

# ST DAVID'S RC PRIMARY AND ELC SETTING | ROUND UP



St David's Primary School

NEWSLETTER 27<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER 2020 |

## Communication

It's hard to believe we are fast approaching the end of Term 2! It has been a busy time at St David's and we are delighted to share a wide range of updates and achievements in this newsletter.

Our **website** has a significant amount of content. We continue to add relevant and important information for you to view.

We have **now moved to e-communications** using our Groupcall Messaging facility. You can expect to receive updates and communications by email and text message. A handful of families are yet to confirm their email addresses – please contact the school office if you are not yet receiving communications by email.

Please do not **pass on messages or information to teachers or Learning Assistants at the beginning and end of the school day** in the playground. Although this seems like a sensible, quick way to share information, the teachers have a number of duties at these times and are responsible for the safety of pupils and the security of the school. There have been occasions where messages were not passed on/ overlooked and this has caused unnecessary upset. Please contact the school office by phone or email and the team will be happy to help you and ensure your information is shared appropriately. [St-Davids.PS@midlothian.gov.uk](mailto:St-Davids.PS@midlothian.gov.uk) or telephone 0131 271 4675.

## Key Dates

All Midlothian term dates can be found at: [https://www.midlothian.gov.uk/downloads/download/1/school\\_term\\_dates](https://www.midlothian.gov.uk/downloads/download/1/school_term_dates)

### Christmas holidays

- all break Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> December (3pm ELC, 3.15pm for P1-7)
- all resume Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> January

Join us for our Parent Council (virtual) Meeting on Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> December! Hear more about the fantastic work this group of parents do. Information on Parent Council Facebook page.

### Spring 2021

- midterm break Friday 5<sup>th</sup> to Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> February
- all resume 17<sup>th</sup> February
- all break Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> April (3pm ELC, 3.15pm for P1-7)

# Advent

Our Advent plans are well underway and families have received a copy of key dates and events to look forward to. A reminder of some key dates for your diary:

Friday 4<sup>th</sup> December

- P7/6 will decorate the outdoor Christmas tree with Mrs Curle and Miss Young

Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> December

- Wear your Christmas jumper! Payments can now be made on ParentPay to support local charity, Storehouse and our school fund. A huge thank you for the generous donations of Christmas jumpers and t-shirts. These have been quarantined, are currently being laundered and will be quarantined again before being gifted to pupils who require them on the 8<sup>th</sup>!
- Children will receive a small biscuit from the Catering Team in class
- Whole school streaming of Rapunzel from the Brunton Theatre (virtual) – thanks again to the Parent Council who have donated to the Brunton's Emergency Fund

Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> December

- P1-3 Christmas packed lunch – please return your order form if you have not already done so

Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> December

- ELC Christmas lunch - please return your order form if you have not already done so

A reminder that advent candles will not be on sale through the school this year however can be purchased at St David's RC Church up until Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> November.

Our learners are working very hard! We'll finalise and share plans for our Christmas celebrations (slightly different offering to our usual nativity and church service) in the coming weeks!

## REMINDER: Christmas mail

Note that there will be no Christmas mail/ opportunity to share cards this year due to COVID-19 restrictions. **Please support us with this and do not send cards in to school.** Any cards brought in to school will be returned home.

# Thanks

## Wreath making

A huge thanks is extended to St David's Parent Council and Mrs Mitchell (Mum of Millie and Evie) for their assistance in preparing, arranging donations and delivering the vast amount of foliage required to make all 22 wreaths this week!

A particular thanks to:

- **Paul Taylor at Bonnyrigg Flowers for donating spruce**
- **Mrs Mitchell and Dobbies Garden Centre for donating spruce**
- **Paul Taylor at Bonnyrigg Flowers for donating cupressus, cut from his garden**
- **Mrs Mitchell, Millie (P4) and Evie (P1) for foraging for holly and ivy in the local area**
- **Mrs Crolla for assisting with flower contacts**
- **Miss Kelly for coordinating the whole school event**
- **Miss Elden and her family for donating a range of supplies from a local floristry**

**And finally to Mrs Mitchell who worked exceptionally hard in the background to organise, sort and deliver all of the above donations to school! We are so thankful for the community support we continue to receive.**

