



# St Matthew's RC Primary



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27<sup>th</sup> October 2023

Dear Parents/Carers,

Many thanks to all the families who supported our 'Show Racism the Red Card' Day today. It was great to see so many of our learners taking part and working together to talk about and combat racism.



Our learners have spent some time developing an understanding of colour theory today too, while they worked (with great determination and bucket loads of resilience!!) to create paint that represented their skin colour using only red, blue, yellow and white. All learners and staff will create a self-portrait using their newly-created skin-colour paint, which we are excited to share with you when it is completed!



It will become our welcome display to the school so be sure to look out for it when you come to parents evening on the 16<sup>th</sup> November.

Mrs Cran

## School Updates

### **Hallowe'en Disco**

The parents organising the Halloween party on Saturday have requested that food donations are made/brought along on the evening of the party to ensure that there are some snacks for all our children and families to enjoy. We would kindly ask that you consider possible allergens within the food you choose to add (e.g. nuts). Also if your child has carved a pumpkin, please bring it along and leave it at the front door ( ideally lit up with a battery candle or similar) If there are enough on the night, they will do a prize for the best one.

### **School Halloween Party**

Please note – we will also be doing a smaller Halloween Disco in school on **Tuesday 31<sup>st</sup> October**, 2pm – 3pm. The children **can** come to school dressed up for the day but please try to keep the spook factor to a minimum to avoid the teachers (and some of our learners) getting too scared. If your child has a mask as part of the costume, they will not be permitted to wear this during learning time, and only during the disco itself.

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### **P7 Numeracy Event @ SDHS**

The P7s are going for a Numeracy event at St David's High School on Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> November 2023. Pupils will be back at St Matthew's for approximately 1.30 pm. Due to the timings of this event, please arrange for all pupils to have a packed lunch, drink and snack to take with them.

### **Speech & Language Family Information Workshops**

The next family information workshop will be on Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> November, 11am - 12noon at Newbattle Medical Practice. We have attached a leaflet for information.

### **Parents Meeting for Sacrament of Reconciliation**

There will be a meeting for parents about this Sacrament on Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> November in Our Lady Church Hall, Bonnyrigg at 7pm.

### **Individual Photographs**

Tempest Photography company will be coming in on **Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> November** to take individual and family group photographs, please could we ask that all pupils come to school in school uniform this day and bring their PE kit with them to change into.

### **Parent Consultations**

Letters have recently been issued to all pupils. Please ensure you return the Parent's Evening slip with your preferred time slot for **Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> November**. The options are 3:30-5:30pm or 6:30-8:30pm.

### **Flu Vaccination**

Nasal flu vaccines will be given to the children on **Friday 17<sup>th</sup> November**. All pupils who have previously returned the permission form will receive this vaccination.

### **Appropriate Clothing**

It is imperative that the children come to school wearing jackets – ideally with hoods. As the weather turns colder, we might find ourselves in the difficult position of having to decide whether a child is dressed warmly enough to go outside. As children have the right to fresh air and the opportunity to exercise, we endeavour to send the children outside as much as possible, including when it is raining lightly. If the weather conditions are adverse or dangerous, we ensure the children enjoy their break time indoors, but would greatly appreciate clothing that suits the coldest weather, to ensure they get a break outside to prepare them for learning across the day

### **St David's High School Open Evening**

St David's High School are holding an open evening for this year's P6/7s to attend with their families on **8<sup>th</sup> November, 6-8pm**. This will be an opportunity for the children to have a tour around the school and hear from some of their new teachers. You do not need to sign up, but simply go along on the night.

### **Cross-Stitch Club**

Reminder cross stitching club is running every Tuesday after school at 15:15-16:15. Our last session will be on the 28<sup>th</sup> of November (please note we will not be running the club Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> Oct as this is a holiday).

### **Pantomime**

We have a few outstanding payments for our trip to see the Pantomime production of "**Peter Pan**" on Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> December. The cost per pupil for this excursion is **£18.00** which covers the price of tickets and the coach. Please could we have these in asap. If you have any concerns – please contact Mrs Golder in the office. Please could all payment be made through Parent Pay



### **P3-5 Swimming**

Please remember swimming every Friday morning. Children should come to school in their uniforms (except on dress down days), and bring their swimming kit and towel with them in a separate bag.

## PE Kit

PE this year will be taught on a **Monday** and **Wednesday**. Children should come to school wearing their PE kits as it ensures that children do not need to use their PE time to get changed twice.

Please be reminded that no clothing associated with football clubs should be worn to school, during PE or when representing the school in the locality. Pupils should wear white T shirts / shorts/ trainers/tracksuit bottoms for PE, a St Matthew's Hoodie or Jumper may be required all year round.

## P7 Camp at Manor Adventure

For any of the P7s that have booked a space on the St David's ASG camp at Lockerbie Manor, please note that the next payment for this payment is due today, 27<sup>th</sup> October 2023. Payments can be made on parent pay.

