



February Newsletter

The February update...



Well the months are flying by and hopefully the worst of the weather has now passed. It is lovely to see the children playing outside and enjoying the fresh air with the brighter days. They are particularly enjoying the music played through our stereo systems provided by the PSA - busting some fabulous moves in the playgrounds - both staff and pupils!

I held the first Head Teacher drop in last month with the theme of Additional Support for learning. In the coming months, these will be scheduled for the last Thursday at 3.15pm. If you have any suggested themes please do contact the school office and I will do my best to accomodate. These events are informal drop-ins and appointment is not necessary.

You will be interested to know that the St Lukes' cluster and the St Ninian's cluster of schools have joined together to create a movie celebrating 100 years of Catholic education in Scotland. This joint-venture should be premiered in the summer term and will showcase the excellent learning and teaching in our Catholic schools. We will be looking for parental volunteers to talk about their views and experiences of everything that makes us unique as a community. Please contact me should you wish to participate.

We have a busy time ahead with World Book day coming up as well as Fair Trade fortnight and P5 curriculum event for parents in the next couple of weeks. Parents nights are on the horizon and I am in the process of getting the final maintenance matters finished with the P7 classrooms having a fresh coat of paint. Six classrooms will have the new Promethean boards installed at the beginning of March so the children will gain the benefit of this top of the range interactive whiteboard to enhance their learning and teaching experiences.

Standardised Testing



Children at Primaries 3, 5 and 7 are sitting Standardised Tests in Literacy and English and Numeracy and Mathematics. These assist in assessing children's progress and identify next steps in their learning but are only one aspect of a wide range assessments which are carried out on an on-going basis throughout the year at all stages in the school. The scores for each child, along with information about what the scores mean will be included in the end of year reports. The most important benefit of these is that the data analysis informs teacher/pupil planning to allow accurate targets for the individual pupils.

Parents' Evenings



Parents' Evenings are scheduled for Tuesday 27th March and Wednesday 28th March. We will be utilising the online booking system which will be 'live' from 4pm on Friday 2nd March and closing at midnight Sunday 16th March.

The Link for this will be <https://ourladyofthemissions.parentseveningsystem.co.uk/>

God's Loving Plan

God's Loving Plan replaced Education for Love as the 'relationships education' programme for pupils from P1-P7. This programme will once again be taught after Easter and it is important that parents are aware of the content in order to discuss matters further in advance of lessons being taught, particularly at P6 and P7 where issues regarding maturation will be dealt with in more detail.

Curriculum Event for Primary 5

On Friday the 16th of March, Primary 5 are hosting an exciting programme of activities for our parents and carers. We are planning to showcase what we have been learning through our Social Subjects and Language curriculum. P5a and P5b are intending to showcase aspects of learning through favourite authors and P5c and P5d will be highlighting the work they have been doing through the Scottish Wars of Independence.

We would love to know if you have any further suggestions of what you would like to see in a Curriculum Afternoon. Please complete the form attached with any suggestions that you may have. Thank you.

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School Car Park

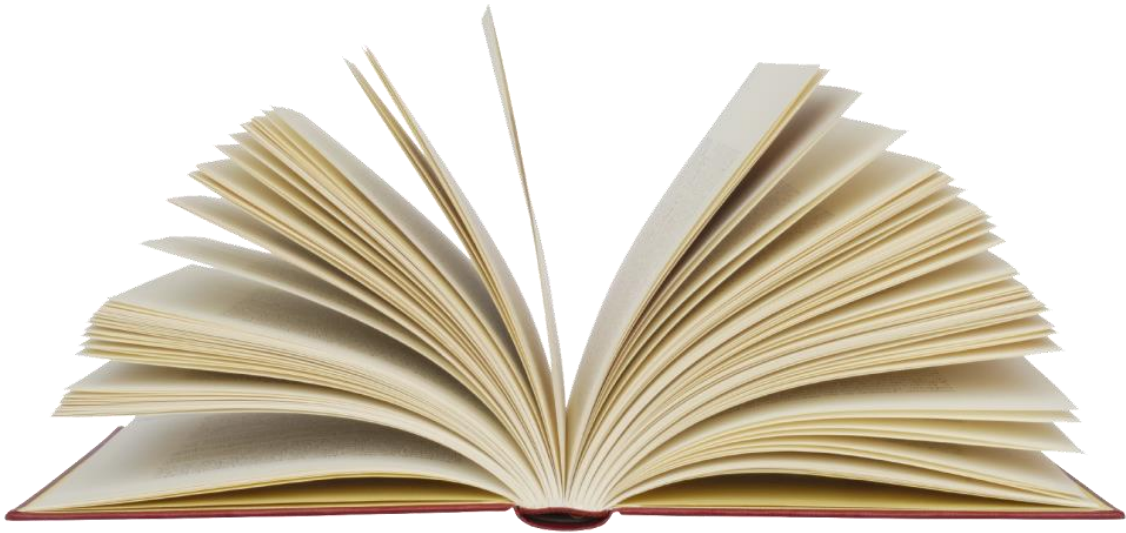


Please note that the school car park is for **staff and disabled** drivers only. We do not have the facility to accommodate parents coming early to wait for their children to finish. There is an overflow car park at the cages and we would appreciate if this could be used instead.

