St. Mary's Primary School

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Head Teacher: Mrs M Guthrie Depute Head: Mrs H Nelis Depute Head: Miss J Crombie



Newsletter Week Beginning 19 October 2015

Dear Parent/Carer

I hope that you and your family enjoyed the mid-term October holiday. It has been a lovely week with dry sunny days allowing the children to play outdoors. We are grateful for this. During the holiday we had some alterations/upgrades in school. Our school office has been refurbished and we have had new pin boarding around the main corridor and at the p1-3 area. This will allow us to improve display and information sharing sections about the life and work of our school. We are also having repairs to doors around the school, adding safety guards to some of the internal doors.

Thank you for your support, attending parents evening on the 8th of October, most parents were able to come and meet the teacher and discuss pupil progress and achievement. If you were not able to come along and would like to speak to your child's teacher please contact the school office to make an appointment. Many thanks for your participation in generating our shared vision and values. Our primary 7 pupils are working on summarising these to display in the reception area of the school.

Marie Guthrie - Head Teacher

Our shared Vision for St Mary's

We will ensure that we have a learning community-school, home and parish working in partnership, committed to ensuring excellent quality in care, welfare, learning, teaching, support, challenge, spiritual development and sacramental preparation, recognising and using their own individual God given talents, ensuring high aspiration for attainment and wider achievement.

We want our learners to be happy, confident, successful, articulate, independent and highly motivated within a vibrant school community, recognising their position in the global environment.

We will enable our learners to:

- make choices that reflect gospel values
- develop skills leading to achievement in learning, life and work
- talk about their own learning journey
- be creative, innovative and enterprising
- be highly motivated, fulfilling their own potential, aspiring to be better than their personal best.

Our shared Aims and Values in St Mary's

We want St Mary's to be a school community where we:

- lead our lives through commitment to gospel values of respect, love, trust and care for each other and for ourselves, developing our god given talents.
- show care, tolerance and respect the opinions and contributions of others, strive to develop ourselves and work towards celebrating and recognizing attainment/achievement for all in our school community.
- value our education, teachers, learning assistants, clerical staff, facilities assistants, cleaning and catering team, voluntary staff, parents, carers and families, parish and wider community.
- focus on learning ensuring that it is matched to learners' needs, allowing high expectation and challenge for learners to do their best, with opportunities for learning within and out with the classroom, we will work with parents and partners, guided by aspiration towards future goals.
- organise our learning environment to help us acquire the skills we need for the future eg collaborating, presenting, sharing learning, talking, listening, exploring, investigating, creating, computing, counting, reading, allowing learning with confidence.
- design a curriculum that is dynamic, well planned, recognising Scotland's place in the world, allowing for progression in learning across transitions stages.
- communicate and involve everyone in evaluating the work of the school to ensure improvement.



Charter for Catholic Schools in Scotland

The mission of the Catholic school is to develop as a community of faith and learning, providing the highest quality of education, and offering formation through the promotion of Gospel values, through celebration and worship, and through service to the common good.

All Catholic schools in Scotland, in honouring Jesus Christ as the Way, the Truth and the Life, will feature the following characteristics:

- a commitment to the integrated education and formation of the whole person, in close partnership with parents as the first educators of their children;
- an inclusive ethos which aims to honour the life, dignity and voice of each person, made in the image of God;
- a commitment to the search for wisdom in life and to the pursuit of excellence, through the development of each person's unique God-given talents;
- a commitment to the spiritual formation of the school community, through the shared experience of prayer and liturgy, and in partnership with local parishes;
- the provision of religious education programmes which will enable young people to develop their understanding of Gospel values and of how to apply them to life;
- a commitment to uphold the moral teaching, faith tradition and sacramental life of the Catholic Church;
- a commitment to communicate Catholic social teaching and thereby to promote social justice and opportunity for all;
- a commitment to ecumenical action and the unity of Christians;
- the promotion of respect for different beliefs and cultures and for inter-faith dialogue;
- a commitment to support the continuing professional and spiritual development of staff.

All staff appointed to a Catholic school are expected to support and promote the aims, mission, values and ethos of the school, as illustrated in this Charter.

Our Mission in St Mary's

We in St Mary's Primary School are committed to the pursuit of raising attainment and achievement, through building capacity, fostering ambition and the development of each person's God given talents.

St Mary's School Motto

Mater Nobiscum (Latin) – Mother with us (English translation).

This is very fitting and appropriate. Our school is called after Mary the mother of God. Our school building is very close to the lovely church of St. Mary's. As a mother nurtures and cares for her children we look to Mary the mother of God to guide us, nurture us and pray for us.

