



Newsletter Week Beginning 5 January 2016

Dear Parent/Carer

Happy New Year - I hope that you have had a lovely peaceful Christmas and New Year. I look forward to working with you in the new term. This term (Term 3) we begin by engaging in a Social Studies based interdisciplinary learning theme focus. Each year group will focus on a period of time in the past, with a particular emphasis on what the significant technological advances and innovations were at that particular time. The purpose of learning about the past is to set in context how our world has changed and evolved and how ancient societies learned and made advancements to science and technology in their time too. A little bit more on these themes later. We will also continue to focus on numeracy and have a particular focus on financial education for the last two weeks in January. Our next sharing learning afternoon will be on some of the learning from financial education. Next week we will be enrolling our new children who will be primary 1 in August 2016. They have already visited the school several times and will continue to do this for the remainder of the session. Our primary 1 teachers will also engage in some planning of learning with nursery staff to ensure a focus on curriculum for excellence 3-18 curriculum.

Marie Guthrie

ENROLMENT

Enrolments are taking place during week commencing Monday 11 January 2016. **Children who will be 5 years of age on or before 28th February 2017 are due to register for school.**

Arrangements for St. Mary's are as follows:-

DATE	TIMES
Monday 11 th January	9.15 – 11.30am & 1.30 – 2.45pm
Tuesday 12 th January	9.15 – 11.30am & 1.30 – 2.45pm
Wednesday 13 th January	9.15 – 11.30am & 1.30 – 2.45pm
Thursday 14 th January	9.15 – 11.30am & 1.30 – 2.45pm

Please bring your child's birth and baptismal certificates. Please note that children must be registered at their ZONED SCHOOL.

INTERDISCIPLINARY LEARNING (IDL THEMES FOR TERM 3)

Primary 1	Margaret Queen of Scotland and other Kings and Queens
Primary 2	Knights and Castles in Scotland and other stories
Primary 3	The Egyptians
Primary 4	The Romans
Primary 5	The Vikings
Primary 6	The Ancient Greeks
Primary 7	Ancient China

During this time the children will explore what life was like at this time, develop an understanding of time lines and understand about inventions, technology, historical fact and fiction. The historical period also offers a basis for selecting texts that allow a focus on reading for information using reciprocal reading strategies, that also leads to personal, imaginative and functional writing. Our very young learners will also have an opportunity to learn about characters that are real life characters but also some story characters, developing an understanding of fact and fiction. We hope to share this learning with parents at our sharing learning days later on the term.

FINANCIAL EDUCATION WEEK

The effect of the economic downturn of the last few years has led all of us to think about how we manage our budgets and our savings. It has become even more crucial that we train our young people as early as possible to understand financial issues and become financially competent and responsible adults.

We will have a whole school focus week on Financial Education, beginning Monday 18 January. The children will be taking part in a variety of activities on this theme during the course of the week. A number of visitors will be sharing their expertise with the children and some classes will have an out of school visit.

If you feel you have expertise that you could share with our children or could enhance their learning about financial matters, please contact Miss Crombie. In the past we have had parents and grandparents who worked in the finance sector who really helped make our Financial Education week a success. Please complete the tear-off slip below if you can help.

Our next sharing the learning afternoon will be on Friday 22 January at 2:30pm. We will focus on numeracy and have a particular focus on Financial Education. As part of sharing the learning there will be representatives from some agencies who can provide sound advice and information to adults for example, Credit Union and West Dunbartonshire Council Welfare Rights.

SCOTTISH WATER

Primary 7 pupils visited the Scottish Water sites at Old Street/New Street for a walkover of the site and learn about health and safety and give them an insight into the world of work. Mr Paul Milligan, Customer Communications Manager along with employees from Scottish Water kindly visited St. Mary's and carried out work in our gardens. We are extremely grateful to Mr Milligan for this work.

FUNDRAISING

Our Parent Council with your help have successfully raised the sum of £2000 approx. We are working on an application to Awards for All to acquire funding for our school playground. We also recently acquired an outdoor learning classroom purchased by another school. Two of our parents Mr Shiels and Mr O'Donnell have kindly agreed to fix the classroom for us and Mr Busby our Facilities Assistant will paint it.

AWARDS/GRANT FUNDING

Miss Donnelly applied for some grant funding for Languages 1+2 and successfully gained £400 which will go towards Spanish resources. She is also making an application to Tesco for funding for playground markings.

LET'S TALK ABOUT LEARNING

Parents are invited to visit their children in class on Friday 22nd January 2016 at 2:30pm. We will focus on numeracy – Financial Education.

ACTIVE SCHOOLS COMMUNITY CLUBS

Please find below a timetable from our Active Schools Coordinator regarding Active Schools Community Clubs. These clubs provide additional provisions for young people in the area. Active schools are always looking for parents/grandparents/older siblings that would like to get involved in volunteering at these community clubs. If you are interested in getting involved please contact Laura by email, laura.preston@west-dunbarton.gov.uk.

