



St Mary's RC Primary School 63
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School Newsletter August 2020

'Forward Together In Christ; we can, we will, together
#Growth #Resilience #Community

Mission Statement: At St Mary's we are dedicated to educating our young people in an inclusive, stimulating and challenging environment preparing them for life-long learning.

Ethos & Values: We will provide this in a secure, happy and welcoming environment where Christian and Catholic values are cherished and where staff, pupils and parents work in partnership to achieve common goals.



Dear Parents/Carers, I hope this finds you all well and settling back into routines around school and work—and for our new families a very warm welcome from all of us in the community! I know it is still challenging for many with continued restrictions such as staggered drop off & pick ups that help with social distancing and not having



large groups of adults having to be at school all at the same time. Your patience and support around these continued measures is much appreciated. As part of the 'settling—in' phase pupils have been discussing how they should be with one another, creating class charters and discussing our school rules. We have 3 school rules:

- We will respect ourselves and all others
- We will have kind hands, words & actions
- We will look after everything we use

Our P7 pupils have written their application forms for the P7 responsibility they would like to take on this year which they will then be interviewed for shortly. On their application they are asked to reflect on how they feel they've developed in relation to our school aims summarised in the words, Growth, Resilience & Community and they have really impressed with their reflections: just a few here to share with you

'I have learned a lot mentally and educationally. I have made a lot of friends and been very calm through my classes and everyone in this community is very nice and happy. So I'm very happy to have been learning and growing in this school.' (Finn)

'When I started St Mary's I was very shy and didn't like a lot of people around me and now my favourite thing to do is act in front of people. When things go wrong multiple times I just keep trying.' (Cara)

'I think I have developed a lot through the years, even during lockdown as I learnt to be more resilient and more grateful for the ones I love.' (Pola)

'I think my growth has been great. I've developed in my maths, literacy, reading and writing. I have helped many younger pupils with their problems. I have failed many times but I have not given up, so I succeeded.' (Casper)

We are really proud of them and very much looking forward to working with our P7s in their different roles and responsibilities around the school.

**** Please look out for the flu consent form packs that have been issued this week. Our date for the nasal spray flu vaccine is Tuesday 28th September * (If you are new to the school you will receive one but please get in touch if you don't receive a pack by next week.)***

P6s thoroughly enjoyed their sessions with, 'Earth Calling' this week. They identified seeds and learned about seed dispersal and created new seeds.



'Fun to explore'

'Good to get outside'

'Nice to be in nature'

'A lot of space'



The P7s and P1s were just delighted to be meeting their buddies !



With the number of Covid -19 cases rising please find below a reminder of the procedures in place now in schools:

Contact Tracing & Self-Isolation

Schools no longer identify close contacts or ask whole classes to self-isolate. Contact tracing will be done by Test and Protect (TAP). Only those at the highest risk of being exposed to infection will be asked to self-isolate until they have received a negative PCR test. This will include young people with a specific health-related vulnerability.

The definition of who is considered a close contact can be found here. [https://www.gov.scot/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-guidance-on-reducing-the-risks-in-schools/pages/changes-to-previous-guidance/#Self-isolation%20policy%20\(including%20contact%20tracing%20and%20testing\)](https://www.gov.scot/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-guidance-on-reducing-the-risks-in-schools/pages/changes-to-previous-guidance/#Self-isolation%20policy%20(including%20contact%20tracing%20and%20testing))

What to do if your child is COVID-19 positive

If your child is COVID-19 positive, please contact the school with their name, date of birth and date of Positive PCR test. This will allow the school to issue, 'Warn and Inform' letters to staff and other par- ents/carers, letting them know that there has been a case(s) in school.

Warn & Inform – steps for you to take

When schools become aware of a positive case in school, they will issue a “Warn & Inform” letter which will tell you what to do next.

As you will know, we have had to issue, 'Warn & Inform' letters which is a reminder of the situation that we are all still living in and the need to be as safe as we can be. Our thoughts are with all those who are currently affected by the virus and we wish all a speedy recovery. If there is an 'outbreak' in school where there are 2 or more cases in a class additional mitigation measures may be put in place.



With school life feel- ing a bit more, 'normal', though the children are delighted to be back in the li- brary again and Mrs Haniff is busy taking requests for books and



organising time- tables for class visits



General Information:

Toys

Some of our new P1s have been bringing toys in to school—we do ask for children not to bring toys into school as more often than not they get lost or are damaged. Sometimes class teachers allow children to bring something in on a Friday and your child's class teacher will let you know if this is to happen. For all child's clothing can we ask for items to be labelled or names written on labels inside. Many thanks for your support with this.

Birthday cakes/treats for classes

Like all schools we are health promoting and so we don't issue cakes or treats to children in classes for birthdays etc. If a child is leaving however and wants to give a 'treat' to say thank you to the class these are issued to the children at the end of the day so that parents can decide when their child can have them. On special occasions such as Christmas parties and the sacrament of first holy communion the school may provide a treat to the classes. For packed lunch items can we please ask that you take care to check for any products containing nuts as we strive to be a nut free school for the safety of many of our pupils.

Communication

If there is anything you wish to inform the school about please email the school admin in the first instance or for issues relating to learning and teaching or wellbeing for P1-P3 pupils email Mrs McLeish (*Jennifer.McLeish@st-marysrc-pri.edin.sch.uk*) and for P4-P7 stages please email me. Our response time in line with council policy is 10 working days for general enquiries and 5 working days for complaints.

Absence Reporting

When phoning re pupil absences can we please ask that you leave more specific details re why your child is absent from school and not just that they're 'unwell'. Many thanks for your support with this.

Active Schools

Welcome back everyone,

Yes, we are planning the return of Active schools activities term 1, 2021. However, our objectives will be slightly different and we will have a more targeted approach aimed at children who face barriers to sports participation.

Active Schools focus is to run clubs FREE for those who need it but also offer / assist with other opportunities for those who can afford it.

Active schools are still committed to ensuring every child gets active and it may be that we direct pupils to clubs who charge, its just Active schools will not be running that session as such.

We will also try our best to work in partnership with local community clubs were possible.

At this early stage of the transition we are trying to create a sports programme for the school run by volunteers. If you are interested in leading a sports club, after school throughout term 1 or 2, please give me a note of interest or mail Active schools co-ordinator Alan, alan.reid@ea.edin.sch.uk

Yours In Sport: Alan Reid

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As always, thank you for your continued support. N. Kehoe.