



# St Mary's RC Primary School

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School Newsletter March 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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We were delighted to achieve our silver award in the Rights Respecting Schools Programme. We will receive the logo and report soon that will detail all the things we do in school around learning and teaching about rights and also all the things in place for pupil voice. There will also be some next steps for us to consider. The validator said it was a standout visit and that the children spoke so well about their school and how they are involved in school life. We are very proud of them and huge thanks to our staff RRS team -Ms Murphy, Mr Hawkins, Miss Hancock, Miss Maguire, Miss Reville and Mrs Dolan for taking this work forward.





It is fair to say the children love a pyjama day and who wouldn't! Thank you for your support with our Lenten fundraising and any donations for our SCIAF, 'wee boxes' too. The children have chosen Cancer Research, Save the Children and the RSPCA as their charities to send any monies raised to. A, 'well done' shout out to the Vice and House Captains for organising the events and getting fully into the spirit of things in dressing up and getting very cold sponges thrown at them!



## School Attendance

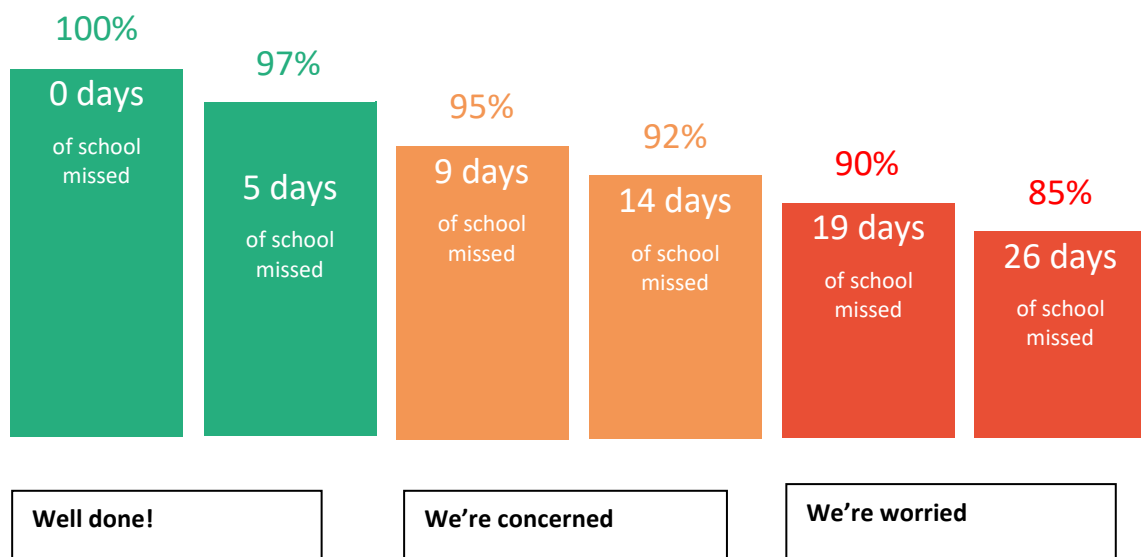
### ‘Every Day Counts’ ‘Every Minute Counts’

As you know improving school attendance and latecoming has been a priority and many thanks for your support with this. We are seeing an improvement in attendance and also latecoming—there is still improvement to be made but it is encouraging that more of our pupils are in class by 0855. It also means less disruption for Mrs White at that very busy time in the morning.

Please look out for a brown envelope with your child’s attendance print out for this term.



### ‘Every Day Counts’







## Wider Achievement

**March: 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: Sanskriti	P2: Isabella	P2/3: Erik
P3: Sophie	P4a: Maya	P4b: Esme
P5a: Alex	P5b: Sean	P6: Lonia
P6/7: Daniel	P7: Nikol	

### **March: Star Writers:**

P1:Isla	P2: Anna T	P2/3: Lucia
P3:Daniel	P4a: Roisin	P4b: Maja
P5a:Maya	P5b: Luna	P6: Flora
P6/7: Iris	P7: Taylor	



**The winning house for March was St Margaret's who will enjoy an extra break. Well done St Margaret's! Our McMillan Cup winner for this term was Corran Thomson for his fantastic resilience—well done Corran!**

