



## Newsletter Week Beginning 18 January 2016

*Dear Parents/carers*

We are focusing on Financial Education this week. All teachers have planned this across a variety of curricular areas such as social studies, literacy, numeracy and health and wellbeing. We feel that January is a good time to think about financial health and wellbeing. It is a good time to explore credit, debt, spending and savings etc and to work with partners, businesses and volunteers to explore the themes that are appropriate for each class. You may be aware from news items or other sources that the Scottish government have invested time and money in a special focus on raising attainment and achievement across the country over the next few years. All schools are encouraged to be rigorous in their approaches to improving attainment in literacy and numeracy. Our improvement priorities this session encompass this priority. As part of our raising attainment focus we will provide a special focus on numeracy this term that involves additional support and challenge. All pupils are invited to attend a numeracy after school club for a six week block. The special focus will be on improving mental agility. The club will be led by teachers in school. This will begin week beginning 25<sup>th</sup> January. If we are oversubscribed we will organise a slightly different arrangement to ensure that all who wish to attend can be accommodated. Please encourage your child to attend. Complete the consent form and return to school for Thursday 21 January 2016, so that we can organise this.

*Marie Guthrie*

### **OUR WORLD IN THE PAST- INTERDISCIPLINARY LEARNING (IDL)**

This term the children will begin their new DL learning theme which is a focus on a period of time from long ago. The children will look at this from a social studies, literacy, numeracy, technologies and expressive arts perspective. We are working on reciprocal teaching approaches in reading so some of the reading texts will be nonfiction related to the theme. We will also try to plan an educational visit out of school associated with the IDL theme for each class if this is possible. If it is not possible then the class will have an educational visit in term 4. P5 have been quick off the mark and are visiting Vikingar in Largs as part of their focus on The Vikings.

Our IDL themes this term are as follows:

- P1 Queen Margaret of Scotland and other Kings and Queens
- P2 Knights and Castles
- P3 The Egyptians
- P4 The Romans
- P5 The Vikings
- P6 Ancient Greece
- P7 Ancient China

The children will learn about the above time periods and how it was to live and work at that time. They will also look at what was considered a technological advance at that time. What did we learn from that era. As part of their learning they may engage in a special homework challenge that involves a focus on STEM (this is science, technology, engineering and maths). An example of this could be 'travelling on water' eg how the people at that time used water, boats, travel, moats, etc.

### **SPORTS AND PE IN SCHOOL**

Our new Active Schools coordinator is now David Molloy. Laura Preston is moving to a different group of schools. We are grateful to Laura for all her commitment to sports and after school sports in St Mary's. Any parents wishing to support afterschool sports in St Mary's should give their name and contact details to the school office and we will inform Active Schools. This term the sports focus decided by Active school is as follows:

- P4 Tennis
- P5 Basket ball
- P6 Rugby
- P7 Swimming (P7b)

All of these classes run during the school day. Please ensure that all children have PE clothes in school (shorts, t shirts and gym shoes, in a gym bag or plastic bag, taken home on Friday for washing etc) at all times as all children have 2 hours PE each week. If there is a special focus from Active schools then this is part of the 2 hour allocation.

### **AFTER SCHOOL CLUBS**

P4 Tennis	3:00 – 4:00pm	Wednesday 20 <sup>th</sup> , 27 <sup>th</sup> Jan, 3 <sup>rd</sup> , 10 <sup>th</sup> , 17 <sup>th</sup> & 24 <sup>th</sup> Feb
P6/7 Football:	3.00-4.00pm	Monday 18 <sup>th</sup> , 25 <sup>th</sup> Jan, 1 <sup>st</sup> , 15 <sup>th</sup> , 22 <sup>nd</sup> and 29 <sup>th</sup> Feb, 7 <sup>th</sup> , 14 <sup>th</sup> & 21 <sup>st</sup> Mar
P6/7 Netball:	3.00-4.00pm	Fridays - Ongoing
P6 Euroquiz	3:00-4:15pm	Mondays – Ongoing

Maths club will run as follows:

P1, 2, 3 & 4	3.00-4.00pm	Monday 25 <sup>th</sup> Jan, 1 <sup>st</sup> , 15 <sup>th</sup> , 22 <sup>nd</sup> & 29 <sup>th</sup> Feb, and 7 <sup>th</sup> March
P5, 6 & 7	3.00-4.00pm	Wednesday 27 <sup>th</sup> Jan, 3 <sup>rd</sup> , 10 <sup>th</sup> , 17 <sup>th</sup> & 24 <sup>th</sup> Feb and 2 <sup>nd</sup> March

### **NETBALL**

New club starting on Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> January, led by Mrs McReynolds. New members please return consent slips to school office to ensure a place in the club.

### **MATHS CLUB**

Please see letter and consent form to be completed and returned to school office by 21 January 2016.

### **PARENTAL VIEWS-SHARING LEARNING**

Please see the letter on parental views on sharing learning. Please take the time to comment on our approaches to talking to you about learning and then return to school office.

### **P1 AND P7 DENTAL INSPECTION**

P1 and P7 pupils will have a dental inspection carried out on Tuesday 16 February.

