



St Mary's RC Primary School

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School Newsletter August 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.



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! We have enrolled 12 new pupils these past 2 weeks with more to come.



As part of the 'establishment 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 am now really confident and I love talking. I am also really good at explaining things. I am calm under pressure and good at solving a problem if one occurs.' (Ciara)

'Being part of the St Mary's Community made me resilient, I always start again if something goes wrong the first time.' (Klaudia).

I feel like I have become a calm, confident person. I am kind and welcoming. I like helping others.' (Jamie)

'I have grown more confident and resilient over time. I've also improved my communication skills, giving people good advice and just people skills in general.' (Kamran)

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.

**** Our date for the nasal spray flu vaccine is Tuesday 4th October* Consent forms need to be in school by tomorrow****

Classes are enjoying their sessions with 'Earth Calling' that started last week. They are identifying seeds and learning about seed dispersal and creating 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 !



And classes had their trips to the book festival! A busy start to the term!



For class trips that are on Parent Pay please consent to the trip and order a packed lunch if required. This is a relatively new system so please let us know if you need help. Many thanks.



Wider Achievement



Miss Downie, our P.E. teacher had a very successful Summer! She won two golds in the 200m and 400m competing in the Women's 35yr category at the World Masters Championships in Finland in July. She won the New Year Sprint (6 months postponed from January 2022) which is a 110m race 150yrs+ old with men/women mixed and she was only the third woman to win it.

At the Scottish Championships this August, she won two silvers at 100m, 200m and 4th in the 400m in Aberdeen. A great role model for our pupils!

Well done also to Sunaina and Suhana who had their hair cut for charity recently—what a fantastic thing to do!

Please do let us know re any achievements.

General Information

Start of day: the school day starts at 0845

Doors open at 0840 for P3-P7s

Doors open at 0845 for P1-P2

Please let us know if there are any issues with arriving to school on time or if you may be arriving late for pick up. Many thanks.

Health & Safety:

- **Please note that dogs are not allowed in the playground**
- **We have still to hear about a new crossing patrol officer**

Toys

Some of our new P1s and others 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.

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 indicated in the end of session Newsletter in June, we are asking parents not to send in any birthday cakes/treats to issue to classes for any occasion and we shall also not be issuing any within the school day.

For packed lunch/snack 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.

General Information: cont.

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.

Music Tuition:

The music service within CEC have experienced a large number of vacancies in the previous sessions and have had to readvertise on multiple occasions. We are delighted to have been informed that Sandra Hollingdale was appointed over the summer break and she will now provide upper strings tuition in St Mary's and I look forward to speaking with her soon to discuss plans.

Active Schools

Welcome back everyone,

Our objectives continue to be that 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 session 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

[07799 861 494](tel:07799861494) | Alan.Reid@ea.edin.sch.uk | [@ActiveSchoolsED](https://www.edinburgh.gov.uk) | www.edinburgh.gov.uk

Dates for diaries:

Fri 2nd September: look out for email with link for registration forms for sacraments

Thurs 8th September: Whole School Mass. 10am. St Mary's Cathedral

PFC AGM—date tbc

Fri 16th September: 'Stay & Share/Meet the teacher' - parents invited to drop in to classes. Parents of pupils in St Ann's & St Ninian's between 9-930. Parents of pupils in St Margaret's & St Andrew's between 930-10am.

Mon 19th Sept: HOLIDAY

Fri 23rd Sept: P1 parent coffee morning and information session

Mon 26th Sept: Parent meeting re sacrament of First reconciliation via TEAMS. 6:30pm.