## Breakfast Club & Morning Arrival

We offer a breakfast club to all pupils at a cost of 50p per day – payments via **parent pay** (free to pupils entitled to free school meals). Pupils are invited to join in various games & art activities and given a healthy breakfast. The club runs between 8.30 am and 8.50 am - due to staffing we cannot allow children into the school prior to **8.30 am**. No booking necessary.

Please could we remind parents that the playground is unsupervised in the mornings and the doors do not open until 8.50 am. Due to safety reasons we ask that pupils are not left unattended in the playground early in the mornings.

## Nut-Free Snacks

Due to severe nut allergies at our school, please do not send your child to school with snacks or lunch items containing nuts. This includes, but is not limited to, Kinder Buenos, Nutella, Daim bars and peanut butter. Please note that any snacks with nuts in them will be sent home with the child. We very much encourage healthy snacks such as fruit.



## Parking

If you absolutely need to drop your child to school or collect them using your car, please ensure you park inside the Whitehill grounds and avoid parking on the roadside, particularly either side of the entrance/exit of the football grounds. When parking on the roadside outside the grounds, visibility can be affected for cars entering and exiting the stadium grounds, which could lead to an accident.

Our JRSOs continuing to put cones out every day to encourage and guide safe parking and as always we are grateful and appreciative of these cones being adhered to. Thank you for your continued support on this matter.

## Medication

If your child requires any medication (including inhalers, 2 required to be held in school) while at school, please ensure that you have completed the relevant medication form. These are available from Mrs Golder at the school office.

As per our administration of medication policy, we cannot administer this medication without parental consent and permission forms need to be completed by parents prior to us administering any medication. Please also ensure all medication sent to school is in date and includes the dispensing label from the pharmacy if a prescribed medication.

## Class Updates

### P1-3

This week in P1-3, we have been celebrating Black History Month and also learning about the Show Racism the Red Card campaign. We've learned about Rosa Parks, historical segregation, and the science of why people have different coloured skin. On Friday, we mixed paint to make our own skin colour. In PE, we played The Witches Cauldron which developed our skills of underarm throwing, catching, defending, and hand-eye coordination. We had so much fun! Check out our video on See-saw to see us in action. We've also been enjoying lots of Halloween themed activities in our phonics and numeracy lessons. We were so lucky to be visited by Mrs Hanley and her robot called Indi on Thursday - we learned how to programme the robot to make it turn, dance, go, and stop in a sequence. Next week, we will be creating witches potions and writing

out the instructions, continuing to build our knowledge of number structures and place value, and focussing on the story Amazing Grace.



### P3-5

This week in Literacy we started a new text study based on "I Was There: Viking Invasion" by Stuart Hill. We have learned about timelines, and where Vikings fit on a historical timeline. We also created our own timelines, by selecting the most important events of our lives so far. The main character in the book is a Saxon, so we have also researched who the Saxons were.

In Numeracy we have been learning about multiplication. Some groups have been learning new times tables, and strategies for learning them, and others have been consolidating the tables that they already know. The class are enjoying using Times Tables Rock Stars to help them to learn their tables.

As autumn has arrived, we created some autumn silhouette art. We used stencils of autumnal things, such as pumpkins, leaves and hedgehogs, and painted around them with sponges.



### P5-7

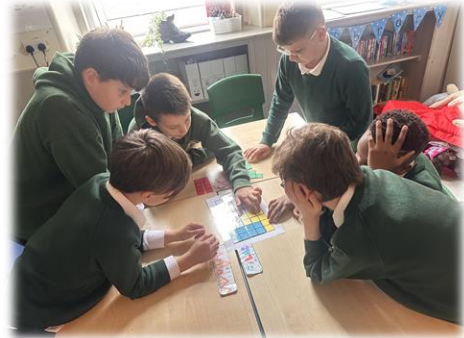
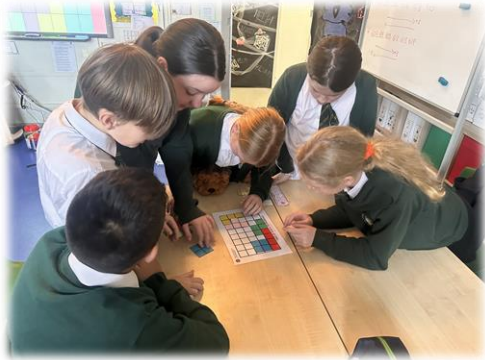
In literacy have started our film study looking at WALL-E. This film has loads of great opportunities for comprehension: with neither of the main characters speaking a lot, it gives a lot of opportunity for inference, or 'reading between the lines'. It also has strong links with sustainability which is something we will be exploring this term through our topic. This week we have written a description of what the year 2800 will look like. We have also worked on our inference skills by looking at pictures and making inferences about the people in them.

In numeracy we have continued looking at patterns and relationships and basic facts. Some groups have been looking at sequences counting in different amounts, reading and following a rule creating different number patterns. From our basic fact assessments most of us found multiplying numbers by 10, 100 and 1000 tricky so we have been working on that and extending this by multiplying single digits by multiples of 10, 100 and 1000.



