



# St Mary's RC Primary School

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Head Teacher: Nicola Kehoe

School Newsletter September 2023

*'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.

# WELCOME BACK TO SCHOOL!

Dear Parents/Carers, I hope this finds you all well and settling back into routines again around school and work. It's certainly been a busy start to the term with trips to the book festival, 'Earth Calling' and the festival. And to all our new families, a very warm welcome from all of us in the community! We have enrolled 10 new pupils since the start of the session with still 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 values and 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 School Aims:

**growth** – to be the best person I can be

**resilience** – understand I can have not so good days and how to cope

**community** – to be an active member of my school and community

### Our School Values are the Gospel Values:

\*kindness /love - being gentle

\*forgiveness – reconciling with self / others

\*integrity – do what you say

\*peace – committed to peace

\*courage – standing up for truth

\*compassion – having empathy

\*humility – seeing life as a gift

\*justice – working for a fairer world



**Active Citizens      Effective Contributors      Confident Individuals      Successful Learners**

Our P7 pupils have written their application forms for the P7 responsibility they would like to take on this year and have taken part in interviews too. On their application they are asked to reflect on how they feel they've developed in relation to our school aims; Growth, Resilience & Community and they have really impressed with their reflections - just a few here to share with you:

*'I think I've grown as a person as I am more confident in answering in class. I feel I'm resilient because no matter how hard something is I always try my best'. (Sehej)*

*'In my years at St Mary's I have grown more confident as I never used to present in front of people. I am also more resilient now and I don't give up when things are hard. I enjoy being part of the St Mary's community'. (Stella)*

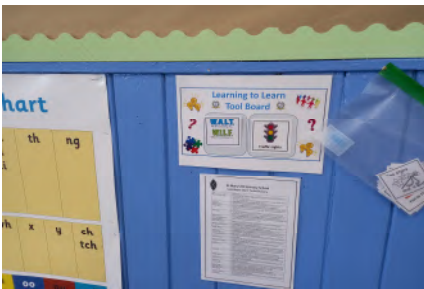
*'I have grown a lot physically and mentally. I am more independent and always try my hardest and push my limits. I used to be so shy but through my journey at St Mary's I love socialising and enjoy working with other people'. (Isla)*

*'I feel I have developed in all but especially in resilience learning to play guitar and not giving up'. (Harry)*

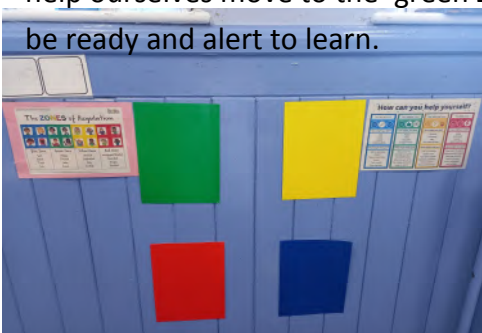
We are really proud of them and very much looking forward to working with them in their different roles and responsibilities around the school.

**Our Classrooms**

**Learning to Learn toolboards:** visuals help the children understand how they are going to demonstrate they have understood something or learned something. This might be using traffic lights, a 'no hands' approach or telling a partner what they know



We check in each morning on our **zones of regulation** display to show how we're feeling and chat to our teacher about how we can help ourselves move to the 'green zone' to be ready and alert to learn.

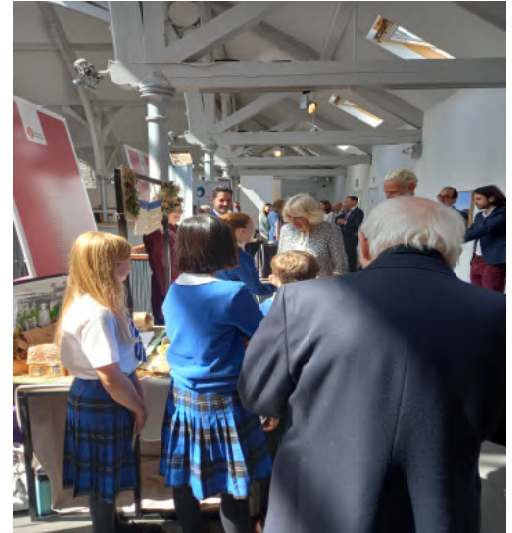


**Nurture nooks** are 'cosy' spaces in class for times when pupils may need somewhere to go or rest.



Our mornings begin with a, **'super start'** while we're checking in which is an activity to help get our brains in gear for the day!





‘Soil to Shelf’: our P5s last year were involved in a project learning all about flax in partnership with Hopetoun Crescent Gardens. They learned the history of its use and produced art work and booklets which formed part of a display at an exhibition all about sustainable textiles at the beginning of June with Her Majesty, Queen Camilla in attendance. The children who were chosen to represent the class were absolute stars of the show! A huge well done to Esme, Sami, Luke, Olivia and Luca! And a huge thanks to Mrs Carr, Mr Gonzalez, Jenny and John for all their hard work in making the project happen.

### **General Information**

#### **Start of day:**

The school day starts at 0845 for all. If pupils are not in class by 0855 they are marked late. 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. As indicated at the end of last session we are looking to reduce in particular the number of pupils arriving late. So far we have seen a decrease from the end of session in the number of children who are at 85% or below for attendance which is great however we are still seeing high numbers arriving late each morning. Please do come and speak to us if we can help in any way.

#### **Health & Safety:**

Please note that dogs are not allowed in the playground.

#### **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 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 with all schools being asked last year to review their practices around physical activity and healthy eating in particular, in line with Scottish Government advice and guidelines. We ask parents not to send in any birthday cakes/ treats to issue to classes 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. Please also make sure water bottles contain only water—juice can be part of a packed lunch but we only allow water in classrooms.

## **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/calls and 5 working days for complaints.



### **Music Tuition: viola**

The music service within CEC experienced a large number of vacancies in previous sessions and had to readvertise on multiple occasions. We were delighted to have Sandra Hollingdale on board last session but were informed at the start of our new session that Mr Martin Stewart was now appointed and he has now started to provide upper strings tuition in St Mary's. NY-COS have already begun their singing lessons with our P3s too.



### **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.

If you are interested in leading a sports club, after school throughout term 2 or 3, 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

|Alan.Reid@ea.edin.sch.uk| @ActiveSchoolsED |www.edinburgh.gov.uk



### **Wider Achievement**

- Well done to Roisin in P3 who ran a lemonade stall recently to raise money for cancer research. What a great example of our school values!
- Also well done to Georgia in P6 for her recent flurry of rosettes for horse riding events and Lila in P6 for her diving successes—great to hear! The children have chosen, 'get active' as their building resilience theme this term so these pupils are already there!

Please do let us know of any achievements that we can then celebrate in school.

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

**Thank  
You**