Day	When	Time	Where	Facility	Active Schools Club	Cost
Monday	11 th Jan – 13 th June	5-6pm	Clydebank High School	Gym 1	Clydebank Community Club	£2/session
Wednesday	13 th Jan – 14 th June	5-6pm	SPTA High School	Dance Studio	Community Dance Club	£2/session
Thursday	14 th Jan – 15 th June	4-6pm	Clydebank High School	Gym 1	Clydebank Basketball Club	£2/session
Friday	15 th Jan – 17 th June	5-6pm	SPTA High School	Dance Studio	Community Dance Club	£2/session
Friday	15 th Jan – 17 th June	5-6pm	SPTA High School	Gym 1 and Gym 3	Clydebank Dodgeball League	£2/session
Saturday	9 th Jan – 18 th June	9.30-10.30am	Clydebank High School	Gym 1 and Gym 3	Clydebank Cobras Community Netball Club	£2/session

PE

Our physical education programme is supplemented by input from Sports Development and Active Schools. This session the following activities will be organised for these classes during the school day:

- P4 – Tennis: Monday 11th, 18th, 25th January and 1st, 8th, 15th and 22nd February
- P5 – Basketball: Tuesday 12th, 19th and 26th January
- P6 – Rugby: Tuesday 12th, 19th, 26th 2nd February

AFTER SCHOOL CLUBS

Please see below details for the after school clubs taking place this term. Letters for all after school clubs taking place this term will be issued shortly.

P6 Euroquiz	3:00 – 4:15pm	Monday 11 January – Ongoing
P4 Tennis	3:00 – 4:00pm	Wednesday 20 January – Further details to follow

ST. MARY'S WEB PAGE

Mr Killough one of our P7 teachers has been busy re-vamping and updating our Web Page. Please visit our web page and have a look, www.scottishschools.info/stmarysprimaryschool.

P7B SWIMMING

Primary 7B begin their swimming lessons at the Playdrome in Clydebank on Wednesday 6 January 2016. The last swimming session will take place on Wednesday 9 March 2016. Children will leave school at 1.15pm and return at approximately 2.30pm. All children should bring a 20p piece for the lockers (this is returnable).

P7 KINGSWOOD

The balance for P7 Outdoor Education, at Kingswood, Dukeshouse wood, Newcastle is due to be paid no later than Friday 12 February 2016. The cost is £92 including transport. P7 will depart on Wednesday 30th March at 9:15am (approx.) and return on Friday 1st April at 2:00pm (approx.).

P5 VIKINGAR

Primary 5 are hoping to visit Vikingar, Largs in March as part of their learning about the Vikings. The cost of the trip is £7.60/pupil for entrance and transport. After receiving your feedback regarding trip contributions the general census was that £5 would be an appropriate amount to pay per child per trip. We will pay the balance from the school fund.

This session each stage will experience an educational visit. For families that have more than 2 children attending the school the school will pay for the third/fourth child.

P4 CELTIC CONNECTIONS SCHOOL CONCERT

Primary 4 pupils will visit Glasgow Royal Concert Hall on Monday 18 January from 9:30am to 12:30pm to see Skerryvore performed by Le Poules a Colin. The performance will be a vibrant mix of traditional, rock and jazz music.

P3 SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

Sacrament of Reconciliation will take place on Wednesday 16th March at 7:00pm.

The Parents' meeting will take place on Wednesday 2nd March in St. Mary's Chapel Hall at 7:00pm.

P1 HEIGHT AND WEIGHT

The nurse will visit on Friday 8th January to carry out P1 height and weight checks for the children who missed the initial check.

SUPERSAVERS

Supersavers will resume on Wednesday 13th January. We are currently trying to encourage more children in our school to become responsible for saving, banking their "pocket money" and budgeting. Being a member of "Super Savers" is a great way to do this. Children who decide to join will receive a Super Savers wallet and certificate. If your child would be interested in becoming a super saver, please come into the office and complete an application form.

MEDICATION

If your child requires medication to be administered during the school day a medical form must be completed at the school office in order for staff to administer the medication.

WATER

Children should have their own bottle of water at their desks to keep them hydrated and alert during the day. These bottles should only contain plain water and should be sports type bottle. Juice and flavoured waters are not permitted in class, unless there is a medical reason. Bottles should be taken home at the end of each day and filled up at home.

HEAD LICE

Please ensure you check your child's head regularly for head lice. Each year in all schools there are several outbreaks of head lice and therefore parents must be vigilant in trying to prevent the spread of them by regular checking and, if necessary, speedy treatment.

HAND WASHING/HYGIENE

We are currently reminding children to wash their hands after using the toilet. Soap should always be available in the toilet. The soap is in a soap dispenser. There is also soap at the sink areas in each open area P1-4 and P5-7. Please encourage/remind your child to do this at home and at school. We will also remind them to take care with soap/paper towels, leaving the toilet area clean, safe and tidy.

HOLIDAYS

- **In-Service Day**- Friday 5 February
- **Second Mid-Term**: Monday 8 and Tuesday 9 February
- **Easter**: Friday 25 and Monday 28 March (inclusive)
- **Spring Holiday**: Monday 4 April to Friday 15 April (inclusive, finishing 1st April 2.30pm)



FINANCIAL EDUCATION WEEK

Child's Name: _____ Class: _____

I would be happy to come in and share my expertise in _____ with the children

My (relationship to child) _____ would like to come in share their expertise
in _____ with the children

Parent's Signature: _____ Date: _____