



St Mary's RC Primary

Newsletter 1

August 2022



On behalf of all the staff I would like to extend a warm welcome back to our children and families and a warm welcome to our new pupils, not just in P1 but across all classes. It has been lovely to see how quickly everyone has settled back into school. We also welcome our new members of staff – Miss Katie McCaskey in P3, Ms Gaynor Graham to the School Office and Ms Kat Murray in our Nursery.

This newsletter is just a short one to provide you with some key dates for this term and a few key messages. Please add dates to your own calendars and look out for further information coming home via the school bookbags. A fuller calendar of dates will be issued in the next few weeks. All letters and communications are also posted on the school website, and from time to time we will contact you via groupcall text to your mobile phones. Please note **ANNUAL UPDATES** and other forms have been sent home today – these **MUST be returned by 31st August** including flu vaccination consent.

We look forward to welcoming our parents and carers into the playground and school this year as we ease out of the Covid restrictions.

Mrs Liz Laird - Headteacher

DROP OFF AND PICK UP FROM SCHOOL

Please ensure your child has everything they need for school each day – this includes a **waterproof jacket** as they will be outside in light rain. Drop off will continue to be at the school gate with children lining up in their classes. Please be on time for going in with the class at 9am.

P1 & P2 will continue to be let out 5 minutes ahead of the rest of the school to ensure a safe handover to parents in the playground. From today we welcome any other parents who wish to, to come into the playground to wait at the top end nearest the MUGA until the P1 & P2 classes have been collected. You can then come forward to collect your child as they are dismissed. Pupils are advised to wait with a member of staff if they don't see their adult or to go to the school office if uncollected. I am usually in the playground until all pupils are collected.

A FEW KEY MESSAGES

*****CHILDREN WHO ARE ABSENT FROM SCHOOL*****

0131 271 4690

If your child is absent from school – including Nursery - for whatever reason it is **your** responsibility to inform the school. The school answering service is available for early morning calls, and if possible please phone the school before 9am to report a pupil absence. **Please state clearly the name of the child, which class, and the reason for absence. Please also collect your children promptly and telephone the school if you are running late.**

If your child is not at school and we have not had a phone call from you, our Child Protection Procedures are followed to ensure your child is safe. Please ensure that the school has up to date contact details especially if your mobile phone is the main mode of contact. The SMS Text service will be used in the first instance to make contact with you. Where parents cannot be contacted and fail to return calls I have to inform the Children and Families Team.

Please remember that we only make a call like this because you have not phoned the school in the first instance, and to ensure that your child is safe. Please be courteous to staff when this happens as we are only doing our jobs and acting in the best interests of your child.

Please also try to ensure that your child is on time for school at 9am. Your child misses important information at the start of the day and it is disruptive to the class and embarrassing for them.



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Please provide your child with a water bottle for school. One small, healthy snack is all that is required for playtime.	Packed lunches should not include nuts or products containing nuts as we have a number of children in school with severe nut allergies. No fizzy drinks please.
Please provide a PE kit in a suitable named bag to be kept in school – a plain tee shirt (no football colours), shorts or joggers and plimsolls or soft trainers for use in the hall. We will return to changing for PE and P3-P7 will start using the changing rooms upstairs.	Pupils should not wear jewellery to school and certainly not on PE days. Earrings that can't be removed will be taped over. All pupils are expected to participate in 2 hours of quality PE each week unless there is a medical reason.
The school will provide all resources needed in class. Please keep pen and pencil sets at home.	Pupils are not permitted to use their phones during the school day and they should be handed in to the teacher in class in the morning.
Please note dogs are not permitted on school grounds. Please keep dogs away from the gates and leave space for people to walk around them – some people are very nervous around dogs and some dogs are very nervous in crowds of people.	Please only use the car park if there is space to do so – don't double park or use the disabled spaces as a turning point. We have a number of children, parents and carers who need to use these spaces.
Please use the pelican crossing to cross over Rosewell Road. We have had a few near misses and we don't want any of our children to be hurt on the road.	DROP OFF AND POP OFF is the message for the Drop Off Point on Rosewell Road. Please allow other parents to use the space once you have dropped your child off.

KEY DATES – SEE ATTACHED LIST OF SCHOOL TERM DATES	
29 TH AUG – 9 SEPTEMBER	HEALTH FORTNIGHT - look out for more information coming home
12 TH SEPTEMBER – 23 RD SEPTEMBER	OUR ST MARY'S - a celebration of the diverse make up of our Learning Community – look out for more information coming home
20 SEPTEMBER – 7 TH SEPTEMBER	LAUDATO SI – ECO THEME look out for more information coming home
10 – 14 TH OCTOBER	ROAD SAFETY WEEK – PARKSMART
WED 12 TH OCTOBER	Parental Consultations 5.30-8.30pm
THURS 13 TH OCTOBER	Parental Consultations 3.45-5.45pm

I can **CARE** for myself, other people and our school.
 I show **COURTESY** and good manners.
 I show **CONCERN** by respecting people's rights and feelings.
COOPERATION is important to me when I work with others
 I use my **COMMUNICATION** skills to work things out and build friendships.

