



# St Mary's RC Primary School

63 East London Street

Edinburgh

EH7 4BW

Tel: 0131 556 7128

email: [admin@st-marysrc-pri.edin.sch.uk](mailto:admin@st-marysrc-pri.edin.sch.uk)

website: <https://st-marysrc-pri.edin.sch.uk/>

Head Teacher: Nicola Kehoe

School Newsletter April 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.

### Some dates for diaries:

Monday 2nd May: Bank Holiday

Tuesday 3rd May: In-Service—staff only

Wednesday 4th May: Pupils Resume

Sunday 8th May: Presentation of the Our Father 9am mass St Mary's Cathedral - for pupils preparing for Sacrament of First Holy Communion

Monday 9th May: Parent Meeting (2) 6:00pm - Sacrament of Confirmation (TEAMS)

Tuesday 10th & Thursday 12th May: parent consultations—in school

Sunday 15th May: Sacrament of Confirmation 9am mass St Mary's Cathedral

Monday 16th May; Parent Meeting (2) 6:00pm—Sacrament of First Communion (TEAMS)

Thursday 19th May: Sports Day—P1-P3 AM. P4-P7 PM. Further information to follow!

The PFC met on Tuesday evening—many thanks to those who were able to make. I'm delighted that a sub group are meeting this Friday to start to organise a school event to take place in June—a summer fair type event to raise funds. It was also agreed that a percentage of PFC funding will go towards supporting the polish school in Poznan, detailed in the email at the beginning of this week, who are supporting many families and children seeking refuge from Ukraine.

The Pupil Council met on Wednesday and asked about having master classes again where they choose an activity to go to one afternoon with all the staff taking different activities and we discussed looking to organise these in the new session. They also wanted more markers on our map display to show where pupils are from and asked about the talent show which will take place in the hall again organised by the pupil council. The pupils voted for half the money raised during Lent to go towards the general appeal fund for Ukraine and the other half to the polish school.

## Covid 19: advice issued to schools this week:

- ‘Warn and Inform’ letters to continue until the end of April when testing ends. Local authority will work with Health Protection if generic/specific communications are required thereafter
- Cleaning and fogging will be reviewed and will continue as per current processes until the end of term
- Face coverings—Workplace guidance now applies to the wearing of face coverings in schools, encouraged in communal areas.
- Physical distancing – follow wider societal guidance, cautious approach where possible, it’s safer to keep a distance from other people
- Covid-19 school infection control risk assessment still in place
- Advice for those with Covid-19 symptoms expected to be issued nationally before 1 May
- Good practices around hygiene should remain

**Norovirus** - We are still seeing cases of Norovirus in schools - please remember 48 hour rule.

We have also been asked to share this link for our families within Edinburgh. [Support for families – The City of Edinburgh Council](#)

Huge thanks to Mrs Carr who was in the playground during the holidays tidying up our garden areas. Mrs Carr and P7s also worked to make these planters too at the front of the school with donated shrubs— don’t they look great!

I know there is concern around levels of traffic near the school and we have yet to hear re a replacement for Ricky—we have been speaking to the children about using the crossings if they are walking to school themselves and we hope to hear soon re a new crossing patrol officer.

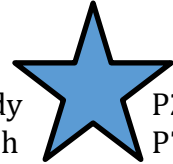




## Wider Achievement

**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 Hugo P1a, Luke P1b, Cooper M-R P2a, Sean P2b, Akilan P3, Kamilya P3/4, Esme P4, Ida P5a, Moneesh P5b, Kamran P6a, Ruby P6b, Noah P7a, Ella & Daniela P7b.

**Star Writers:** Well done to Anton & Basil P1a, Esme P1b, Sami & Maja P2a, Sandy P2b, Louis P3, Senan P3/4, Olivia G P4, Rose P5a, Lila P5b, Bridget P6a, Isla P6b, Joseph P7a and Eimear & Blythe P7b!



Dandelion Schools' Growing Initiative is Scotland's largest ever community growing project. Pupils involved will be citizen scientists as well as producers of crops for their own Harvest Festivals in September, which will involve coming together to share learning, food and music.



We have had our delivery of hundreds of seed potatoes and our growing medium will be delivered soon. Each class will plant up their seed potatoes in containers and bags for life and will look after the plants as they grow. We are very excited to be part of this initiative and to be able to teach the children about food and sustainability.



**Many thanks to Sehej and family for sharing this lovely picture with us!**

Holi is a popular ancient Hindu festival, also known as the Festival of Spring, the Festival of Colours or the Festival of Love. The festival celebrates the eternal and divine love of Radha Krishna. It also signifies the triumph of good over evil, as it celebrates the victory of Lord Vishnu as Narasimha Narayana over Hiranyakashipu. It originated and is predominantly celebrated in the Indian subcontinent.

Holi celebrations start on the night before Holi with a Holika Dahan where people gather, perform religious rituals in front of the bonfire, and pray that their internal evil be destroyed the way Holika, the sister of the demon king Hiranyakashipu, was killed in the fire. The next morning is celebrated as Rangwali Holi (Dhuleti) – a free-for-all festival of colours, where people smear each other with colours and drench each other. Water guns and water-filled balloons are also used to play and colour each other.

We will be thinking of all our in our community who will be celebrating Eid next week too. Enjoy the long weekend!

As always, thank you for your continued support.

N. Kehoe