



# St Mary's RC Primary School

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School Newsletter September 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.

### Dates for diaries:

Tuesday 4th October: Pupil Flu Vaccinations in school

Sunday 9th October: Enrolment mass for children preparing to make the Sacrament of Reconciliation 9am. St Mary's Cathedral

Wk beg Monday 10th October: NSPCC work across school in classes

Tuesday 11th October: PFC AGM 6:30pm — via TEAMS—link will be emailed on the day

***Friday 14th October: Mid-term break—normal finish times***

Additional Holiday: exceptional closure day Monday 24th October

Staff in-Service day: Tuesday 25th October

***Pupils resume: Wednesday 26th October***—school photographs—info. to follow

Parent consultations: Thurs 10th & Fri 11th November. More info to follow nearer the time



I was delighted to be part of a trip with some of our P7 pupils and colleagues and young people from our cluster primaries to venerate the relics of St Bernadette and to join in the outdoor mass. It was a really moving service and great to be part of this very special event. Cloe, Anjana, Mario and Jacob were great representatives of our school.



## Wider Achievement

**Star Writers:** well done to Leesi P1a, Fatimah P1b, Haniya P2a, Eliza P2b, Struan P3a, Fabian P3b, Agnes P4, Sofia P4/5, Caitlin P5, Florence p6a, Moneesh P6b, Klaudia p7a and Fabian P7b. Star writer pencils and stickers will be awarded at Monday's Assembly!

**Star of the Month:** for, 'going over and above', showing that extra effort with others or in class, or for doing things without having to be asked well done to; Amelie P1a, Hanna P1b, Emma S P2a, Alex K P2b, Laura P3a, Effy P3b, Cara P4, Kim P4/5, Keisha P5, Maria P6a, Iona P6b, Cloe P7a and Alix P7b. I had a lovely morning spending time with them whilst enjoying some healthy snacks.

**House Captains:** well done to all who put themselves forward—the speeches were great! St Andrew's: HC—Ava J, VC—Sophie, St Ann's: HC—Mario, VC—Dmitri, St Ninian's: HC Ruby, VC –Lily St Margaret's: HC-Isla, VC—Neel.

And a well done to our own Miss McConnell who was speaking to cabinet ministers this week as well as to a group of foreign ambassadors to London on the topics of Autism, Learning Disability and Neurodiversity and training in the health and education sectors. The group that she is part of has been instrumental in the successful campaign for a commissioner for Autism, Learning Disability and Neurodiversity in Scotland.



## Harvest Assembly

Dandelion Schools' Growing Initiative started last session was Scotland's largest ever community growing project. Pupils involved were citizen scientists as well as producers of crops for their own Harvest Festivals in September.

We had our delivery of hundreds of seed potatoes earlier this year and each class planted their seed potatoes in containers and bags for life and we looked after the plants as they grew.

We were very excited to be part of this initiative and to be able to learn about food and sustainability. Gardening is also a very physical activity so it kept us active like our resilience theme!