Book Fayre

We will be holding a Book Fayre in the school on Thursday 19th and Friday 20th November.

The children will get an opportunity to purchase books on these days. The books are priced between £2.00 and £3.50. Please see flyer.

Unauthorised Parental Holidays

A few parents contacted me last term to give notice about taking children out of school to go on holiday during the Autumn term (between August and October). Whilst I understand that it is sometimes difficult for families to get time together during the designated school holidays due to work or other commitments, I would like to remind you that this can be disruptive to your child's education as they miss the actual teaching and learning together experience. This time away from school is also recorded as an absence from school. If you need to take family holidays during the school year, please notify me by letter or email in advance.

Cost for Trips and Educational Excursions

Recently the parent council consulted with you about costing/paying for educational excursions. Some responses so far have indicated that parents are happy to contribute towards trips to support keeping costs down. It would seem feasible to ask for £1.00 per person each time an event occurs for that class/pupil. Each class has different experiences away from school depending on the involvement of active schools, sports development activities etc too. Please give your view to the parent council stmarysparentcouncil@hotmail.co.uk.

Halloween Party Primary 1-3

The Primary 1, 2 and 3 children will be having their parties on Friday 30th October in the hall, in the afternoon. Those children who stay for lunch should come to school in uniform and bring their costumes with them. Those children going home for lunch should change at home and return to school for 1.00pm.

Halloween Discos Primary 4-7

The Parent Council will be holding Hallowe'en discos for P4-P7 children on Wednesday 28th October in the school hall. Tickets are now on sale and can be purchased from the office at £1.00 each. The times are as follows:

P4 and P5
 P6 and P7
 6.00pm-7.15pm
 7.30pm-8.45pm

There will be a tuck shop at the disco selling sweets, juice and glow sticks.

Please come to the front door to collect the children at the end of the discos. All children MUST be collected from this event by an adult to ensure that they go home safely. If you are able to help with supervision at either/both discos please email stmarysparentcouncil@hotmail.co.uk or the school office SchoolOffice.St-Marys-Dun@west-dunbarton.gov.uk.

P1

Height and Weight

The school nurse will visit the school on Friday 27th November to carry out height and weight checks for our P1 children.

P2

Football

Primary 2 began their football sessions with WDC Active Schools today. This will run for 5 weeks and later in the year the children will take part in a football festival. Please ensure the children have their PE kit in school and that in the interests of safety that all earnings are removed before coming to school in the morning.

Р3

Class teachers from St Stephen's and P3 class teachers from St Mary's will deliver numeracy lessons to P3 in each school on 27th and 28th of October.

An opportunity for two after school clubs for P3 stage will commence this term. Modern Dance will commence on Tuesday 20th led by Sophie Clark and Football will commence on Thursday 29th led by Mr Richards.

P4

An opportunity for after school club 'Early Touches' will commence on 30th October until the 4th December. This club is organised by Active Schools and will be led by Mr Richards.

P5 Cinema Visit - Braehead - Space Theme

P5 are visiting Braehead for a science learning experience about Space on Monday 9 November. 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 as you know makes this a costly business. We would like the children to pay £1.00 each towards this, and the remaining £60 will be paid from school fund. We invite you to support us by paying £1.00 per person. Please send the money to school office before 9th November. The after school club in Basketball resumes on Wednesday 21st October until 9th December.

P6

Children recently participated in Sportshall Athletics festival at the Playdrome. All schools in West Dunbartonshire have athletics lessons delivered by Sports Development in school, culminating in a festival. All children get to participate in the 6 week block of lessons, but we are then only permitted to put forward an agreed number of pupils for the festival. This can be disappointing for children who do not get to attend. Both P6 class teachers spent a great deal of time trying to put forward a fair representation of pupils from St Mary's. The P6 Euroquiz afterschool class will commence on Monday 26th October from 3.00-4.15pm. Miss Donnelly is leading this group.

P7

Cross-Country P6 and 7

Our children worked hard and enjoyed a lovely sunny morning in Balloch Park on Thursday the 8th of October. The children participated in running races - boys/girls races. The relay for all schools will take place in May 2016. Again I am conscious that many children engaged in the training for the event. This training took place in the weeks before 8th October. We are only permitted to take a specific number to represent the school. It is disappointing for some children when they are not selected to join the event. I have asked class teachers to monitor this to ensure pupils get an opportunity across the school to attend events and initiatives. Our school values are about striving to do our best and to aim high. We will work hard to ensure learners have opportunities to participate.

Netball P6 and 7

The P6 and 7 afterschool netball class will begin on Friday 23rd from 3.00-4.00pm. Mrs Friel is leading this group.

