

**DATES FOR THE DIARY**

**8TH JANUARY  
WHOLE SCHOOL MASS**

**9TH JANUARY  
APPLICATIONS OPEN  
FOR P1/RECEPTION**

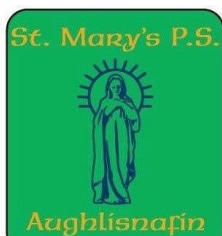
**15TH JANUARY  
WATER BOARD VISIT**

**24TH JANUARY  
SCHOOL RECEIVES  
SPIRIT OF CATHOLIC  
EDUCATION AWARD**

**8TH FEBRUARY  
P5/6 DANCE EVEBT**

**12-16 FEBRUARY  
MID TERM BREAK**

**19TH FEBRUARY  
TEMPUS PHOTOGRAPHY  
VISITS SCHOOL**



## News at Saint Mary's Primary School

### Principal's Message

Hello, we have had a very busy first term in St. Mary's and I hope this newsletter will help inform you of the exciting 'goings-on' at our school. As we enter a new school year you can keep up to date with happenings at the Finn by looking at Facebook and by checking our school website [www.stmarysaughlisnafin.co.uk](http://www.stmarysaughlisnafin.co.uk) There you can see the fantastic effort the St. Mary's staff put into creating a happy school where the pupils thrive. If you have yet to download the app connected with this site please do so as it will allow us to communicate with you more effectively regards your child.

9th January is the opening for pupil applications for Primary 1 and Reception. Those that need assistance in using the school admissions website can contact me for assistance and guidance.

2024 promises to be a year of excitement for the pupils of St. Mary's. Should you wish to contact me to discuss your child's learning please contact me at [cmurphy699@c2ken.net](mailto:cmurphy699@c2ken.net) or call the school on 02843778460.



### Spirit of Catholic Education 2023/24

The school was contacted by the Down and Connor Catholic Schools' Support Service, to inform us that St Mary's Primary School has been awarded the Spirit of Catholic Education Award 2023-24. It is a great privilege to receive this prestigious award for the second year in a row, testament to the hard work from our staff, fantastic support from our parents, our amazing PTA, dedicated governors and the brilliant representation of the Finn shown by all of our pupils.



**Down Museum toy workshop with P4/5**



**Hansel and Gretel**

The boys and girls had a brilliant day on the 5th December at the Lyric Theatre, watching the pantomime performance of Hansel & Gretel. Lots of happy faces.



**Snowman Competition**

**Congratulations to all of the Competition winners in the Oh Crafty Days design a snowman challenge.**

**Most original - Donnacha for 'Prime'  
Most creative - Emily for 'Miss Jingle'**

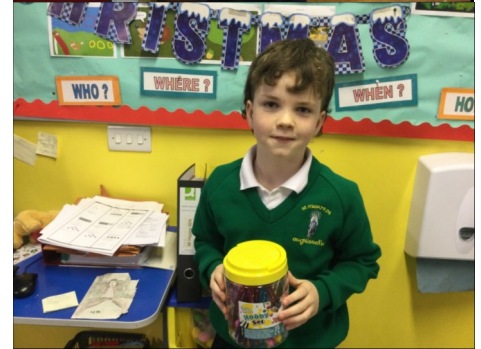
**Age winners**

- Age 11 - Kimberley**
- Age 10 - Mia**
- Age 9 - Aoibh**
- Age 8 - James**
- Age 7 - Cora**
- Age 6 - Jaxen**
- Age 5 - Eabha**
- Age 4 - Robyn**

**Well done everyone!**

**Flahavans Cross Country Event**

Well done to Adam Flanagan, Adam Brennan, Ciarrai Flanagan and Ellen Morrow who all represented our school last month at Flahavan's Cross Country event. A very chilly day which saw great effort from the boys and girls.



**Well done Michael**

Well done to Michael Scally from P6 who won the Cowan Perpetual Trophy for the Most Improved Singer 2023 at a recent CCE awards night.



**Christmas Raffle**

£825.90 was raised at our Christmas raffle. This will be added to our collection towards outdoor play equipment. Thanks to the Friends of the Fin and who supported, both in buying tickets and in donating prizes.

**P2/3 visit Down County Museum**

Last month P2/3 had a wonderful day at Down County Museum in Downpatrick. They loved the exhibitions and thoroughly enjoyed the ‘Toys’ workshop with our lovely guide Amy. They even made our own toy puppets! We think there may also be a few last minute additions to their Santa lists!



**Primary 5 and 6 dance sessions**

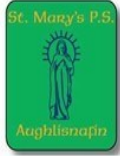
The pupils from St. Mary’s have been selected as one of 6 local schools to take part in sessions with dance instructor Jenna Finnegan. The boys and girls will have weekly dance lessons starting on Monday 15th January and these will culminate in a performance at Down Leisure Centre on the 8th February. This promises to be a lot of fun for all involved and a great opportunity to promote fitness.

**Christmas dinner**

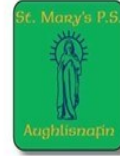
Plates were cleared at our Christmas dinner. Thanks Angeline and Jackie for arranging a lovely day for the kids.

Cathy from Castlewellan Library visited the Primary 4 and 6 pupils to talk about different types of books and to discuss how Libraries arrange different categories and authors.





# Saint Mary's Primary School, Aughlisnafin



"Engaging Hearts, Inspiring Minds, Serving Our Community"

Here at Saint Mary's, we are committed to our local families and provide high quality learning, superb pastoral care and a staff that are willing to go that extra mile for your child. A caring environment with

- High expectations and standards of academic achievement
- A warm, enriching environment where your child is safe, secure and stimulated
- Commitment to ICT, technology and creating pupils ready to achieve in life
- Expert use of academic data to provide our pupils with personalised learning
- Sensory garden and outdoor classroom
- A fine tradition of sporting achievement
- Extended school opportunities



Email the principal at [cmurphy699@c2ken.net](mailto:cmurphy699@c2ken.net)

Visit us online at [www.stmarysaughlisnafin.co.uk](http://www.stmarysaughlisnafin.co.uk) or phone 02843778460

## Kaiden and Adam at St. Louis'

Well done to Kaiden Campbell and Adam Flanagan who achieved second place in a primary school technology competition held in St. Louis' Grammar in Kilkeel. The boys design of 'the Batmobile' combined style and speed. Excellent engineering skills shown boys!

