**Newsletter**

**4th September 2015**

Dear parents, carers, staff and friends,

**Welcome back!**

I hope you all had an enjoyable holiday. It has been lovely to meet so many of you this week. Thank you for the warm welcome to St. Mary’s, I look forward to getting to know you more over the next few weeks.

The children have settled very well with their new teachers and are all very enthusiastic about their new learning. Our class teachers will meet with you during the week of 14th September to talk about the learning that will take place in your child’s new class – so look out for a letter with a date for the meeting next week.

We welcome especially our new Junior Infant children who are settling in beautifully with Ms. Brophy and Ms. McDonnell. I am also glad to welcome Ms. Collins, Ms. Todd, Ms. Kilkenny and Ms. O’Donovan to our staff team for this term and we are delighted to have Claire Shortall back with us after her maternity leave.

We are looking forward to a busy and exciting year of learning!

**Holiday Works**

Much work has been completed on the school site over the holiday and I hope you are delighted as we are with our new entrance gate and wall. It is a big improvement and much safer for our children. We have also had a new roof installed and the toilets in the Hall are also being refurbished. We hope to have these complete in the next few weeks.

**Open Morning**

I would like to invite all parents/carers to an open morning in the Parents’ Room next Thursday, 10th September at 8.50 a.m. This is an opportunity to get to know me and Claire Shortall a bit better as well as find out a little more about the school and the supports that are available to you and your child.

**School Books**

We have several sets of workbooks and textbooks that we are no longer using in school. Many are new and in excellent condition. We would like to offer families the opportunity to buy these books to support their child’s learning at home. We will have a Book Sale in the Hall next Tuesday, 8th September at 8.50 a.m. and again at 2.30 p.m. All books will be sold at a cost of €2, which is a significant saving for families. The money raised will be used to finance new resources across the school.

**Dates for your diary**

8th September – Book Sale

10th September – Open Morning

Week of 14th September – Meeting with your child’s class teacher

12th October – 2nd Class to ‘Fighting Words’ workshop

23rd October – School closes for Mid-Term Holiday

2nd November – School re-opens at 8.50 a.m.

**Attendance and punctuality**

Many thanks to the many parents and carers who brought their children back to school on the right day and in good time. Please remember that school starts promptly at 8.50 a.m. every day. Next week, Junior Infants will continue to finish at 12.00 p.m., Senior Infants at 1.30 p.m. and 1st – 6th Classes at 2.30 p.m.

**Emergency Contact Information**

Please complete the contact information sheet attached and return it to us as soon as possible. It is important that the personal data which the school holds is up to date and correct for the safety of your child(ren). Most importantly we need current mobile phone numbers and medical information. This information should be updated, checked and returned to the school office as soon as possible and no later than Friday 18th September please.

**Book lists**

You will find a copy of your child’s book list attached to this newsletter. Thank you to the many families who have already paid the full €50 for books. If you have not made this payment or have only made a deposit, please call into the school office and see Liz. We are happy to take money in instalments if this is easier for you.

**Website**

Our website has been updated over the summer – please do take a look at [www.stmarysprimarychool.ie](http://www.stmarysprimarychool.ie) . The newsletter will be available there each week and you can use ‘Google Translate’ to read the newsletter in your home language. We also have a brand new Twitter acccount where you can keep up to date with all of our news on your phone or mobile device – follow us!

Have a lovely weekend, hopefully we will see some sunshine!

Éadaoin Kelly

Principal

**Term dates for 2015-2016**

**1st September** Back to School

**26th October**

**– 30th October** Mid-Term Holiday

**2nd November** Back to School

**22nd December** School closes at 12pm

**23rd December**

**– 5th January** Christmas Holiday

**6th January** Back to School

**18th/19th February** Mid-Term Holiday

**20th February** Back to School

**16th March** School closes at 12pm

**17th March**

**– 1st April** Easter Holiday

**4th April** Back to School

**2nd – 6th May** Mid-Term Holiday

**9th May** Back to School

**6th June** Bank Holiday

**30th June** School closes at 12pm