

St. Mary's Primary School
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Head Teacher:
Depute Head:
Depute Head:

Mrs M Guthrie
Mrs H Nelis
Miss J Crombie



Newsletter Week Beginning 14 September 2015

Dear Parent

Thank you for responding to our parent afternoon/evening appointment request for the 29th September and 8th October 2015. If you have not made contact about an appointment please do so as soon as possible. We look forward to talking to you about your child's progress and achievement on these evenings. Please remember that you are also invited to share learning with us on Friday 18th September at 2.30pm. This is a welcome meeting. It might be the first time that you have been in your child's school or class. You may not have met the teacher yet. We would like you to take the opportunity to visit the class and let your child show you around. Please ask them some questions about their learning and about how they learn in school. We will have some question prompts available in the class to help you. Your children will keep you very busy I am sure. We want you to feel welcome but we are conscious that parents and children in the class could be very busy. We would like **one** family member for each child at a time in the class, so that it is safe and comfortable. We know you may have several children in school so we are happy if you only spend 5 or 10 minutes in each class. We are trying to encourage the children to talk about learning and to have ownership of their learning, to know what they are learning and to know about their learning environment, who helps them and works with them. They are encouraged to appreciate their whole school community, children, support staff, catering staff, cleaning staff, clerical staff, family and Fr Mills in St Mary's Parish. The class teacher will be supervising the whole class during the visit so it is not a good time to discuss pupil progress in detail. Please save these discussions until parents evening.

Marie Guthrie - Head Teacher

P1 Parents/Carers - Maths Workshop

Remember that you are invited to come along and find about maths/numeracy in St Mary's for P1. P1 have been learning about fractions in numeracy this week. Mrs Anderson and Mrs Gibson from Villa Kindergarten and St Mary's Early Years Centre worked with our P1 class teachers and helped the children understand, sharing, sorting and the concept of 'one half' and 'one whole thing'. The Early Years teachers and P1 teachers working together periodically helps us understand about assessment, learning and progress.

P2 Learning in Maths

P2 and P1 teachers have planned learning experiences in numeracy. They will focus on fractions 'half', 'quarter', 'eighth' and also fractions of number and money. Shared planning helps staff focus on progression of skills in numeracy.

P3 Learning in Maths

After the October holiday our P3 teachers will be planning some numeracy learning experiences with the P3 teachers from St Stephen's. The children will be learning about fractions ie, a half, a quarter etc. Teachers from each school will work together to deliver the learning experience and then talk about how children learn and achieve in maths. Assessing children helps us plan the next steps in learning. This ensures our children learn well across the authority and within the Learning Community of St Peter the Apostle.

P4 Violins in School Project

Violins will be sent home in the next few weeks. Please take care of them and remember to return to school in time for your partner to take their turn.

P5 Cinema Visit – Braehead - Space Theme

P5 will go to Braehead for a science learning experience about Space. The cost of the visit is £120 for coaches. The cinema tickets are free. We would like to continue to allow children to learn away from school on occasion. Coach transport makes this a costly business. We would like the children to pay £1.00 towards this, and the remaining £75 will be paid from school fund. We hope you will support us. Please send the money to school office.

P6 The Flying Fish Project

P6b and Miss McDowall remember that you need wellies and waterproof jackets tomorrow, Tuesday 15th.

P7 Kingswood Outdoor Education (Dukeshouse Wood, Newcastle)

There is an opportunity for pupils in Primary 7 to attend a residential course at Kingswood Outdoor Education, Dukeshouse Wood, Newcastle. P7 will depart on Wednesday 30th March at 9.15am (approx.) and return on Friday 1st April at 2.00pm (approx.). The cost is £92 including transport. We will provide your child with a payment card on completion of the tear-off slip below confirming their participation. You can begin paying this up as soon as the payment card is issued if you wish. Kelly MacInnes our representative from Kingswood will give a short presentation and will answer questions for parents and carers in school on Thursday 22nd October at 6.00pm.

After School Clubs

We are trying hard to make sure that across the year all children will have an opportunity to take part in an after school sports activity and also in other activities. We will keep you updated about this. Currently after school clubs running are:

P2 Mini Movers	3.00-4.00pm	Thursday 3 rd , 10 th , 17 th , 24 th Sept and 1 st , 8 th Oct
P4-6 Street Dance	3.00-4.00pm	Monday 7 th , 14 th , 21 st Sept and 5 th Oct
P5-6 Basketball	3.00-4.00pm	Wednesday 16 th , 23 rd , 30 th Sept and 7 th Oct

Funding Activities

As P7 participate in the journey towards the Pope Francis Faith Award, the children have to raise money for a charity of their choice. P7 have planned a range of opportunities for Fundraising throughout the year. We would like to give you advance notice of some of these, and would ask that you support these ventures. We want to get started fairly soon and will also try to link some of these to suggestions that the parent council or school already have for fundraising. October is National Cerebral Palsy Awareness month, P7 would like to donate some money to this cause, through donating to **Bobath Scotland**. They would also like to support the refugee crisis through sending some money to **Save the Children**. There will not be such a huge focus toward the Mary's Meals focus this session. We will try to fundraise for initiative above and also for our own school priorities.