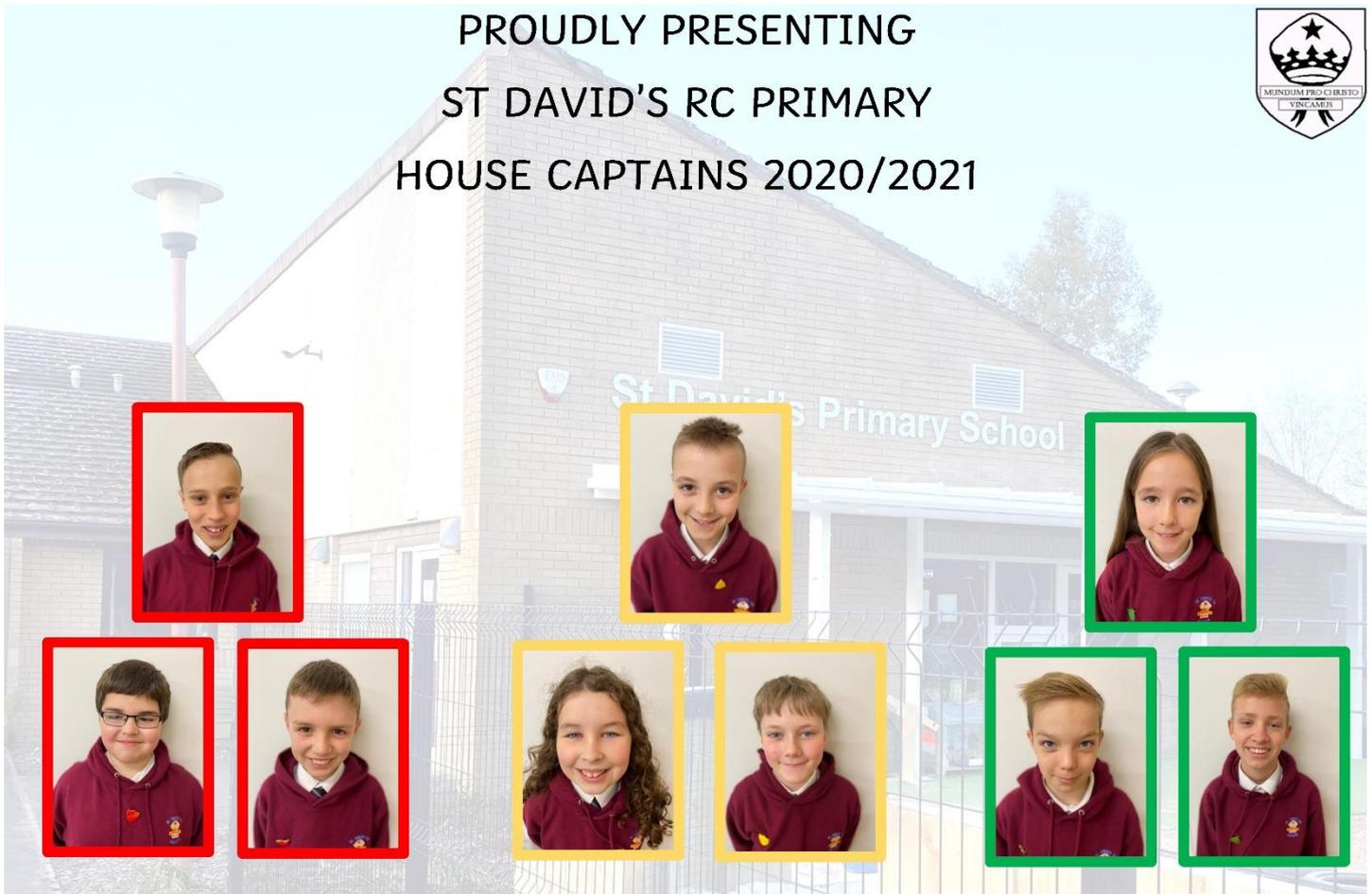
The children will now use their wreaths as part of their RE learning with the others being gifted to local organisations/ people/ services as we focus on the act of giving at Christmas.