### **March: Star Mathematicians**

P1:Joseph	P2: Kwabena	P2/3: Keira
P3:Max	P4a: Emma A	P4b: Alex
P5a:Giorgia	P5b: Nathan	P6: Alfie
P6/7:Eros	P7: Abel	

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

Masimba: P3	Tommy P4b: over 201 quizzes completed!	Mark:P5b
Sofia—P6/7	Adriele & Oliver P7	Eddie: P2/3

### **Shout outs! Well done to all these pupils:**

- Emma S has moved up swim skills to Level 3
- Summer was 1st in recent cheerleading competition!
- James and Cooper joined a football team and Cooper was Captain!
- Hayley has been doing some wonderful artwork
- Patrick played in an American football competition
- Annika is learning to sew
- Bruce made a super flying lizard!
- Well done Flora who came 25th out of 250 children at a recent cross -country meet!



Archbishop Cushley was very impressed with the children when they attended mass for Ash Wednesday and also with our P7s who attended the annual P7 Transition Mass for all P7 pupils in Edinburgh. This week the children from P3-P7 were at the cathedral for Stations of the Cross where they read information about each station and then paused for reflection. Fr Robert also attended P1-P3 assembly this week to speak to the children about Easter.



As you may know Pope Francis has decreed that 2025 will be a year of Jubilee, a holy year which happens every 25 years in the Catholic Church. School communities are invited to join together as pilgrims of hope, pledging to work together for God's kingdom of justice, peace and love. The Mini Vinnies presented at assembly about the Jubilee Year and we will be planning a pilgrim type walk to the cathedral later in the session.



Our Young Interpreters also spoke at our assembly this week about their role in our school. Young Interpreters help other children who speak different languages from English to feel comfortable and happy at school. They help with reading and are buddies in the playground too, looking out for those they're supporting.



Many congratulations to our own Mrs Carr who recently received a Community Hero Award. Mrs Carr gives us so much of her own time and to many other community projects— we are very proud—a thoroughly well deserved award!

Miss Downie was also a winner recently at the World Masters Indoor Athletics Championships in Florida winning bronze in the 200m and silver in the 60m—go Miss Downie!

Congratulations to Mr Mikulin on his forthcoming wedding, we wish the happy couple a lifetime of happiness.

And speaking of sporting achievements—a huge well done to Harry, Anna, Alex, Iris, Evan, Caitlin, Sami, Attalia, Esme and Joshua who won silver and gold in the recent swimming gala at the Commonwealth Pool—a fantastic result!



P6/7 were back in Gayfield Sq this month continuing their work as part of the council's, 'Wee Wildings Spaces' with thanks to the conservation and parent volunteers for all their help too! P6s made their own pizzas at Pizza express and also had a trip to Holy Rood Park with the ranger service this month.







One of the many things the PFC support is funding Generation Science to visit our school and our P2s and P6s enjoyed workshops recently. P2s learned about their changing climate and P6s learned all things electrical; circuits and electrical components.



We were so proud of our P7s for their fantastic achievements at camp and how well they supported each other and faced new challenges!



The PFC also funded a Scottish Opera resource for our P5s—'The Vikings' and what a performance! They performed a dress rehearsal for the school in the morning and then to families in the afternoon. There was such a buzz in the school and they brightened everyone's day with their enthusiasm and singing and choreography. What a great end to our term—well done P5s and Mrs Dolan and Ms Aunon!

### General Information:

- A reminder that dogs are not allowed in the school at any time—many thanks for your support with this.
- As you know the PFC funded many resources for our decking area including a tarpaulin which sadly was pulled half down about a week after Mrs Haniff and Mr Brown put it up. We have asked the children not to play in this area out of school hours as also on a Monday in particular, we are clearing sandwich containers and yogurt spills before the children can get back in. Again thank you for your support with this.
- The School Spring Clean Day is fast approaching and many thanks to all those who have signed up to help on the day—Saturday 26th April. Fingers crossed for good weather!
- A huge thank you to Mr King (Astrid P3 dad) for replacing the basketball board in the upper playground
- Thank you to all who attended recent parent consultations—if you were unable to attend we will be in touch to arrange a suitable time.
- ***End of session closing time: the last day of the session is Thursday 26th June and it will be a 1pm finish.***

***Finally—a very sincere thank you for all your support over this term—how is it this time already? We hope all our families who have been celebrating Eid—al-Fitr have enjoyed time with family and we wish all a very happy Easter when it comes.***

