



St Mary's RC Primary School

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School Newsletter November 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.

INTEGRITY

COURAGE

HUMILITY

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The children were a credit to you all at mass on Wednesday. The singing was beautiful and Fr Robert was so impressed with their behaviour. They all looked so smart too. Thank you for that. Huge thanks to our parent escorts! Also to Fiona for the piano accompaniment. And great to see some of our pupils dressed as their favourite saints. Here we have Struan as St Patrick, Helena as Mother Theresa and Wojtek as St George. Helena made her costume all by herself too!

School Improvement – October In-Service

Please do take time to read the attachment sent last week relating to Young Carers—the service can provide support to many pupils and their families whom, like us, were not aware of the breadth of families who would meet their criteria.

We are also looking at skills this year or ‘play’ in our P1 and P2 classes and then how this progresses as pupils move through school and one of the areas we looked at was digital technology and what we do at each stage and any other resources we need. So we’re going to purchase new, ‘beebots’ for our younger classes where they can programme little bee machines to go in different directions, middle and upper classes will have coding or programming, ‘Marty’ robots. We looked at lots of ‘definitions’ of skills and this one from the SQA resonated most:

Individuals who can analyse and solve problems, communicate well, use information technology, work with others effectively, are well equipped to assume the active, flexible and responsible roles that modern workplaces need (SQA Core Skills)

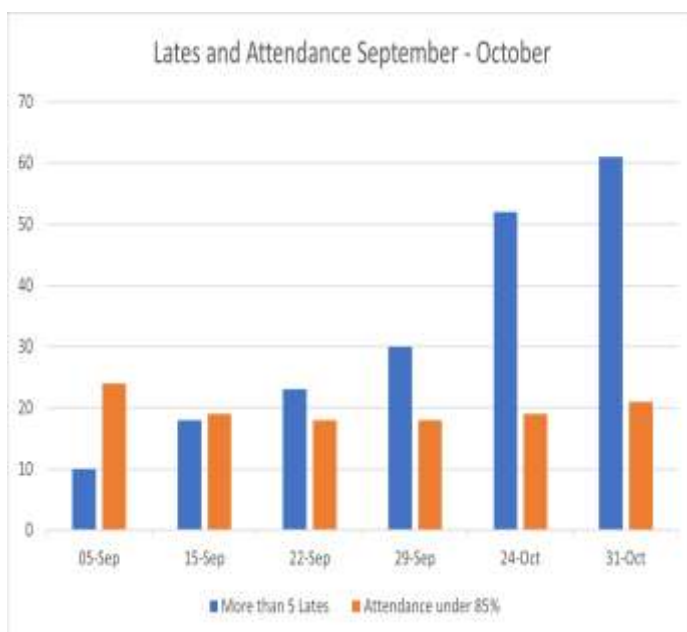
We have identified a core set of skills for pupils to develop across the school and then some at each stage that pupils will progress through - more information will be shared at the next PFC meeting.

We would like to develop one of our top floor rooms into more of a ‘skills base’ so if there are any parents who have joinery skills or would like to be involved please get in touch. We’d love to have your help!

We also had a, ‘Promoting Positive Relationships’ workshop as part of looking at our procedures and, ‘Relationships, Learning and Behaviour Policy’. Please see attached our one page summary with the full policy on our school website. Part of the workshop was viewing these videos which you may find of interest too. Please find links below:

<https://youtu.be/RQtAGi8LFNI>

<https://youtu.be/wl4p6EUW1h8>



As you know attendance is an authority wide priority and Mr Nico and I meet to discuss attendance and late coming figures. As you can see our attendance rates for pupils at 85% and below is improving—last session the figure was quite a constant at about 33 pupils and now we are just above 20. Late-coming is increasing as you can see and so please do let us know if we can support in any way.

Wider Achievement

October -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 :

P1:Alby

P2/1: James

P2:Nadia

P3a: Emma S

P3b: Eliza

P4a: Maja



P4b:Fabian

P5:Louis

P5/6: Rory

P6:Giorgia P

P7a: Ida

P7b: Douglas

October—Star Writers:

P1: Anna T

P2/1:Islay

P2:Leesi

P3a: Winner

P3b: Annabel

P4a:Laura

P4b:Ben

P5:Agnes

P5/6:Beau

P6:Elena

P7a:Dio

P7b:Hatty



The winning house for October was St Ann's who will enjoy an extra break next week. Well done St Ann's!

Well done also to P3b whose acrostic poems are soon to be published!

School Partnerships: we are delighted to have a partnership with Edinburgh Academy and some of their senior pupils who are coming into school to support classes with reading.

We also have Mrs Greenalgh—a member of our community and a retired teacher who is helping with reading and writing too. Some of our parents are in helping now too which is great! We are looking for new parents to join our Parent Equalities Group and if you're interested please let us know and email Mrs White.

Key Dates:

Parent Consultations: Thursday 9th November 3:30-6:00pm & Friday 10th November 1-3:30pm

Parent Curriculum Session: Tuesday 28th November 5:30-6:30pm—Reading & Writing focus

Whole School Theatre Trip: Thursday 14th December AM—'The Snow Queen'

P1 & P2 Nativity: *Change of date—this will now take place on Tuesday 5th Dec at 7pm in St Mary's Cathedral*

Class Christmas parties: Mon 18th December PM. Children can come to school dressed in party clothes or bring to change into

End of term: Friday 22nd December. Carol Service 11am. St Mary's Cathedral.

In-Service: Mon 8th January

Pupils return: Tuesday 9th January

**Thank
You**