



February 2023 Newsletter



Special Events

Week Beginning 30th January – Languages Week

During this week Mrs Mackinnon and our other teachers will continue to highlight the importance of Languages in our school. The theme this year is 'Languages for a Peaceful World'.

Week Beginning 6th February – Mental Health Week

The Mental Health of our pupils and staff is very important at Mount Carmel Primary School. Part of the activities this week will focus on children designing a poster showcasing what positive mental health looks like as well as taking part in some activities to support our mental health. Our teachers continue to take part in personal 'Do Be Mindful' training. Finally on **Wednesday 8th February** we will take part in a '**Dress to Express Day**', on this day children can come to school dressed in an outfit that expresses their personality. Please do not buy children anything new to wear this day, simply things they already have that show their personality.

Our Faith - Sacraments

Please continue to keep our children in your prayers as they prepare to take part in their Sacraments. Both our Primary 3 and Primary 4 children are continuing to learn today about the importance of our Faith and will make their next sacrament during this term.

Primary 4 – Confirmation **Thursday 16th February 7pm** at St Joseph's Church

Primary 3 – Sacrament of Reconciliation – **Tuesday 21st March 7pm** at Our Lady of Mount Carmel

Other dates to support Sacramental Preparation:

Saturday 11 February 2023 Children's Retreat for Confirmation, St Joseph's Church, 10.00 am - 2.00 pm Children to bring packed lunch; ends with parents' meeting (2.00 pm - 2.30 pm)

Sunday 12 February 2023 At Sunday Mass: Do this in Memory 6

Thursday 16 February 2023 Sacrament of Confirmation, St Joseph's Church, 7.00 pm

Sunday 19 March 2023 At Sunday Mass: Do this in Memory 7

Tuesday 21st March Primary 3 Sacrament of Reconciliation at Our Lady of Mount Carmel, 7.00pm

Tuesday 28 March 2023 Joint Penance Service, St Matthew's Church, 7.00 pm P4 children to attend for the Sacrament of Reconciliation

Sunday 2 April 2023 At (Palm) Sunday Mass: Do this in Memory 8

Thursday 6 April 2023 Holy Thursday Mass in own parish: children involved in Washing of Feet

Sunday 9 April 2023 Easter Sunday

Sunday 23 April 2023 At Sunday Mass: Do this in Memory 9

Saturday 6 May 2023 Children's Retreat for First Communion, St Matthew's Church, 10.00 am - 2.00 pm Children to bring packed lunch

Sharing the Learning

During this term many of classes will be inviting parents and carers to come to school and see some of the items they have been learning about. Primary 6 will be the first class to complete this on **Tuesday 7th February** at 2pm.

Invites will be sent from other classes over the coming weeks or in term 4.

Cost of Living - School Uniform Exchange

We have a range of quality new and nearly new school clothing available at our School Uniform Exchange. Please feel free to come to the main foyer at any point to take items that you may require. This area has recently been refreshed and also includes free sanitary products for children and adults.

Cost of Living – Free School Toast

You will be aware that toast is now available from 8:45am in our school dinner hall for any child to access. Children can come in for this through the middle playground doors and then take the toast back into the playground.

Cost of Living – Reduction in cost for Breakfast Club

East Ayrshire Council is providing a temporary reduction in the cost of Breakfast Club – this has now been reduced from £1 to 80p. This will be reflected in you February bill.

Transition - Welcome to our new Primary 1 children 2023-2024

We are delighted to welcome some new children to our Mount Carmel Family. Our new Primary 1 children will soon be visited by Mrs Duff and will have the opportunity to visit Mount Carmel for a series of school activities. We are so excited to be part of your learning journey. Welcome to the family.

Transition – Primary 7 next steps

Enrolment for our Primary 7 children is currently open across East Ayrshire. Please access the website below to complete this as soon as possible. Thank you to all of you that have already completed this.

[School Admissions](#)

Primary 7 Lockerbie

Many of our Primary 7 children will be attending Lockerbie for 4 nights from Monday 20th February. They will enjoy a range of fantastic activities and will also get the chance to make new friends with other Primary 7 children from our education group. Thank you to Miss Maitland and Mr Bertoncini who will accompany them for the week. Both Mrs McGahon and myself will also attend across the week. We are also very excited to take part in this.

Health Promoting School

A reminder that as a Health Promoting School we encourage children to drink water throughout the day. Please do not send children to school with juice in their class water bottle or fizzy juice for break/lunch times. Some children have also had energy drinks in school – again please do not send these with your child. These will be removed and given back to the child at the end of the day. Please also consider the snacks that you are providing. Children can now all access a piece of fruit daily in school so they do not require crisps and sweets for snacks. As stated earlier toast is also available for all children in the morning.

Parent Council

Our next session will take place on Tuesday 7th March, this will be a virtual session. Please contact the Parent Council directly via their Facebook page or email mcparentcouncil@gmail.com to request access details for this.

Collection of Children

A reminder that our school day finishes at 3pm. We receive a number of phonecalls daily requesting to collect children earlier than this via the front door. We have limited clerical staff and this places a huge pressure on them to organise this, often with very short notice. This should be used on rare occasions if children are required to be collected early for an appointment. Thank you for your support with this matter.

School App

Our school app will soon be changing to Safer School. This is taking place for all apps in the authority. This change will take place at the end of March. Look out for more information from East Ayrshire Council soon.

In the meantime all of our school information will continue to be accessible via the school blog and app. Please follow the links for these items:

[School Blog](#)

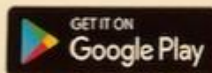
Please use the QR code to download our school app for the most recent information as well as calendar and lunch details.

School App for Parents

Please download **School App for Parents** that lets you see news, dates and receive important messages.



Scan the QR Code or search for **School App for Parents** in the Google Play or Apple App Store. When you have downloaded the app please search for our school name to see our dates, news and receive messages.



Kind regards,

Mrs Fergusson

Head Teacher