Football P7

The football after school club commences today, 19th October from 3.00-4.00pm. Football is being led by Mr Abdul Naas, HND student.

Firework Safety Talk

Our primary 7 children will receive a Firework Safety talk on Tuesday 20th October.

Kingswood Outdoor Education (Dukeshouse Wood, Newcastle)

As you know 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. If you wish your child to attend the residential course and have not already completed a permission slip, please complete and return the slip below.

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 in the school hall**. Please contact the school by email or using the reply slip to let us know if you intend coming along on the 22nd at 6.00pm.

A deposit of £20 is required for this trip. If your child is participating in the residential course please send their deposit to the school as soon as possible.

After School Clubs

All children will have an opportunity to take part in after school sports activities and other activities across the year. After school clubs running in Term 2 are:

P2 Mini Movers	3.00-4.00pm	Thursday 29 th Oct, 5 th , 12 th , 19 th , 26 th Nov, 3 rd , 10 th , Dec
P3 Modern Dance	3.00-4.00pm	Tuesday 20 th , 27 th Oct, 3 rd , 10 th , 17 th 24 th Nov, 1 st , 8 th Dec
P3 Football	3.00-4.00pm	Thursday 29 th Oct, 5 th , 12 th , 19 th , 26 th Nov, 3 rd , Dec
P4 Early Touches	3.00-4.00pm	Friday 30 th Oct, 6 th , 13 th , 20 th , 27 th Nov, 4 th Dec
P5-6 Basketball	3.00-4.00pm	Wednesday 21 st , 28 th Oct, 4 th , 11 th , 18 th 25 th Nov, 2 nd , 9 th Dec
P6 Euroquiz	3.00-4.15pm	Monday 26 th October – 25 th April
P7 Football	3.00-4.00pm	Monday 19 th , 26 th Oct, 2 nd , 9 th , 16 th , 23 rd , 30 th Nov
P6-7 Netball	3.00-4.00pm	Friday 23 rd , 30 th Oct, 6 th , 13 th , 20 th , 27 th Nov, 4 th , 11 th Dec

Staffing/Recruitment

Miss Fisher (P6 teacher) begins her new appointment as Principal Teacher at St Stephen's Primary in Dalmuir. We wish her well in her new position, and we are very appreciative of her hard work and commitment to St Mary's over the last 12 years. This position was advertised and now re-advertised with no applicants at present. Mrs Alaine Watson and Mrs Julie Friel will take primary 6 class from 19th October.

Mrs Nicole McLaren (currently support for learning teacher and also releases class teachers for their weekly non class contact planning time entitlement), finishes for maternity leave on Friday 30th October until the end of the school session. This position has been advertised for 4 weeks and is now being re-advertised.

Miss Lisa McDonald (P4 teacher) was successful at interview for a class teacher in a primary school in Lanarkshire, just before the October holiday. She will take up her new post on Monday 16th November. We will be very sad to see Miss McDonald leave St Mary's. Miss McDonald was tremendously successful in leading the whole school in the venture to raise funds for Mary's Meals. Miss McDonald will be much closer to her home in her new position, with much less travel time to and from work. This position is currently being advertised.

Mrs Pat O'Donnell (Learning Assistant) has decided to retire from St Mary's. She will officially retire on Friday 18th December. We hope that Mrs O'Donnells last term in St Mary's is enjoyable and special for her. She has given many years' service to the school and can look forward to pastures new in the new year.

Parent Council Order Form

Jacket Order Forms were handed out/emailed on Thursday 8 October. Forms should be returned to the school office with payment no later than Wednesday 21 October.

Uniform/Jackets

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.

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.

Allergies

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

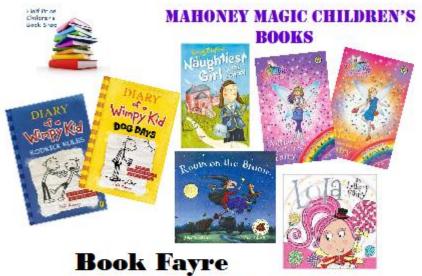
Holidays

Autumn Term 2015

Christmas/New Year: Monday 21 December to Monday 4 January 2016 (inclusive finishing 18th December 2.30pm)

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P7 Kingswood Outdoor Education				
Pupils Name:	Class:			
I wish my child to participate in the Outdoor Education event at Dukehouse V I do not wish my child to participate in the Outdoor Education event at Dukel				
I will attend the information night on Thursday 22 nd October at 6.00pm I am unable to attend the information night on Thursday 22 nd October at 6.00	Эрт			
Parent's Signature:	Date:			



Book Fayre 19th & 20th November