## Primary 7 and Storehouse Dalkeith

Well done to Primary 7 who planned, advertised and evaluated our HOME CHARITY dress down day back in October. Our collective efforts resulted in a gigantic £348 being raised! Primary 7 worked closely with Philip Meldrum from Storehouse to meet virtually and understand more about the service they provide to the local community. They then researched and created a huge online order which was delivered to Storehouse this week. Congratulations Primary 7 on a hugely successful and valuable piece of work. Storehouse along with many other local organisations are gearing up for a busy month with Christmas Hampers being prepared and delivered in local communities. Approximately 20 St David's families will benefit from these hampers over the festive period. Thank you to everyone for their generous contributions.

# Achievements

## PROUDLY PRESENTING ST DAVID'S RC PRIMARY HOUSE CAPTAINS 2020/2021



Congratulations to our successful House Captain candidates! This group of children are already working hard to support decision making and improvement! We look forward to seeing them flourish as the year progresses! Well done also to all Primary 7 children who prepared an election speech and put themselves forward for this prestigious role - we were incredibly proud of all their efforts!

### Active Schools

The children in P4-7 were very excited to take part in the first Active Schools Virtual Event for cross country. They all worked exceptionally hard to train and set goals in order to improve their fitness and scores. Although our classes did not place in the Midlothian top 3 results, we have some winners from our hotly contested school wide competition.

#### **Winners of the P3-5 category – P5**

#### **Winners of the P6-7 category – P7/6**

Congratulations to our winners and well done to everyone who took part. It was wonderful to see the children challenging themselves to improve their speed over time!

Thank you to Active Schools and Miss Whyte who worked hard to plan and facilitate this virtual event.

### Poster competition winner

Congratulations to Evie from P1! Evie was one of many children who entered our poster competition to design a poster to help keep us safe in the school grounds. Evie's poster is currently with the printers and will be proudly displayed on all ten fence posts which have been erected in the school grounds. What a fabulous reminder of how to keep everyone safe at pick up and drop off – please follow Evie's guidance closely!

Well done to our House Captains who helped judged the posters and who voted alongside staff to select a winner!

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### Golden returns

Thank you to all families who took the time to complete and return our Golden Envelopes! This really does allow us to get to know your child a little better. We had a fantastic turnout at Learning Conversations this year and appreciate the positive feedback we have received from families. We recognise this is a different approach to the 'norm' of coming into school however we feel these conversations were valuable and focused on reporting of progress and next steps. We saw an increased turnout of families engaging in these conversations this year to what we have seen in the past two years.

As promised, every Golden Return was placed into a draw. The winner is Erin P from Primary 1! Erin will receive her prize next week (currently in quarantine)!

Thanks to all ELC families who have engaged in this process this week. We hope these conversations have been valuable and informative.

### Woodland area

Thanks once again to Mrs Curle, the ELC Team, St David's Parent Council and Guerrilla Gardeners (amongst others) who completed a community clear up of the woodland space next to the former Janitor's house in October. This space is being used daily to support learning - the children are delighted with this space! We are saddened to report an increase in fly tipping and littering in this area. We are working with Midlothian Council to try and erect signs to reduce the likelihood of this happening. You can see the absolute joy this space is for our learners by following us on Twitter @stdavidsprimary.

Congratulations to Mrs Curle and Mr Ross (Grandad of Alexander) who received certificates in recognition of all their hard work to deliver the John Muir Award last session. Mrs Curle continues to link with Mr Ross at this time and Mrs Mitchell is currently supporting with delivery of this very worthwhile award. Our new P5 John Muir Award group are loving the experiences on offer!

Miss Goodwin also entered us into a recent art competition and we won! A £100 voucher for art materials has been gifted to the school and has already been spent to increase our supplies!

Thanks to all who contributed to the recent Rag Bag collection. The bin was so full we had extra deposits! We look forward to hearing how much we have raised for our school fund.

We had a great response to our Christmas card creations this year. £102.50 has been sent to the school to add to our school fund. This will go directly to the children and be used to support learning.

