



# St Mary's RC Primary

## Newsletter 6

### January 2024



Happy New Year and Happy Burns' Day on Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> January. We will celebrate Robert Burns' Birthday with activities in class and some Scottish treats for the children! The children are invited to wear something tartan on Thursday (if they have it) but don't worry if they don't!

It has been a busy start to the year and Mrs Choat and I have been spending time in all classes enjoying the lessons with the children, who have returned from the Christmas break eager to learn.

Thank you to everyone who donated food for the food bank before Christmas, and for your terrific support of the Christmas Fair which raised over £2000 on the night. Your kindness and generosity is much appreciated. As we hunker down for some stormy weather let's continue to keep in mind those who might not be warm or fed, and support where we can in 2024.

Mrs Liz Laird - Headteacher

#### STAFFING UPDATE

This term we have welcomed Mrs Karen Reynolds to the Nursery to replace Mrs Lavery who finished with us at Christmas. We will welcome Ms Jayne Scott on 5<sup>th</sup> February to replace Mrs MacDonald. We also welcomed Mrs Melissa Archibald on a part time basis teaching our second level classes. Mrs Archibald takes on some of the teaching duties Mrs Choat had before Christmas and fills our last vacancy for teachers.

We are delighted to share the news that Mrs McCaskey is pregnant and looking forward to welcoming her first baby at the end of April. We will begin the recruitment process to cover her Maternity leave this week.

#### REPORTING PUPIL ABSENCE – 0131 271 4690 – leave a message on the answering machine.

**It is your responsibility to contact the school to report pupil absence. Please state clearly the name of your child, class and reason for absence. Please don't just say "unwell" – we need to know why they are unwell so that we can inform children and staff who may be affected more by infectious diseases and for monitoring purposes.**

**We have an increase in the number of pupils arriving late for school. If you are a few minutes late for school please still use the rear playground entrance as the classes will still be coming into the school and the gates are not locked. The office staff have a lot to do first thing in the morning and they are constantly interrupted to answer the door to latecomers.**

#### A FEW POLITE REMINDERS – HEALTH AND WELL BEING

Mr Collins teaches every class PE every week and the class teachers provide another lesson. This is to fulfill the promise of 2 hours of PE for all Midlothian pupils every week. Please help us to deliver this important part of the Curriculum by ensuring your child has a change of PE kit in school. We teach the children about the importance of exercise and personal hygiene for their wellbeing, but every week we have high numbers of pupils without a PE kit. We can provide kit from lost property which naturally the children don't like wearing – a plain tee shirt, shorts, joggers or leggings and suitable shoes is all that is required.

We also encourage the children to keep hydrated throughout the day. Water and milk are the only drinks permitted in school during the day – we have increasing numbers of children bringing juice in their bottles. This is a problem in school as then everyone wants to do the same. Pure fruit juice has a high natural sugar content which is bad for the enamel on teeth when sipped through a bottle. Diluting juice contains many additives and artificial sweeteners. Please change this to water only and help us to promote a healthy lifestyle. Fizzy drinks and caffeine drinks will be returned home to you. Caffeine drinks are not recommended for children. We have many plastic re-useable bottles in school and the children have ready access to chilled water throughout the day.



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#### **DIGITAL DEVICES**

We have increasing numbers of pupils arriving to school without their digital device or without it being charged. Please help us to deliver this important part of the curriculum, by checking at home if it needs charging, providing a bag big enough to carry it in, and ensure the charging cable comes into school too.

#### **PARKING**

Please don't park behind the disabled and EV spaces in the car park – it makes it really difficult to get in and out of the spaces. Please turn your engine off while waiting for your child to come out – the statistics for childhood asthma are on the increase so let's everyone do their part to keep our air as clean as possible please.

KEY DATES	
THURSDAY 25 <sup>TH</sup> JANUARY	BURNS' DAY – WEAR SOMETHING TARTAN IF YOU HAVE IT
FRIDAY 26 <sup>TH</sup> JANUARY	11AM BREW AND BLETHER GROUP WITH MRS NISBET – SFL TEACHER
WEDNESDAY 31 <sup>ST</sup> JANUARY	P6 AND P7 RUGBY TASTER SESSIONS
MONDAY 5 <sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY	P2 AND P3 DRUMMING WORKSHOPS
WEDNESDAY 7 <sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY	VISIT 2 – QUALITY ASSURANCE TEAM FROM MIDLOTHIAN COUNCIL VISITING SCHOOL
	P6 AND P7 RUGBY TASTER SESSIONS
MONDAY 12 <sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY – FRIDAY 16 <sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY	SCHOOL CLOSED TO ALL PUPILS – FEBRUARY HOLIDAY ASH WEDNESDAY 14 <sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY
MONDAY 19 <sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY	SCHOOL RE-OPENS TO ALL PUPILS
WEDNESDAY 21 FEBRUARY	P6 AND P7 RUGBY TASTER SESSIONS
WEDNESDAY 28 <sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY	P6 AND P7 RUGBY TASTER SESSIONS
TUESDAY 5 <sup>TH</sup> MARCH	PARENTS MEETING FOR FIRST HOLY COMMUNION 7PM – OUR LADY OF CONSOLATION CHURCH HALL
WEDNESDAY 6 <sup>TH</sup> MARCH	P7 BASKETBALL FESTIVAL PARENT COUNCIL MEETING 7PM
THURSDAY 7 <sup>TH</sup> MARCH	WORLD BOOK DAY
FRIDAY 15 <sup>TH</sup> MARCH	RED NOSE DAY – MORE INFO TO FOLLOW
WEDNESDAY 20 <sup>TH</sup> MARCH	PARENTAL CONSULTATIONS 3:45-5:45PM
THURSDAY 21 <sup>ST</sup> MARCH	PARENTAL CONSULTATIONS 5:30-8:30PM
MONDAY 25 <sup>TH</sup> MARCH	P2 & P3 DRUMMING WORKSHOPS START OF HOLY WEEK
THURSDAY 28 <sup>TH</sup> MARCH	EASTER ASSEMBLY 2.30PM – PARENTS WELCOME SCHOOL CLOSING FOR EASTER BREAK 3:30PM
FRIDAY 29 <sup>TH</sup> MARCH – MONDAY 15 <sup>TH</sup> APRIL	SCHOOL CLOSED TO ALL PUPILS – EASTER BREAK
TUESDAY 16 <sup>TH</sup> APRIL	SCHOOL RE-OPENS TO ALL PUPILS