



St Mary's RC Primary School

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School Newsletter February 2025

'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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Thank you to all who were able to attend our, 'Stay & Play' just before the February break and for taking part in the internet safety activities, cooking activity, P7 stalls and P6/7's outdoor learning activity in Gayfield Square to name a few!



DIGITAL SCHOOLS AWARDS SCOTLAND



92% of our pupils say they enjoy playtimes which is going to be even better now with the fabulous new decking and playground resources recently purchased by the PFC as a result of pupil requests and Mrs Haniff's help. The decking area is used by so many pupils and classes so there is now a new mat, chess set, felt tip pens, clipboards, brush sets, longer sweeping brushes and a tarpaulin which is now a 'cover' under which some of the pupils read and draw—it really is fabulous. The new basketballs and hula hoops have also been gratefully received as have the wheeled resource boxes to aid the storing and moving of the resources. Many, many thanks on behalf of the pupils—they are delighted!





Maya in P4 is a youth ambassador for Leith Runs Together which is a group of families who have been trying to get funding from Leith Council to start a junior park run in Pilrig Park. Well done Maya—what a fantastic campaign to get involved in!



Some of our pupils from P3 and P6/7 presented information at a Parents For Future Scotland event about air pollution last week. Thank you to those parents who were able to attend. The children really do enjoy events such as these where they can share their views about the city they live in and hopefully contribute to any change or improvements. Well done to all the classes who completed work on this important subject.

Ash Wednesday: as you know we will be attending 10am mass at the cathedral for Ash Wednesday. There is a change of menu for Wednesday 5th March where no meat will be served. If your child has ordered a meat option they will now be offered fish. Please contact the school office re any issues.

Ramadan: It is now Ramadan and do please let us know if you would like us to accommodate prayer times and spaces for any pupils.

Parent Consultations:

Please look out soon for information re parent consultations which are being held on Thursday 20th and Friday 21st March. Thanks as always to Mrs White who helps resolve any technical issues!

School/Pupil Queries:

If you have any general school queries please contact Mrs White in the school office. If you would like to speak to your child's class teacher please make an appointment or email via the school office. General queries can be answered at the end of day when the class teacher is dismissing the class but for any longer discussions please make an appointment as most days staff have planning or tracking meetings which they are then late for if they are held back to discuss things with parents. Many thanks.



Wider Achievement

February: 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:Seppi	P2: Bruce	P2/3: Harrison
P3: Amelia	P4a: Annabelle	P4b: Helena
P5a: Emily	P5b: Effy	P6: Grace
P6/7:Emilia	P7: Luke	

February: Star Writers:

P1:Owethu	P2: Evelyn	P2/3: Islay
P3:Hamish	P4a: Leonardo	P4b: Arlo
P5a:Hailey	P5b: Cheys	P6: Louis
P6/7: Tracy	P7: Arin	



The winning house for February was St Ninian's who will enjoy an extra break this week.
Well done St Ninian's

February: Star Mathematicians

P1:Eric	P2: Sofia	P2/3: Sofia
P3:Chris	P4a: Kuuku	P4b: Senan
P5a:Maya	P5b: Zuzia	P6: Ryan
P6/7:Harry	P7: Charlie	

Star Readers: well done to these star readers who have been making great progress with their accelerated reader texts and completing lots of quizzes!

Andy: P3 Tommy: P4b over 100 quizzes completed! James S & Jared: P5b
Kim: P6/7 an average of 97% in all her quizzes! Taylor & Sami: P7 Balaaj: P2/3

Shout outs! Well done to all these pupils:

- Joshua took part in a swim meet & his 100m freestyle time has qualified him for the East District age group championships.
- Bertie has been accepted into the music school at Broughton HS on the trumpet and piano
- Eliza has moved up swim skills from Level 2 to Level 3
- Dhruv has improved in swimming and now swims unaided. He has also started to learn to play chess
- Anton scored his first goal at a recent football match. He is making great progress with piano and chess
- Beau achieved a bronze in her artistic swimming grade one assessment
- Charlotte and Aurora passed their first ballet exams

School Attendance

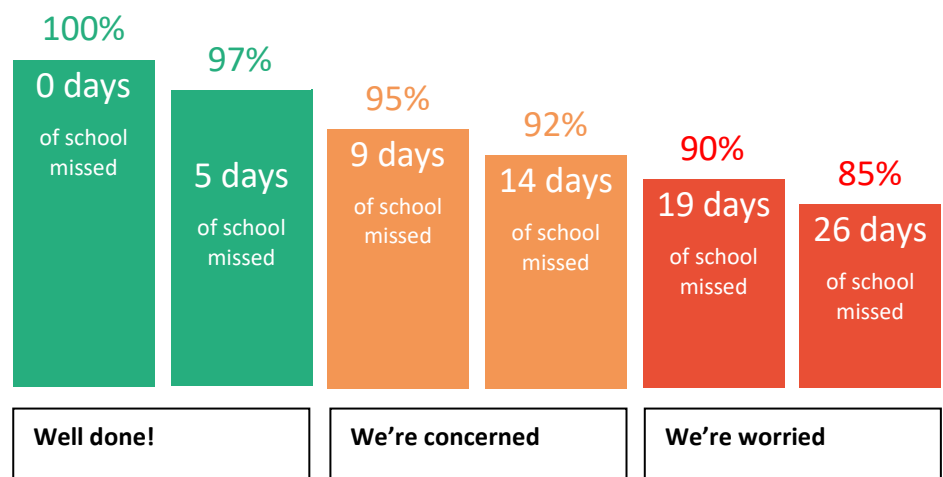
'Every Day Counts' 'Every Minute Counts'

As indicated in the January newsletter, improving school attendance is a national and local priority. Attendance at school is a key factor in children and young people's attainment, well-being and future life opportunities and every day counts and every minute counts. The more time children spend in school, the better they are likely to do in terms of learning and overall achievement: *UNCRC Article 28: the right to an education and Article 29: the right to let your talents shine.*

Ideally all pupils will have attendance of 95% or above. The graphics below illustrate the impact of missed days and missed minutes. Staff in school may be in touch to discuss your child's attendance if it falls below 90% and particularly if it falls below 85%. This is also when the Education Wellbeing Service may become involved. Parents and Carers will also now know that a text message is sent when a child is late. All pupils should be in their class as soon after the door is opened at 0845. They are marked late if they are not in class by 0855 and they will already have missed instructions for the start of the day's task and any information about the day. Some of our classes begin P.E. at the very start of the day too. Some pupils may benefit from a slightly later, 'soft start' and this is arranged in discussion with school. It is really important that you let us know if your child is going to be absent as we need to know they are safe. Please do come and speak to us if you need any help or support.



'Every Day Counts'



With thanks as always.

N. Kehoe