### **P6 and 7 SCIENCE, WEST COLLEGE SCOTLAND**

Pupils in P6 and P7 are visiting West College Scotland, Clydebank on the following days:

Thursday 4 <sup>th</sup> February:	15 Pupils in P6a (9.15-10.30am) and at 5 Pupils in P6a and 10 pupils in P6b (10.45-12.00pm)
Thursday 11 <sup>th</sup> February:	11 Pupils in Primary 6b (9.15-10.30am) and 15 Pupils in P7a (10.45-12.00pm)
Thursday 28 <sup>th</sup> April:	6 P7a Pupils and 9 P7b Pupils (9.15 – 10.30am) and 11 Pupils in P7b (10.45-12.00pm)

### **PRIMARY 4 MUSIC DEVELOPMENT, VIOLIN**

Primary 4 have been taking part in an initiative to encourage children's interest in music and in particular musical instruments. They have had weekly workshops, which included the opportunity to begin to learn to play the violin. P4 have been to a special concert at the Royal Concert Hall on Monday 18<sup>th</sup> January, as part of the Celtic Connections in Glasgow programme.

### **P3 SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION**

Sacrament of Reconciliation will take place on Wednesday 16 March at 7.00pm.

The Parents' meeting will take place on Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> March in St. Mary's Chapel Hall at 7.00pm.

### **ASH WEDNESDAY**

Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> February marks the beginning of Lent. The children will attend mass and have distribution of ashes in St Mary's at 11.00am on this day.

Fr Mills will also say mass at 8.30am during Lent from Monday 15<sup>th</sup> February.

### **FAIR TRADE**

Monday 29<sup>th</sup> February begins Fairtrade fortnight. Fairtrade is one of our priorities within our Rights Respecting School action plans. As you know we achieved Level 2 of RRS in July 2015. Miss Donnelly and our RRS Focus group are planning events for pupils that week. They are also planning Fairtrade breakfasts for every class and parents. More details to follow.

### **P7 OUTDOOR EDUCATION-KINGSWOOD**

Our P7 pupils will set off to Kingswood on Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup> March and return on Friday 1<sup>st</sup> April before dismissal at 2.30pm on that day.

The cost of the trip is £92 including transport. The balance of this trip should be paid no later than Friday 12<sup>th</sup> February 2016.

## **STUDENTS**

It is normal practice in all schools to support the professional development of students into the teaching profession. In St Mary's we work with the universities (Strathclyde, Glasgow and University of the West of Scotland) by facilitating school placements. St Mary's and all schools in West Dunbartonshire have student teachers working alongside class teachers at some point in the school session. At present we have Miss Connolly in P5a, Miss Gilchrist in P7b, Miss Rushworth in P5b.

## **HOLIDAYS**

- Second Mid-Term break is Monday 8th and Tuesday 9th February 2016. In-service day Friday 5th February.
- Good Friday 25<sup>th</sup> March and Monday 28<sup>th</sup> March school closed (Easter weekend). Return on Tuesday 29<sup>th</sup> March 2016.
- Easter holiday is then from Monday 4 to Friday 15 April 2016 (inclusive). (School finishing at 2.30pm on Friday 1 April 2016).
- May Day holiday is Monday 2 May 2016.
- In-service Day (school closed to pupils) on Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> May 2016.
- May Weekend holiday is Friday 27<sup>th</sup> and Monday 30<sup>th</sup> May 2016.
- School closes on Wednesday 29 June 2016 at 1pm for the summer break.

School holiday dates for 2015/2016 can be found on WDC website.

## **OTHER DATES FOR YOUR DIARY**

### **Let's Talk About Learning 2015/2016**

Parents are invited to class at 2.30pm on the following days:

Friday 22 <sup>nd</sup> January	2.30-3.00pm
Friday 26 <sup>th</sup> February	2.30-3.00pm
Wednesday 23 <sup>rd</sup> March	2.30-3.00pm

### **Parent/Teacher Meeting**

Monday 7 <sup>th</sup> March		Tempest Photography to take class pictures
Thursday 28 <sup>th</sup> April	3.30-5.30pm	Parent/Teacher Meeting
Wednesday 4 <sup>th</sup> May	6.30-8.30pm	Parent/Teacher Meeting

### **Important Dates/Information for Each Class**

#### **Primary 4**

Wednesday 20 <sup>th</sup> April	7.00pm	Parent meeting for First Eucharist
Saturday 14 <sup>th</sup> May	10.00am	P4a receive the sacrament of First Eucharist
Saturday 21 <sup>st</sup> May	10.00am	P4b receive the sacrament of First Eucharist
Thursday 26 <sup>th</sup> May	7.00pm	Thanksgiving Mass

#### **Primary 5**

Thursday 3 <sup>rd</sup> March		Vikingar
Wednesday 23 <sup>rd</sup> March	1.30pm	Assembly - Performance of Resurrection Rock More information to follow

#### **Primary 6**

Wednesday 9 <sup>th</sup> March		WDC Euroquiz Heats
---------------------------------	--	--------------------

#### **Primary 5, 6 & 7**

Cross Country Relay Event will take place on Friday 6 May 2016 at Balloch Park. Time to be confirmed.