



St Mary's RC Primary School

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School Newsletter June 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.

End of term:

Thursday 30th June: whole school thanksgiving mass for P7s 10am—St Mary's Cathedral

End of session: Friday 1st July—**12 noon finish for all**

Mon 15th August: Inservice day. Staff only

Tues 16th August: In-Service day. Staff only.

Wednesday 17th August: pupils resume



What a fabulous event the summer fair was and to have such nice weather too just made it all the more special. It was so nice to see former pupils again and the organisation over 2 sessions seemed to work well but we will review for next session when we return. A huge thanks to Katie and the fantastic team! Approx. £2800 was raised.



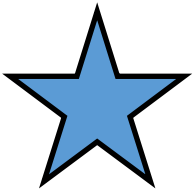
Wider Achievement



Talent Show: well done to all who auditioned for our talent show this year and the finalists who performed on Wednesday morning—what a wealth of talent we have in our young people! Pupil Councillors helped with the very difficult task of judging the winners. 1st: Lucas, Charlie & Karl P3 breakdancing, 2nd: Deo P5a —magic 3rd: Lila P5b gymnastics. Special commendations were also awarded to Cara P3, Ethan M P7b, Sami, P4, Ciara P6a and Effy P2a. It was a fabulous morning!

Pope Francis Faith Award: well done also to our P7s—Ella, Anna, Joseph, Sara, Daniela Libby, Abraham and Isobel on achieving their Pope Francis Faith Award after their hard work and effort these past two sessions.

Winning House: well done again to St Andrew's—winning house of Term 3 and they enjoyed an extra break on Tuesday afternoon.



The P2 and P5 classes held a great skills fair event last week inviting parents, grandparents and members of the community to come along and learn all different kinds of skills. And to top it all off they received a Champions Award from the Scottish Social Enterprise Organisation!



Class Organisation: session 22-23

We are sad to be saying goodbye to a number of staff but wish them all the very best in the different paths they are embarking on. Mr Diffley, Mr Lamb, Ms Jabbar and Mr Young will all be moving on and Mr Reddington will be on a career break next year and we wish him all the very best too. Mrs Dougan is continuing her seconded role until December and so Mrs Wightman will continue in support for learning and return to teach in the P2a class unless Mrs Dougan does not return. Class teachers for next session then will be:

| | |
|---|---------------------|
| P1a: Miss Keggie | P1b: Miss Clark |
| P2a: Miss Jones (Aug-Dec) | P2b: Miss Johnston |
| P3a: Mrs Learmonth M-W/ Mrs Calvey Th-Fri | P3b: Miss Hancock |
| P4: Miss Reville | P4/5: Mr Hawkins |
| P5: Mr Gonzalez | |
| P6a: Miss Fallon | P6b: Miss McConnell |
| P7a: Ms Murphy | P7b: Mr Mikulin |

In the event that we have to composite over P1 and P2 depending on numbers in August, Miss Johnston will be the P2/1 teacher with Miss Jones in the straight P2 class. We shall advise parents if we do have to composite and what class their child will be in as soon as we can before the term starts.

Our best wishes also go to Ms Jabbar and Mr Hawkins for their upcoming weddings! We look forward to welcoming Miss Brittany Jones and Miss Laura McConnell to the team and our new Pupil Support Officer Mr George Nicolacopoulos.

Healthy Schools

This is a subject close to many hearts and all schools are being asked to review their practices around physical activity and healthy eating in particular, in line with Scottish Government advice and guidelines. As you may know we discourage parents from sending in birthday cakes or treats and if they have come in we issue these at the end of the day for parents to then choose whether / when their child can have them. As of the start of next session we are asking parents not to send in any treats to issue to classes for any occasion and we shall also not be issuing any treats in school during the school day in order to promote a consistent message around healthy eating.

P6/7 and P4/5 Girls Football 2022/2023

As Mr Diffley is not with us next session, we are looking for parent helpers to help with training sessions after school each week for one hour and to help with supporting the team at football games on Saturday mornings. Across the year there is approx. 12-15 games which we would need help with from August- March and any cup games which we qualify for in the summer term.

The role would include helping organising the team to play, bringing kit with you for the players and liaising with the opposite team to confirm where the match is played. Most games start at 9.30am so it would be a commitment from 9.15-11am on a Saturday morning when we have a fixture.

We would be looking for a minimum of three parents to help support each of the teams on a fair rota system. If you are able to help please get in touch on the email below or contact the school admin email ***admin@st-marysrc-pri.edin.sch.uk*** and we will help put you through the disclosure process.

Many Thanks!

Miss Downie

stacey.downie@st-marysrc-pri.edin.sch.uk



One of the next steps from our pupil and parent equalities group was to organise a multicultural event which took place this month where children could choose which country they wanted to go to! The pupils were involved in either singing or dancing, cooking or art and craft in relation to France, Poland, Ukraine, Iceland, India, Spain, Japan and Germany representing some of the countries our pupils are from.



School Improvement: plans for next session

Many thanks to those who responded to our survey regarding pupil equity funding, school improvement and parent consultations. We had 16 responses with the majority favouring two face-face parent consultations and these will be organised for November and April/May. Further detail will be shared at the PFC AGM in September but common themes were:

To improve—more art/music/ outdoor learning, stretching pupils more and playground improvements.

Things going well—pastoral care, equity, support for families, leadership, appreciation of all staff.

In relation to pupil equity funding wellbeing interventions, literacy and numeracy interventions and family support were all top priorities for parents and so we will have our new pupil support officer to help with wellbeing and family support and Mrs Krchnak will also be supporting pupils in small groups next year too as well as Mrs Wightman.

We are looking forward to establishing partnerships with Friends of Gayfield Square and Friends of Hopetoun Crescent Gardens to plan more outdoor learning and staff will be looking at music and art provision across the school when we return next session. We will also be continuing our work to improve writing, digital technologies and equalities/equity.

Finally, this past academic year, and the one before, and possibly the one that will come after, have been exhausting on so many levels. In all our walks of life we've had staffing challenges, illness on top of covid and so much disruption to family events and gatherings and I know many are still grieving for loved ones. We're maybe only at the threshold of understanding what we have all been through— so thank you as always for your support and understanding. My thanks go to all the staff here too who make it a pleasure and a privilege, along with your children, to work here. Many thanks too for the cards and gifts that are coming our way, the delicious baking too! It is not expected or needed at all but thank you. Wishing you all a very relaxing summer and of course a fond farewell to our fabulous P7s and we wish them all the very best as they move on to secondary school.

N. Kehoe.