## Pupil Expectations

A St David's Learner is...		
READY	RESPECTFUL	SAFE
is on time and ready for learning	shows care and respect for others and own property	follows the rules and expectations of the school
can talk about learning	shows care and consideration towards others	makes good choices
shares details of learning and next steps using Seesaw	works well with a partner/ small group	reports any problems to an adult
is well prepared for learning with the necessary items e.g. gym kit	uses appropriate language and tone	keeps hands, feet, objects and inappropriate comments to self
listens carefully and follows instructions	demonstrates a positive attitude	understands safe and unsafe choices
has a positive attitude towards learning and gives his/ her best	acts as a positive role model for our school community	treats others fairly

We continue to work to underpin our expectations about a St David's Learner focusing on being 'ready', 'respectful' and 'safe'. These are our core expectations and something we work toward each and every day. In particular, we are working hard to remind the children about expectations about how to remain ready, respectful and safe in the playground and for many of our upper school children, online (particularly on social media). Please continue to support by reminding your child about expectations at school.

## Parent/ Carer Expectations

As you are aware, Midlothian Council remains in Tier 3 following a decision by the Scottish Government earlier in the week. **We require the full support and cooperation of the whole community to help keep everyone safe.** You can read more about the current restrictions on the Midlothian Council website.

Please **arrive to drop/ collect your child at the agreed time (8.30am (ELC)/ 8:50am (P1-7) and 3.00pm (ELC)/ 3:15pm (P1-7).** This is an essential aspect of our risk assessment work to ensure physical distancing can be maintained. A number of families/ pupils are accessing the playground well before these times and this is increasing the risk for everyone. **Physical distancing between adults and between adults and children must be strictly observed at drop off/pick up.** Modelling this to children is essential and we greatly appreciate your support with this. **There should be no opportunity to play/gather before or after school.**

Where pupils are being dropped off in the playground, please ensure this is done by a **single adult.**

Once again, may I thank you for your ongoing support and patience; I do appreciate the challenges and potential frustration caused by the above arrangements but I am sure you understand **these measures are essential to keep everyone safe.** We are continually reviewing these arrangements and will take measures to reduce the number of parents/ carers accessing the playground if necessary.



# Social distancing check list



## Correct



- Stick to the Scottish government guidelines
- Stay 2M apart
- Talk at a safe distance
- Stay 2M apart when dropping off and collecting your children
- Only one parent per family (where possible)

## Wrong



- Do not gather in groups of more than 6
- Avoid any contact
- No more than one parent per family (where possible)
- Leave the school grounds as quickly as possible

## Learning from recent COVID-19 Positive Case

Thank you to everyone for your understanding and compassion following a recent positive COVID-19 case at St David's. We were grateful to all families of close contacts who responded so swiftly to the information shared with them. Thank you for your support to assist with in-home learning during this self-isolation period. We look forward to welcoming the children back to school on Monday 30<sup>th</sup> November and staff are preparing to support your child with this transition.

We pray that the family impacted make a speedy recovery and return to full health.

Thank you to the Health Protection Team from NHS Lothian and the staff team for ensuring a quick response to this situation. The robust risk assessments and procedures we have in place allowed us to rapidly identify and isolate the number of close contacts as a result. We are grateful for the relentless hard work and commitment our staff are showing to keep everyone safe.

We ask that all families respect individuals privacy and confidentiality around such sensitive matters and refrain from speculating about such situations.

## Parking

Thank you to everyone who participated in our survey following a successful parking trial. Representatives from the Transport Team along with Mrs McPherson and Mrs Noade met to review the feedback and necessary improvements to take this forward. There are a number of recommendations which have been presented to the local authority and will be shared at the next Parent Council meeting.

The start and end of the school day are busy times on the streets surrounding the school. May we ask that you continue to park as far away as possible and walk in to drop/collect your child; thank you to those that park responsibly. Please do not park on grass verges around the school or in resident bays. If you do happen to witness **dangerous driving or parking**, please contact Police Scotland on 101 or if urgent 999. Thank you to Police Scotland who supported us with pick up and drop off last week. They will continue to work with school, Midlothian Council and the Parent Council to monitor and improve the situation.

## Staffing update

Mrs Wales has now returned from her Maternity Leave and works on a Wednesday, Thursday and Friday. She is working closely with the ELC and P1 team to support improvement and provide Support for Learning. Mrs Henderson continues in her role as acting Depute Leader of Learning.