Fundraising activities across the year are as follows:

Date	Fund Raising Event
Thursday 24.9.15	Dress Down Day - Out of Uniform, Cost £1.00
Wednesday 7.10.15	Charity Football Match – P7 pupils vs parents/carers at 3.00pm
Thursday 8.10.15	Dress Down Day - Out of Uniform, Cost £1.00 P7 will organise a fun day (Stalls, Beat the Goalie, Beanbag Throws, Guess the Bears Birthday, sweets and juice, Nail Painting, Hair Braiding, etc
Thursday 19.11.15	TBC and then an Advent Focus for named Charity or Local initiative eg Homeless/Food banks etc
Thursday 17.12.15	Hopscotch Theatre in school today 'Sleeping Beauty' P7 will organise popcorn and juice for sale Items for sale
On going	Individual Fund Raisers

Feb/March 2016	Lenten Charity Focus TBC
Thursday 24.3.16	Spring Fundraiser- Activities: Easter egg hunt, Charity Netball game
Thursday 26.5.16	Organise St Mary's Got Talent Show
Thursday 23.6.16	Dress Down Day - Activities TBC

Health & Safety

We would ask you not to use the stairs at the front of the school to go into the nursery as it could be dangerous when taxis are dropping children off or other vehicles entering the car park. Please remember to use the gate nearer to the Early Years Centre.

New Arrangements for Dismissal of P1-3, at 3.00pm

So far we think it is going well. If you would like to email comments about this, or reply on the attached form with your thoughts on this, we would be delighted.

Communication about Issues or Complaints

In St Mary's we want to work in partnership with parents/carers to ensure the best outcomes for children in their learning and in their general wellbeing. We think that our children are happy, learning and achieving most or all of the time. In all schools there can be times when someone is not pleased, or worried, or concerned about something. I would ask you very sincerely to contact the school through the appropriate communication channels to request a time to discuss your particular issue. In school when children have disagreements we seek to be solution focused and sort out the issue. I would ask you not to use social media such as facebook or other similar forums, to have your say, it can often be hurtful, offensive, inaccurate and unfair to individuals or groups and importantly it doesn't solve the issue. Please work with us and discuss concerns in the school. Our Catholic Christian or West of Scotland values should direct our judgements here about what we say to and about others.

Communication

If you wish to be added to the email distribution list, please email the school office on (SchoolOffice.St-Marys-Dun@west-dunbarton.gov.uk). Please ensure your contact details are always up to date.

Parental Consent for Educational Trips/Excursions (EV5)

Many thanks to everyone who has already returned the EV5 medical consent and annual data check forms. It is very important that these are returned to keep school records up to date and allow children to participate in excursions. If you have not already returned these forms please do so as soon as possible.

Uniform

Thank you for ensuring your child comes to school in full uniform. The children are always smart and tidy, even if I have to remind the boys to tuck their shirts in!

Please, please, please put names on all items of uniform and on PE kit and jackets.

Children should also wear a coat or jacket to school now as it can be chilly at playtimes.

Allergies

Please remember Nutella or similar products should not be given to children because we have children with severe peanut allergies. Thanks for your co-operation in this matter.

Holidays

Autumn Term 2015

- **September week-end:** Friday 25 and Monday 28 September
- **In-Service Day**-Friday 9 October
- **First Mid-Term:** Monday 12 to Friday 16 October (inclusive)
- **Christmas/New Year:** Monday 21 December to Monday 4 January 2016 (inclusive finishing 18th December 2.30pm)

Vision and Values

Your children have been discussing what kind of learner they want to be and also what is important in their learning journey. Discussing with staff and each other about what kind of learner they want to be helps develop their own vision for St Mary's as a school - a community of learners. When they talk about aspects of their learning journey, it is important that they remember to include their values. If we all practise our values it defines the culture of the school.

Some of the children's **vision** statements are as follows

I want to:

- be successful and rich when I grow up
- have a job
- write books
- be able to read really hard books
- get a good job.....and do lots of travelling
- have friends, keep my friends and be better at maths
- have a good education
- have the right to play and the right to warm clothes and shelter
- help others have the things they need
- be good at science
- be a doctor
- be a hairdresser
- be good at my maths
- be a teacher
- be a nurse like my mum and my uncle
- get my Pope Francis Award at the end of P7
- learn to swim

In St Mary's our sense of **values** help us to be a great school community. When the children speak about their sense of values, they state that:

In St Mary's we:

- respect and work well with others
- need everyone in our school community
- like to learn together
- know how to work independently
- value friendships
- are ambitious for ourselves and for others
- trust the adults who care for us
- know that adults treat us well and want the best for us
- want our whole school community to be happy and achieving
- strive to do better than our best!
- want to know how to learn, know what to do to improve and have good thoughts about the future
- want to be successful
- will work hard with adults and with our friends

FEEDBACK TO HEAD TEACHER

We would like to collate all of these comments together to create our vision and values for St Mary's. Please take the time to complete this form. Firstly make one statement about what your vision is for your child as a learner at St Mary's.

My Vision Statement

New Dismissal Arrangements for P1-3 at 3.00pm

Have your say/any other comment

PLEASE RETURN TO SCHOOL OFFICE.

Thank you

M Guthrie



P7 Kingswood Outdoor Education (Dukeshouse Wood, Newcastle)

Pupils Name: _____

Class: _____

I wish my child to participate

I do not wish my child to participate

Parent's Signature: _____

Date: _____