



St Mary's RC Primary School

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School Newsletter March 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 the pupils in St Margaret's and St Andrew's houses for completing their obstacle courses this week and to the House & Vice Captains for their planning and organising of the events. So far £972.



01 has been raised. A fantastic amount— Thank you so much! We look forward to St Anne's pyjama day on Monday and to St Ninian's Bake Sale and Stalls Day on Tuesday.



Covid 19

It was welcome news to read Jason Leitch's letter and to think ahead to our new term with cautious optimism that we are returning to even more, 'normal' times within our schools. It has certainly been the most challenging term in relation to staffing, as I know it has been for most work forces, so many thanks again for your understanding and support throughout these continuous challenging times. The Scottish Government's updated guidance, "enables the removal of the majority of the measures that have been recommended for schools up until this point". Schools are not returning to a pre-pandemic state, but retaining good practice developed during the pandemic where appropriate.

A reminder re advice around arrangements in the new term that will remain in place in childcare settings and schools as we enter this new phase:

Children, young people and adults should stay at home and self-isolate if they:

- have symptoms of COVID-19, whether they feel unwell or not
- have tested positive, even if they have no symptoms
- are required to self-isolate for any other reason e.g. travel-related reasons
- are identified as a close contact and are over 18 years and 4 months and are not fully vaccinated

- Public Health advice on testing should be followed until it ends
- Warn and Inform letters will be in place in schools until testing ends at the end of April
- Asymptomatic testing ends on 18 April

- In response to increasing infection rates the FM announced that the legal requirement to wear face coverings in shops and public transport was extended until 18th April

Mitigations:

- ◆ good hand hygiene and cleaning in school environments will continue to be encouraged and supported as well as respiratory and cough hygiene
- ◆ an ongoing focus on the importance of good ventilation and CO2 monitoring
- ◆ staff will continue to take reasonable steps to keep a safe distance from other adults (and between adults and school-aged children and young people wherever possible) in line with the requirements for other workplaces
- the use of face coverings by all staff in indoor communal areas and when moving around the school building
- ◆ ongoing need for outbreak management capability, including active surveillance. Clusters and cases will be managed by schools as per sickness absence procedures. Health Protection teams will intervene only if required
- ◆ There are no restrictions on parents/carers or wider family members entering school buildings although they are encouraged to comply with the school's routine measures. Parents and carers are able to attend indoor and outdoor sporting/cultural events. Audiences will need to distance so will depend on spaces available.

We haven't yet received national guidance on what to do if you have Covid-19 symptoms post April 2022.

Wider Achievement

Well done to Caitlin & Emma in P5a—they were one of three winners for an illustration competition related to their reading text, 'Anisha, Accidental Detective'. Emma and Caitlin will each receive a full set of the Anisha, Accidental Detective books and a Literacy toolkit for the school!



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 Cillian P1a, Ted P1b, Honey P2a, Malcolm P2b, Agnes P3, Polly P3/4, Charlie P4, Florence P5a, Archie P5b, Alice P6a, Leo P6b, Abraham P7a and Libby P7b.



Star Writers: Well done to Emme P1a, Finlay & Reyansh P1b, Struan P2a, Vanshi P2b, Alfie P3, Sofia & Evan P3/4, Luke & Oliwia P4, Charis P5a, Diego P5b, Hiwot P6a, Neel P6b, Isobel & Sara P7a and Isla P7b!

A special thanks to Alfie in p3 and Evan in P3/4 for their fantastic donations to the SCIAF, 'wee box' in their classes too!



A flavour of some things over this month: children are enjoying the new playground resources, P7s enjoyed their STEM building bridge activity with Edin Uni, P1s have loved their, 'That's Not My Habitat' project, Mrs Carr has been out in the garden with the children, P3s and P4s have been making fabric pictures, P7s played really well in the Rugby festival yesterday and P6a loved their trip to the Sky Academy in Livingston recently.

