



St Mary's RC Primary School

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School Newsletter January 2022

'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.



Well done to all our pupils, some featured here, who volunteered to read their stories, recite poems and sing their songs for our Scottish Assembly. Euan in P7 helped organise proceedings with Struan in P2 starting us off with telling us about his kilt and P4s ending with a whole class rendition of The Skye Boat Song. It was the highlight of the week!



Covid 19

Most schools are dealing with cases daily and we continue to do all we can to reduce transmission. I know many of you have been unwell or the children, although thankfully most have mild symptoms. Thank you for your vigilance in testing and informing us of results.

A reminder re advice around covid 19 and self isolation:

- Symptomatic people (main symptoms—fever, cough, loss of taste or sense of smell -although symptoms in children appear wide ranging) should get a PCR test and isolate. ***This applies even where they have had a negative LFD.*** There is no longer a requirement to get a confirmatory PCR where someone has a positive LFD. With a positive PCR or LFD an individual should isolate.
- Positive cases should isolate for 10 days – ***please see information below re ending isolation early***
- Non-symptomatic contacts, including household contacts, needn't isolate or get a PCR if fully vaccinated (2 doses and booster) or under 18yrs 4mths old. Instead, they should take 7 days of lateral flow tests and report results – only isolating where a LFD result is positive. (In these circumstances - positive LFD result for a close contact - there is no requirement to take a confirmatory PCR unless applying for the self-isolation support grant.)

Non-symptomatic adult contacts who are unvaccinated or partially vaccinated must take a PCR and isolate for 10 days

Ending self-isolation early:

You may be able to end self-isolation early if you have 2 negative LFD test results in a row from day 6 onwards, taken 24 hours apart. For example, a negative LFD test result on day 6 and 7, day 7 and 8, or day 8 and 9. You should [report your LFD test result](#) after taking each test, regardless of the result. To be able to end self-isolation, you should also make sure you do not have a high temperature and continue to follow the guidance for staying safe when you've ended self-isolation.

You should not take an LFD test before day 6 of your self-isolation period.

You should only end self-isolation after 2 negative LFD test results in a row.

After you have 2 negative test results in a row, you should stop daily testing and restart [testing twice a week, and testing before you socialise or travel in Scotland](#).

This guidance applies regardless of age, vaccination status or previous infection.

If you continue to test positive on LFD tests, or choose not to take LFD tests to end self-isolation early, you can return to work and your usual activities on the 11th day after your symptoms started, as long as you feel better and do not have a high temperature.

After School Clubs:

We are looking forward to our after school clubs starting this week. These are subject to cancellation at short notice and your understanding around this is much appreciated. Registration for active/physical clubs was detailed in an email issued Friday 14th January.

Wider Achievement

We were absolutely delighted that Alfie Ross in P6a was announced the overall winner of the Green Pencil Writing Competition 2021. Alfie's poem was read by poet Jeda Pearl Lewis – [click here](#).

He received a £50 book token and a £100 book token for the school! He will also receive a printed brochure and winning medal along with an engraved trophy. A fantastic achievement Alfie—we are so proud of you and all the pupils who submitted entries. Improving writing is a school focus and so we are just delighted with this achievement. The entries on the theme of climate change has inspired others and P2s made, 'Save the Planet' signs which they were waving proudly this week in the playground. P7s also planned and designed and created their own Eco cities .



Stars of the Month: each month pupils are nominated for giving that extra effort relating to their work, being a good friend, being a good member of their community, an act of charity—anything where they are displaying that extra effort and school values. The children meet with me and have some hot chocolate or juice and a treat. Well done this month to Annabelle P1a, Olivia P1b, Elliott P2a, James S P2b, Lucas S P3, Sophie P3/4, Caitlin P4, Oliwia P5a, Douglas P5b, Sara P6a, Ava J P6b, Josph P7a and Isla P7b.

Star Writers: Well done to Neel in P6b, Alfie & Flora in P3, Lewis in P3/4 and Mila in P2a ! Great work!



Well done to our House and Vice captains who spoke to the pupils at Assembly reminding how they can earn house tokens and to also start them thinking what they can do during Lent for fund raising. Well done also to Maria in P5 who presented her powerpoint about Chinese New Year too—a well deserved round of applause after everyone's input!





Our Equalities group met to look over and respond to questions from, 'How Good is OUR School' to help inform plans moving forward. The children responded very positively in terms of their views being listened to and relationships in the school between children and children and adults. They felt we could do more to celebrate other cultures like we have in the past such as a multi-cultural day/week and so this will feed into plans along with parent responses to our survey issued last term. I look forward to meeting with the parent group soon too.

Staffing

We have welcomed two new pupil support assistants—Mrs Joanna Kleszcz-Czarnecka who is replacing Mrs Jaeger and Miss Samantha Fairgrieve who has been funded by the authority to support play in P1. We are also recruiting for an Early Years Practitioner (EYP) again funded by the authority.

Uniform Recycling

We have lots of uniform items in school. Please do get in touch if you need any uniform items and we can arrange pick up.

Sacraments of Reconciliation and Confirmation

It has been lovely to see pupils and their families in church these past weeks as part of their preparation in making the Sacraments of Reconciliation and Confirmation. We are looking forward to seeing the pupils making the Sacrament of Reconciliation on Monday 7th February at 7pm in the cathedral. Our thanks as always to Father Jamie for his help in parent meetings and in helping the children along with the staff. Our P4 pupils will soon start to prepare for the Sacrament of First Communion.

With thanks as always for your support and patience. It really is appreciated. We continue to be short staffed in the office and within our teaching staff so please understand if we don't respond to you as quickly as we normally would.

N. Kehoe.