

Father God,

Come be with us today.

Fill our hearts with joy.

Fill our minds with learning.

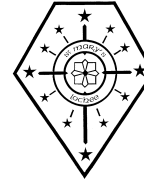
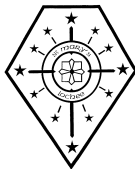
Fill our classrooms with peace.

Fill our lessons with fun.

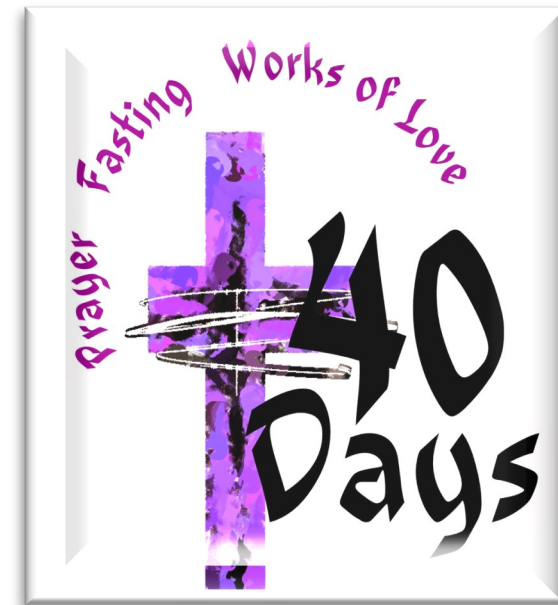
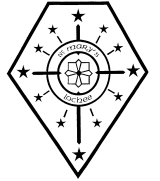
Fill our friendships with kindness.

Fill our school with love.

Amen.



St Mary's RC Primary School



February 2020 Newsletter



Important Dates so far..... (Subject to Change)

Term 3

- 10/02 Ragbag Collection
- 10/02 P4B Trip to Victorian Classroom
- 11/02 Fun In Athletics Festival
- 11/02 Holy Mass for Our Lady's of Lourdes 7pm
- 13/02 P4A visit to Victorian Classroom
- 13/02 Valentine Disco
- 14/02 Midterm (Closed to All)
- 17/02 Midterm (Closed to All)
- 18/02 INSET Day 5 (Closed to pupils)
- 19/02 NSPCC Assemblies
- 19/02 P5A visit to Victorian Classroom
- 20/02 P5B visit to Victorian Classroom
- 21/02 Dental Check
- 26/02 Ash Wednesday Service 10am
- 27/02 Book Fayre until 8th March
- 02/03 P7 Numeracy Day @St John's
- 03/03 Parent & Carers' Evening
- 04/03 Parent & Carers' Evening
- 05/03 World Book Day
- 05/03 Generation Science for P6/7 & P7
- 06/03 P6 Trip to Science Centre
- 12/03 Cluster Dance Show @St John's
- 18/03 P7 Drama Day @St John's
- 20/03 Health Day
- 25/03 SSPCA visit to school
- 25/03 Eco Conference Eco Warriors
- 27/03 End of Term Mass @ 10am
- 27/03 End of Term 3 @3.15pm

Term 4

- 13/04 Term 4 resumes @ 9am
- 22/04 School Performance
- 24/04 Bikeability P6
- 30/04 Parent Council 6.30pm
- 01/05 Bikeability P6
- 7/05 Literacy Day
- 08/05 May Day Holiday (Closed to All)
- 13/05 P7s to St John's for Outdoor Learning
- 17/05 First Holy Communion 10am
- 21/05 INSET Day 6 (Closed to pupils)
- 22/05 INSET Day 7 (Closed to pupils)
- 27/05 Sports Day (provisional date)
- 28/05 P1 Intake Transition Day
- 29/05 P1 Intake Transition Day
- 04/06 P1 Intake Transition Day
- 04/06 Education Mass
- 05/06 P1 Intake Transition Day
- 07/06 Sacrament of Confirmation 11.30am
- 10/06 P7 Transition day to High School
- 11/06 P7 Transition day to High School
- 12/06 P7 Transition day to High School
- 18/06 Prize Giving
- 19/06 Numeracy Day
- 26/06 End of Term 12pm



Staff Training Updates

- ◆ **What Matters to You?** - Recently I attended a three day event run by the authority in partnership with The Hunter Foundation and Columba 1400. The mission from this event is to give the community a service that they feel is missing in Lochee. Before we can start planning for this we need to know what you think of Lochee and what services you feel are needed to meet the needs of our community. On the parent and carers' evening we will have some pupils and adults surveying those attending to get ideas of how we can move forward with this. We are really excited to be part of this and look forward to hearing your ideas.
- ◆ **Conceptual Understanding in Number** - two members of staff have been attending this course. It aims to improve the numeracy attainment of our pupils, promote mathematical mindsets and improve confidence and attitudes towards numeracy. Almost all staff have been trained and we are in the last phase of this.
- ◆ **Leadership of Early Learning**—On Tuesday this week I had the pleasure of attending a conference in Stirling. This was so that as Head Teacher of a nursery class I am up to date and aware of all the policies and procedures that are for the Early Years. There were Head Teachers from all over Scotland attending this course and I am confident that along with Mrs Melville, Ms Lothian the nursery will go from strength to strength.

Parent Council

Last night we had a very informative meeting with the parent council. Many thanks to those who were able to come along. I know its really difficult sometimes to commit to these events but if you would like to join us in the future, please get in touch as everyone is welcome.

Rag Bag Collection

Many thanks to those who have handed clothes in for the rag bag collection . There will be an uplift on Monday. If you have anything else to hand in please do this on Monday first thing, thanks.