Mrs Aitchison has taken the decision to take a short break from teaching to focus on other ventures. We thank her for her contribution and wish her well as she begins her career break from Monday 30<sup>th</sup> November. Mrs Aitchison plans to return later in to session of 2020/2021. Mrs McKay will now take the lead role of Support for Learning for P2-P7. Mrs Aitchison and Mrs McKay have worked very closely for the past two years and a smooth handover has already been completed.

Mrs Curle has increased her hours to full time. She is now facilitating a number of interventions to support and extend learning across the school. Mrs Curle has a keen interest in the outdoors and is creating quality, planned experiences for a wide range of her learners through this newly created PEF role.

Miss Resta was the successful candidate in our recent recruitment of an acting Childcare Development Worker. Miss Resta is already well underway in her new role and focusing on literacy and numeracy across the school. This PEF funded role is looking at improving basic facts (numeracy) and accurate spelling of common words – both are key skills the children need to develop and are a core part of how we are closing the gap and working to raise attainment.

Miss Gall and Mrs Singh continue to support us on a temporary basis as Supply Learning Assistants. This is allowing the Support for Learning team to provide additional supports across classes. We currently have a live advert for a temporary Learning Assistant who we hope to appoint before the Christmas break.

We welcome Miss Emma Prior to the teaching staff who will provide class cover for P2, P3 and P4 on a Monday and Tuesday. Miss Prior has worked in a number of schools across Midlothian and looks forward to joining the staff team.

Please continue to support us in keeping our staff safe. Please do not approach staff in the playground and respect the 2 metre physical distancing rule. You can contact any member of the staff team via the school office [St-Davids.PS@midlothian.gov.uk](mailto:St-Davids.PS@midlothian.gov.uk).

## Reminders

Please be reminded that there are **no dogs (or animals) permitted on** school grounds at any given time. This includes dogs on leads, in arms, in handbags or in pet carriers. This is a council wide policy.

A reminder that **PE kits** and **indoor shoes** are not required at this time but outdoor trainers and appropriate clothing for wet weather are required. We will inform you when this arrangement changes.

Primary 7 are looking very smart in their **hoodies!** A huge thanks to the Parent Council for ordering and purchasing these for our children. A reminder that full uniform should be worn underneath these and the children should have a separate coat for outside. Wearing a P7 hoodie is a privilege. It is not acceptable for the children to wear them with their hoods up and may be asked to remove them if they are not representing their school to the highest of standards.

Everyone loves a birthday and we like to hear about how you and your family celebrate. Unfortunately **we are unable to accept any cakes** (whether homemade or shop bought) to give out to pupils. Please refrain from sending individually wrapped treats (e.g. Haribo) at this time to support with our infection control measures.

There is much evidence to suggest that **drinking plenty water** throughout the day helps you think! The children are welcome to bring in water (not juice) to school each day to drink in the classroom. Bottles must be taken home at the end of each day and must be clearly labelled. We ask that your child comes to school with a full bottle of water. If they run out of water we will of course ensure they can refill their bottles.

Please remember to telephone (0131 271 4675) or email ([St-Davids.PS@midlothian.gov.uk](mailto:St-Davids.PS@midlothian.gov.uk)) the school office if your child is going to be **late/ absent**. This information should be given to the school office rather than the class teacher, head teacher or a Learning Assistant. You will note that a new text service is being implemented to contact you if your child is absent from school. This is reducing the amount of time being spent on contacting and collating this information. Thank you for your prompt responses.

Thank you for not bringing in toys (including cards and books) or stationery from home. We have plenty of resources in school and this is supporting our **infection control** risk assessments.

All **smart devices** including phones, tables and watches must be handed in for safekeeping at the start of the school day.

## Meals

We understand that all pupils from P1-7 who are in receipt of Free School Meals and Clothing Grants will receive BACS payments over the festive period. You need not action anything for this and can expect the payments to be deposited in to your nominated bank account.