This week in PE we have started working on fitness through circuit training. We also had our first two groups leading a lunchtime playground games club with the P1-3s and P3-5s, everyone had a great time and said it was really fun.

We have been super lucky this week to have 2 different visitors for Midlothian STEM month. On Monday we had Will, a mathematician from the University of Edinburgh doing super tetris challenges with us. Then on Thursday we had Mrs Hanley who brought in some Sphero Indis robots. We had to do a lot of problem solving and work in teams to figure out what all the different colours did to the robot and then make different paths for it to go along.



### The Snug

This week we have been continuing with our phonics and blending learning. Some of us have continued our RWI activity booklets. As part of our food hygiene learning for this term, we learned that it was important to wash our hands before preparing any food and have written instructions on how to wash our hands properly.

We have been recapping our sequencing learning from before the holidays and have started our new money learning this week too. We were counting our amounts of money using pennies.



We have had lots of fun this week with the Sphero Indi workshop that we attended. It was also a little taster of our maths learning of transformation later in this term as we used language such as forwards, backwards, left and right to complete the task. We have also started our new 'my village' topic about Rosewell and have been reinforcing the name of the village that we stay this week.

Kind regards,

Síobhra Cran  
Acting Headteacher

### Dates For Your Diary

**\*Please note these are subject to change\***

#### **October:**

- Fri 27<sup>th</sup> October – Final Day for Christmas Card Orders
- Fri 27<sup>th</sup> October – P3-5 Swimming
- Fri 27<sup>th</sup> October – Dress Down Day – Show Racism the Red Card – All to wear red

- Fri 27<sup>th</sup> October – Rag Bag Collection
- Sat 28<sup>th</sup> October – P3 Enrolment Mass for Sacrament of Reconciliation @ 6pm – St Matthew's RC Church
- Sat 28<sup>th</sup> October - Halloween Party 7.00 pm – 9.00 pm
- Mon 30<sup>th</sup> October – P1 & P7 Dental Inspections
- Mon 30<sup>th</sup> October – P7 Enhanced Transition – Group 1
- Tue 31<sup>st</sup> October – School Halloween Party

**November:**

- Fri 3<sup>rd</sup> November – Coffee and Chat – virtual @ 9.30am
- Fri 3<sup>rd</sup> November – P3-5 Swimming
- Mon 6<sup>th</sup> November – P7 Enhanced Transition – Group 1
- Tue 7<sup>th</sup> November – P7 Numeracy Event @ SDHS 9.00 am
- Wed 8<sup>th</sup> November – P6/7 Open Evening @ SDHS times TBC
- Fri 10<sup>th</sup> November – P3-5 Swimming
- Mon 13<sup>th</sup> – 17<sup>th</sup> November- Scottish Book Week
- Mon 13<sup>th</sup> – 17<sup>th</sup> November- Catholic Education Week
- Mon 13<sup>th</sup> – 17<sup>th</sup> November- Anti-Bullying Week
- Mon 13<sup>th</sup> November – P7 Enhanced Transition – Group 2
- Tues 14<sup>th</sup> November – Sacrament of Reconciliation Parents Meeting – 7pm @ Our Lady Church Hall, Bonnyrigg
- Wed 15<sup>th</sup> November – Individual Photographs
- Thurs 16<sup>th</sup> November - Parent Consultations
- Fri 17<sup>th</sup> November – Flu Vaccination Programme in School
- Fri 17<sup>th</sup> November – P3-5 Swimming
- Mon 20<sup>th</sup> November – Fri 24<sup>th</sup> November – Road Safety Week
- Mon 20<sup>th</sup> November – P7 Enhanced Transition – Group 2
- Fri 24<sup>th</sup> November – Dress Down Day
- Fri 24<sup>th</sup> November – P3-5 Assembly – parents welcome @ 11.30
- Mon 27<sup>th</sup> November – P7 Enhanced Transition – Group 3

**December:**

- Mon 4<sup>th</sup> December – P7 Enhanced Transition – Group 3
- Weds 6<sup>th</sup> December – Pantomime at Festival Theatre
- Sat 9<sup>th</sup> December – Christmas Party – St Matthew's Church Hall – 6.00 pm – 8.00 pm
- Mon 11<sup>th</sup> December – Fluoride Varnish
- Fri 15<sup>th</sup> December – St David's High School maths teacher visit to P7
- Sun 17<sup>th</sup> December – Sacrament of Reconciliation P4's 5pm – St Matthew's RC Church
- Fri 22<sup>nd</sup> December - Christmas holidays - school closes 12.25pm

**January:**

- Tues 9<sup>th</sup> January – New term starts for pupils

**Term Time Days of Obligation – whole school mass**

- Wed 1<sup>st</sup> Nov – All Saints Day
- Fri 8<sup>th</sup> December – Feast of the Immaculate Conception
- Thurs 9<sup>th</sup> May – Feast of the Ascension