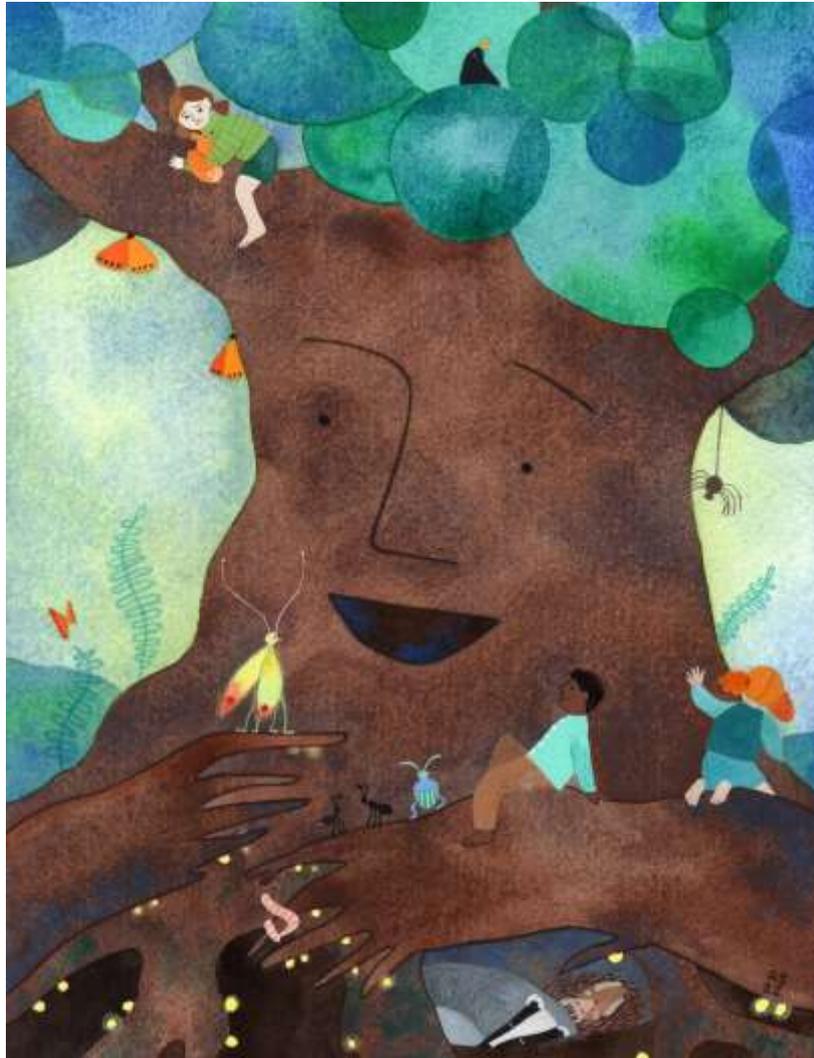
On Monday's assembly pupils shared songs and poems and even a wee dance or two with a harvest theme!



From planting and growing to making things like this yummy potato salad! P3s also made jam from our strawberries!



Scottish International Storytelling Festival Garden Tour  
GREENWOOD- ROBIN HOOD  
*A FOLK PLAY FOR ALL AGES*



What's happening in the woods? Join the trees in their struggle for a fair, green planet. And meet the outlaws!

11.00am Wednesday 19th October FREE  
Hopetoun Crescent Garden

*It may be advisable to bring a chair or some groundsheet to sit on.*



I enjoyed a trip to the museum this week with P7s, learning about renewable energy sources and being challenged to build an energy efficient (lego) house!



It was lovely to see so many parents at our recent, 'Stay & Share' / Meet the Teacher sessions and at our P1 parent coffee morning. Just delighted to have these things taking place again!



Our next, 'Stay & Share' will be Friday 27th January .



### **Speak Out. Stay Safe Online**

Our school has been scheduled to receive the NSPCC's *Speak out. Stay safe. Online* programme the week beginning 10th October.

The *Speak out. Stay safe. Online* programme is a child protection programme available to all primary schools across Scotland. There will be an assembly as well as classroom activities via a virtual resource with the support of Ant and Dec alongside their mascot Buddy. The programme aims to help children understand abuse in all its forms and recognise the signs of abuse with age appropriate material. Please see attached letter.

The 3rd-9th October is Challenge Poverty Week. It would be hugely appreciated if you could take time to complete a very short survey about the cost of the school day. We will also be talking to staff and pupils about this topic too. Please look out for this next week.

Health & Safety: some pupils are still bringing in snacks containing nuts. We ask for your support to please be vigilant as many of our pupils have severe allergies. In class we also ask that pupils only drink water and any juices, smoothies etc are for lunchtimes. Many thanks.



Our new pupil council met for the first time last week and our main agenda items were discussing how school life was going as well as looking to change Golden Time as this is now quite a dated approach. We're looking to hopefully organise, 'Skills Time' led by our P7 pupils similar to our previous, 'Master Classes' where pupils chose a new skill or activity led by our older pupils and so I'm looking forward to discussing further with the council next week.

*Many thanks as always for your continued support. N. Kehoe*