



St Mary's RC Primary School

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School Newsletter November 2024

'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

COMPASSION

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The theme for our assemblies over these next weeks will be Advent with a focus on Hope, Peace, Joy and Love as well as learning about Advent traditions around the world.

Did you know that In Venezuela, it is a tradition for people to roller skate to Christmas church services?

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*A prayer for Advent
God of hope, we cling to you,
for you renew the face of the earth.
Through the gift of your Son, our Lord Jesus,
we follow you on the path of dawn.
Enlightened by your love and wisdom,
help us to lead each other back to your open
arms.*

The word 'Advent' comes from a very old word 'Adventus' which means the arrival or the coming of something or someone important.

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Catholic Education Week:

As it was recently 'Catholic Education Week' we took the opportunity to reflect on our school values and the pupils discussed how they can show these in their daily lives.

Anti-Bullying:

It was also Anti-Bullying Week which tied in really well when we were discussing our school values of kindness and forgiveness. We reminded the children that we use the language of 'bullying behaviour' and what they do if they feel someone is displaying bullying behaviour which is different than falling out with their friend over something. The children have all identified their trusted adults who they would talk to at home and in school.

Our Positive Relationships and Anti Bullying Policies are attached alongside this Newsletter.

Road Safety:

We have also been discussing that the evenings are now darker and how we can keep safe by wearing reflective clothing and staying close to adults.

Pupil Council:

Our pupil council meet fortnightly and discuss how school life is going and any issues the children ask the councillors in their class to raise. Last week the pupils met with a rep from Howdens Kitchens to discuss choice of colour for the worktops and cabinets and also the flooring. They then shared this with the whole school to have a vote and at the moment it's looking like Reed Green, Natural Oak and grey for the floor.



Governments must do all they can to ensure that children are protected from all forms of violence, abuse neglect and bad treatment from their parents or anyone else who looks after them.





Wider Achievement



November: Stars 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:Tomoe

P2: Cesia

P2/3:Amelie

P3: Asa

P4a: Anthony

P4b: Lily

P5a: Peter

P5b: David

P6: Mia

November: Star Writers:

P1:Ethan

P2:Annika

P2/3:Charlotte

P3:Nadia

P4a:Finlay

P4b:Tommy

P5a: Cooper S

P5b:Fabian

P6:Lonia

P6/7:Anna

P7:Hailey, Keshia & Julia



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

A new achievement award this session as requested by the children last year - here are our star mathematicians!

November: Star Mathematicians

P1:IArchie

P2: Wojciech

P2/3: Patrick

P3: Abbas

P4a: Cillian

P4b: Eliza

P5a: Struan

P5b:Malcolm

P6: Charlie

P6/7:Alice

P7: Bailey



Shout outs!



At our assemblies we will be giving these pupils shout outs for all their fabulous achievements for lots of great things!

Emma – P4b gymnastics display in front of several 100 people

Roisin - P4a took part in a gymnastics display

Annabelle P2/3 – took part in 1st diving competition

Alexander P3 successfully completed 1st grading for next belt in judo

Summer P6/7 had her first ever showcase with her cheer club

The P7s from both classes challenged themselves and took part in a Sportshall Competition

Struan P5a has been made a sixer in his cubs pack

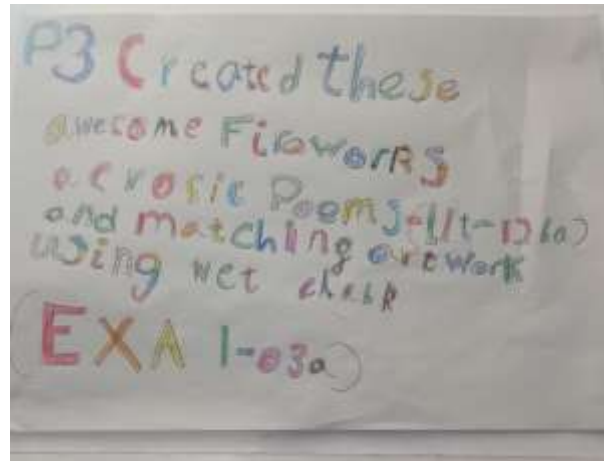
Bertie P6/7 has a solo piece in Edin Schools Jazz Orchestra

Ethan P1 is improving a lot in swimming

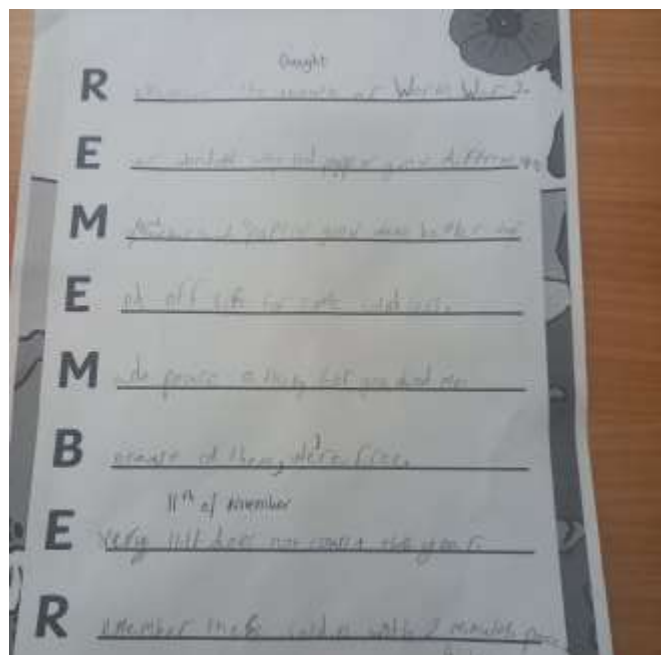
Eddie P2/3 is excelling at drawing



The Mini Vinnies visited St Giles' Cathedral a few weeks ago to hear the '900 Voices' sound installation that featured during the International Festival. The project was created by an ex parent, Zoe Irvine and colleagues which was commissioned as part of St Giles' Cathedral's 900th anniversary celebrations. The Mini Vinnies group voices were part of the project and it was very exciting to hear our pupils among the voices! The project explored the notion of belonging, connection and community.



P5a created some beautiful artwork on the theme of Autumn and P3s used wet chalk to create their artwork to accompany their acrostic poems about Fireworks. Aila in P5b also shared a beautiful poem she wrote as part of Remembrance day and our P1-P2s have been learning about all things arctic in the bumble bee room





On World Childrens' Day the pupils loved their 'treasure' hunt to find rights icons posted in different places around the school with clues as to where they could find them.

It was also, 'No Pens Day' last week which highlights the importance of communication skills in today's world. P6 worked together to create animated stories and P4a completed an algebra scavenger hunt and played charades with 2D and 3D shapes!



Thank you to those P1 parents who were able to attend Friday's drop in session to discuss things all P1 and learn about cursive handwriting and activities you can do to support at home. We were really delighted with the feedback from our recent parent consultations—thank you. Some areas for growth that were highlighted were to improve school lunches so please do get in touch to let us know aspects you think could be improved. We don't have any control re what's cooked as the food is all delivered to our kitchen staff who then cook the lunches—but do let us know and we can see if there is anything we can do. Another comment was re our monthly achievements and that they negatively impact on pupils. A few sessions ago we reviewed our achievements to have what we have now, ones that focus on school values and for writing that continues to be a focus for improvement and we introduced star mathematician as the children asked for this so hopefully that helps explain why we have these. Class teachers also have things they do in class to recognise effort and achievements.



With thanks as always. N. Kehoe

Thank You