You can still apply for Free School Meals and Clothing Grants through Midlothian Council. They have had an influx of applications and are currently assessing these in phases  
[https://www.midlothian.gov.uk/info/855/school\\_meals/117/free\\_school\\_meals\\_and\\_clothing\\_grants](https://www.midlothian.gov.uk/info/855/school_meals/117/free_school_meals_and_clothing_grants).

We may also be able to apply for grants and other supports through our partners to purchase uniform. Please contact us directly if you think you need support with this.

# Severe allergies

We have a number of children with **severe and life threatening allergies** in school. In particular, a number of children have nut allergies who could have a severe allergic reaction, causing anaphylaxis, a sudden life threatening allergic reaction. This reaction could be from ingesting (eating) or being in an environment where nuts are present (airborne). This could result in the child:

- feeling lightheaded or faint
- having breathing difficulties
- developing a fast heartbeat
- swelling of the tongue
- becoming confused and highly anxious
- collapsing or losing consciousness.

We work in partnership with the Severe Allergies Nurses, our NHS partners and parents/ carers to create robust health care plans and hold emergency medication in school. We do however require the full cooperation of the whole school community to minimise the risk of a life threatening, allergic reaction.

We therefore request that all families are exceptionally careful when selecting and packing snacks and packed lunches for their child(ren). We ask **that all products containing nuts or traces of nuts are avoided** to help keep our children safe and healthy in school. We have summarised some less obvious snacks/ items we see in school bags/ packed lunches which may contain traces of nuts.

 <p>Kinder and Nutella products/ snacks</p>	 <p>Chocolate spread or peanut butter sandwiches</p>	 <p>Chocolate crepes</p>
 <p>Granola/ cereal bars which include nuts</p>	 <p>Snickers products</p>	 <p>Nuts/ trail mixes</p>

We thank you for your cooperation and support in keeping our school a safe and healthy environment for all learners.

**Domestic abuse** is any form of physical, sexual, mental or emotional abuse and takes place within the context of a relationship, either current or past.

If you, or anyone else you know, is experiencing any of the above, or being intimidated or threatened by a current or previous partner, it is Domestic Abuse.

Don't delay in seeking help during the current coronavirus restrictions. Call the 24-hour Domestic Abuse Helpline in confidence on 0800 027 1234 or visit [safer.scot](https://www.safer.scot.nhs.uk). Domestic abuse is a crime. Contact the Police via 101 to report it or 999 in an emergency.

Police Scotland website – [www.scotland.police.uk](https://www.scotland.police.uk) [#every 9 minutes](https://twitter.com/every9minutes)

We all have a **duty to protect children**, whether we are professionals or private individuals.

If you think a child is being or is at risk of being abused or neglected, speak to:

- Social Care Direct by calling 0131 200 2324
- the Police by calling 101 or in an emergency 999;
- a member of staff at school;
- any Health Professional.

## Primary 1 Registration

Online registration is now open for all pupils who are eligible to join Primary 1 in August 2021. Please note you should still complete an online registration form even if you plan to defer your child. You can access the link at:

<https://www.midlothian.gov.uk/schoolplace>

You will need to have your supporting documents to hand to upload as part of this process.

If you have any questions about this process, please contact the school office on 0131 271 4675 or email [St-Davids.PS@midlothian.gov.uk](mailto:St-Davids.PS@midlothian.gov.uk)

### **Primary 7 families (moving into S1)**

You will automatically receive confirmation of your child's catchment secondary school by the end of November if your child is:

- in Primary 7
- living in Midlothian
- attending a Midlothian primary school.

You need do nothing else if you want your child to attend the catchment secondary school.

A number of transition events are currently being planned for Primary 7. The school is in regular contact with St David's High School and information is already being shared about learner's needs and requirements ahead of S1. Further information will follow in due course.

In addition to the transition programme run by St David's High, we are excited to be finalising a bespoke transition programme for our Primary 7 children with Youth Workers from the Communities and Lifelong Learning team. Information will follow in the coming days about how this programme will run and the many achievements your child will have between now and beginning high school.

**St David's RC Primary and ELC Setting**  
Enabling all to flourish



Website:  
<https://stdavidsp.s.mgfl.net/>



Contact:  
[@stdavidprimary](https://twitter.com/stdavidprimary)



Email address:  
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