Midterm and Inservice Day

Please remember that next Friday (14th February) and then Monday (17th February) are Midterm . This means that the school is closed to all pupils and staff. On Tuesday, 18th February, we have an in-service day, the school is closed to all pupils but staff will be in. School will reopen for the pupils on Wednesday, 19th February, at 9am.



Our Mission Statement

Our school community will work together to promote a culture of mutual respect and lifelong learning where children are happy, motivated and have high self-esteem and confidence to enable them to realise their full potential.

Our Vision

'To be the best we can be'

Our School Aims

- to provide high quality, challenging and enjoyable learning experiences that allows every child to achieve their full potential.
- to engage in effective partnerships with home, school, parish and partner agencies in order to meet the needs of the whole child.
- to promote an ethos, within a secure, trusting and Christian environment, where everyone is included, valued equally and respected.
- to provide a wide range of opportunities where both achievement and effort is recognised.
- to provide relevant opportunities to develop transferable skills for learning, life and work.
- to support and encourage children to have high expectations in their learning and behaviour.
- to grow as a Catholic community where gospel values, prayer and worship are central.



Welcome to our February Newsletter. I can't believe that we are already in February and so much has been happening since we came back in January. In this newsletter I hope that you can get a flavour of all the exciting learning experiences, events and developments that are happening within St Mary's RC Primary School. There's also some information that I would like to share with you to ensure that all our families are kept up to date.

In school events/updates

- ◆ **Vision Values and Aims**—the children and staff have been working hard on finding a common set of goals and school values during whole school workshops. These values are the guiding principles that determine behaviour, actions and words. The next part of the journey is to visit the Rights Respecting Schools, <https://www.unicef.org.uk/rights-respecting-schools/> and working towards the award. I'm looking forward to updating you on this.
- ◆ **Sing up Project**—P3 and P4 have been chosen to take part in a musical singing project call Sing up! Every Wednesday we have three music specialists who come in and work with our pupils. They are sounding amazing. The hope is that the children will be performing in the Caird Hall in the last week of this term. I'll let you know more details once I know them.
- ◆ **P7 Peer Educators**—Every year we have a number of sessions delivered by staff from the Dundee Health and Social Care Partnership. They bring along pupils from St John's to support the programme and deliver a programme on Health Transitions.
- ◆ **Rooftop opening**—We were delighted to officially open our rooftop playground on the 17th of January with our Co-Chair Parent Council Jim Low, Mrs Audrey May who is the Chief Education Officer and our P7 leadership team. Everyone found it very exciting being up on the roof and we look forward to inviting you to events there and for the children to take part in lessons.
- ◆ **Womens' Aid** - The P6s have had Womens' Aid in doing workshops with them which is always informative and stimulates lots of discussion. We are half way through these sessions, please ask your child about this programme.
- ◆ **Transition for P7**—We have begun the transition process to St John's for our P7s. Staff from St John's come to St Mary's and speak with the staff and pupils and we also have the fabulous opportunity to go to St John's some days too. Coming up is a P7 numeracy day on the 2nd of March and then on the 18th of March there will be a drama day. I'm sure the children will come home very excited from these events. Look out for the letters from St John's with all the details.
- ◆ **Eco**— Mrs McDonald has been leading the Eco Warriors and many initiatives about reducing, recycling and reusing. The pupils are really enjoying and embracing this. There is a strong focus on paper and plastic recycling. We now have specific bins for collecting crisp packets too and Mrs McDonald will be taking them to a local depot to get these recycled.



Health and Safety

◆ **Attendance and Absences from School.**

- On the first day of absence, please contact the school to let us know the reason for your children's absence and the likely date of return. School office number is 01382436707.
- Parents and carers will be contacted via text if they do not inform the school of their children's absence by 9.30am on the day.
- All children who arrive after 9am must report to the school office so they can be recorded as late in the register.
- Dundee City Council do not authorise holidays during term time apart from those within the armed forces or those whose leave is fixed.

◆ **Procedures for children with prescribed medication in school**

We are reviewing the system for receiving and returning prescribed medication in school. From this point on we are asking that families follow the procedures outlined below:

- All medication to be brought into the school office by a parent or carer.
- Parents/carers to complete form recording prescribed medication brought into school.
- Parent/carer collects medication from the office at the end of the day, if required.
- Any expired medication to be collected from the office.
- Expired medication being taken from the school site to be recorded on the form.

The intention is that we tighten up our procedures and have a clearer view of exactly what medication we have in school. Many thanks for your anticipated support with this matter.

- ◆ **Wearing earrings during PE.** The staff have had a lengthy discussion regarding their concerns about children who have earrings in during PE. If the pupils are taking part in a contact sport or a sport that may catch their ears then we cannot allow pupils to wear earrings. Nose rings will also need to be removed in all cases of PE.

- ◆ **Bikes, scooters, roller blades etc in the playground** are causing problems in the playground. Please can you ensure that your child is not using these when they enter the school grounds and only use them after they leave. Unfortunately we have had some injuries because the children are not taking care.

- ◆ **Standing back at hometime.** Please can I ask you to stay back from the main front door at 3.15 to allow 300 children to come out and be able to see their families safely. It can be quite congested in the playground and the children are finding it difficult to see the adult who is picking them up. I would really appreciate your support with this to make it a safer end to our day.

- ◆ **Entering the school during the day** . Can I please ask that if you are visiting the school that you head straight to the office so that the office staff can help you? As you can imagine, security is one of our top priorities and we do not want anyone wandering the school unattended. If you find that there is no one at the office please check my office or Ms Lothian's and we will be more than happy to help you.