



St Mary's RC Primary School

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Head Teacher: Nicola Kehoe

School Newsletter: November 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:

Sat 3rd Dec: PFC Christmas Fair 10am—1pm. All Welcome!

Wed 7th Dec: Theatre Performance in school for all classes: 'Aladdin' - AM.

Wed 7th Dec: P1 & P2 Nativity Play. St Mary's Cathedral 7pm.

Mon 19th Dec: Class Parties. PM. Children can wear party outfits/Christmas jumpers to school

Tues 20th Dec: Carol service. St Mary's Cathedral 11am. All Welcome.

End of Term: Tues 20th Dec. Please note it is now a 1pm finish to allow children to have their lunch. Parents can take children from cathedral after carol service if they wish.

Wed 4th Jan: In-Service Day

Thurs 5th Jan: Pupils Return



There is much excitement in the school as we all look forward to the Christmas Fair on Saturday. Thank you so much to Chrissy, our new PFC Chair and the team of volunteers working behind the scenes to get everything ready. Thank you also for all the fantastic donations and we look forward to seeing all there!



Wider Achievement

Star Writers: well done to Aurora P1a, Hamish P1b, Leonardo P2a, Finlay McD P2b, Maja P3a, Miguel P3b, Cara P4, Rory P4/5, Attalia P5, Dio & Rose P6a, Sam P6b, Alice P7a and Leo P7b. Star writer pencils and stickers on their way to you! A huge well done also to Charis and Caitlin in P6a who are finalists in the CEC Green Pencil Writing Award!

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; Astrid P1a, Islay P1b, Cillian P2a, Obed P2b, Julian P3a, Aila P3b, Coburn P4, Minnie P4/5, Esme P5, Howie P6a, Lila P6b, Ava A P7a and Ruby P7b. We will be meeting on Monday for a catch up and a healthy snack!

Well done to the winning house of the month for November which was St Ninian's— they will enjoy an extra break next week.

McMillan Cup: For Outstanding Effort Cloe in P7a is this month's recipient. Cloe has been awarded for her outstanding effort in helping others and taking the initiative when she sees any pupils needing any help particularly with younger pupils. She is a super role model—well done Cloe!



Well done Lila! She participated in the Liz Atkinson competition at the Royal Commonwealth Pool. This particular event celebrates the children coming from schools throughout Edinburgh and they compete for their school. She worked very hard and won a gold in the 10+ category and a silver! **Well done** to Florence who passed her grade 3 violin exam with merit! **Good luck** to Bertie who is the youngest member of the Edinburgh Schools Jazz Orchestra. They are currently rehearsing for the Instrumental Service Childline Christmas Concert at the Central Halls and this will be his first, 'big' concert! **Well done** to Elena (P5) and Gabriel (P3) who sang in the Usher Hall recently too!



Thanks to all who were able to attend the recent parent consultation sessions. We loved having our pop up Waterstones book stall and many thanks to parents for the donations of books to our school library.



P6 and P7 pupils were delighted to receive their brand new Ipads as part of the authority's Empowered Learning Programme. We will also be issuing new Ipads for shared use in P1-P5 classes in the new term.





Our P7 pupils have been delivering their chosen 'master class' to P1-P3 pupils and P4-P7 pupils. As well as enabling the P7s to share their skills it is a chance for pupils across stages to meet and get to know each other in line with our school aim of fostering that community spirit. The children have been enjoying the P7s leading learning and it has been just wonderful hearing the P7s talk about researching their learning intentions and what resources they need too. Well done P7s!



P7 Master Classes

P7 Master Classes



Our P7 pupils visited Hopetoun Crescent Gardens recently as part of our new partnership with the committee there. As well as doing some tree and plant identification and planting bulbs, they learned about the history of the gardens and that it was part of the Botanical Gardens! We are looking forward to further visits with different classes next term.



A highlight of last week was seeing the expressions of the P2 pupils as they suddenly heard the voice of an alien in the classroom! It has certainly engaged them in their research and writing about Space as part of their inter-disciplinary learning—a great, ‘hook’ to motivate them!

Hello all!

First off, I'd like to wish us all a blessed month. December is the perfect month to not only come together with our own families, but with our community as well. I'm excited to see all of you in our Christmas Fair.

I also want to take this opportunity to thank those who participated in the Cost of the School Day Survey that was sent out previously. It's important we raise awareness about the economic factors that are attached to sending a child to school. The survey results gave Mrs. Kehoe, the PFC, and myself a better understanding of what's happening in our community. As a result, I'll be updating the school website with signposts to supports. I'd also like to kindly ask anyone who might have something more to say, or that might need support, to personally email or call me in confidence. I'm here to assist in any way possible. Thank you as always, Mr Nico.

In relation to the above message from Mr Nico, I know many parents hand in gifts for staff at this time of year - we want parents/carers to know that whilst much appreciated, there is absolutely no need and we really don't want anyone to feel this is something that should happen.

As it is now the church season of Advent each week at Assembly we have our advent wreath and talk about the theme of each week. This week was the message of Hope that the birth of Jesus brings.

With thanks as always for your continued support. N. Kehoe

