P1– P3 pupils

1.50pm –2.55pm for all other pupils.

“At the end of the day, the most overwhelming key to a child's success is the positive involvement of parents. ”

- Jane D. Hull

CHILD PROTECTION

As you know the safeguarding and protection of every child in our school is a huge priority. We have been reviewing our Child Protection Policy which we will be sending home with your child in the coming weeks. We would like to remind you of how you can raise a child protection concern about your child or another child in the school.

1. Talk to the **class teacher**
2. Talk to **Mr Mc Aleese (Designated Teacher for Child Protection)**
3. Talk to **Mrs Flynn (Deputy Designated Teacher for Child Protection)**
4. Talk to **Mrs Burns (Principal & Chair of the safeguarding team)**
5. Talk to **Mrs Mc Garry (The chair of the Board of Governors)**
6. Ring the Social Services **Gateway Team**
TEL: 03001234
7. Ring the **PSNI: Tel 101**