Please also be mindful when using the access road at the Junior Dept. The pedestrian crossing should be kept clear **at all times** and the school car park is also only for **staff and disabled** drivers. Please use the parking spaces at the allotments.

Many thanks

World Book Day



World Book Day will be celebrated here in our school on Thursday 1st March. Children are welcome to dress up if they have a costume to wear but it is not compulsory. An exciting programme of activities has been organised by Miss Thomson, Mr McCrea, Miss Caldwell and Miss Bruce.

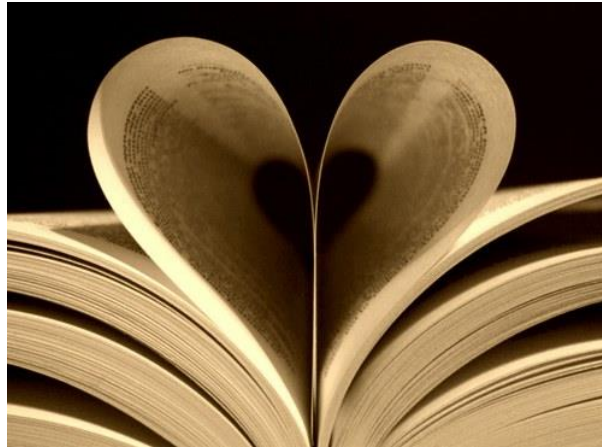
Reading Cafe



Our new Reading Cafe has opened in the junior building as a support for some of our families to help engage our pupils in a love of books. Mrs Dobbie (PSA) has been organising our lending kits for literacy and the families have enjoyed some reading activities with the children. Some great hints and tips have been shared to enhance the reading experience for our pupils. We hope to build on this next year with numeracy based activities.

Library Open





1 - We love reading!

All classes have now had the opportunity to visit the library and borrow books. Our biggest issue is now keeping on top of the cataloguing and returning of the books to ensure the library is kept tidy and is a fabulous place to learn about literacy. Please contact the school office if you can offer a 10-15 min slot regularly before the school end as this would be greatly appreciated.

We are adding a new dimension to the library experience using our kindles and VR headsets - watch this space for an update from our digital leaders pupil group.

Chestnut Garden



Our Chestnut Garden is under development again. With the funds raised by the eco committee last year the school has purchased some exciting equipment to create sight and sound sensory zones in the garden. The equipment has now arrived and is ready to be installed. The school are looking for some volunteers who would be able to help with the construction and installation of our loose sound equipment. We would be grateful for any help especially anyone who could advise how best to attach the equipment. The picture shows how we imagine the finished equipment looking. Please

get in touch if you would be able to help on the day or give us any advice. We are planning to install the resources during the Adopt a Tree event which the Parent Council are coordinating. Please watch this space.

Loose Parts



Are you planning on having a spring clean? P1 are looking to improve the range of loose parts that they have available for the children. We are looking for a variety of everyday objects to develop the creativity and problem solving skills of the pupils.

Examples would be:

- buttons, bottle tops, shells, stones, gems, pom poms, corks
- napkin or curtain rings, nuts and bolts, small mirrors

- velcro rollers, keys, golf tees, tubes, wooden blocks/discs
- straws, sticks, pegs

To be honest, the list is endless.

If you are interested in more information on loose parts and the theory behind them then a good place to start is the document below:

<https://www.speelplein.net/Download/loose-parts-play-toolkit.pdf>

Parent Council



Next Parent Council meeting is on 1 March 2018 at 7pm. Venue is junior building and we look forward to seeing you there.

PSA



Dates for your diary:

OLM Hub - Coffee, cake and chat - 9am on 2nd March

P3/4 mums Ladies Night - 16th March

Adopt a Tree Day - 18th March

Easter Egg Hunt - 29th March

International Day - 29th April

P5/6 mums Ladies Night - 11th May

Annual PSA Summer Fete - 2nd June

School discos P1-6 - 11th - 13th June

P7 Ceilidh - 18th June

Sports Day - 21st June

First Annual OLM Supper Dance for parents - 22nd June - Christ the King Hall

Football News



P6 Teamwork at the Scottish Schools tournament

Well done to the P6 teams who represented the school at the regional heats for this years P6 and P7 school's tournament. The venue was Ferguslie Park Sports Ground, Paisley on a bitterly cold day in early February.

It was apparent from kick-off that the cold weather would not deter these two teams from competing well against a variety of school teams from Renfrewshire, Inverclyde and Bute. OLM Thistle were placed in a group with three others, whilst OLM Rovers were placed in a different qualifying group. Getting into their rhythm quickly, both teams settled into controlling their passes to try to work their way up the pitch towards goal. With some great link up play from defence to midfield, both teams edged forward in search of goals. OLM Thistle didn't lose a goal all day, with a 0-0 draw, then another 0-0 draw then a 5-0 win. OLM Rovers went one better winning all their matches with an outstanding display of teamwork and composure in front of goal. Rovers have made it through to the next round, and incredibly Thistle won't be joining them this year despite not losing a goal all day.

Well done to all the pupils who were such great ambassadors for the school and supported each other as one bigger team. Congratulations from the coaches, parents and PSA to Rovers for getting through with their winning performances on the pitch, and congratulations too go to Thistle for their dogged efforts to squeeze a win in each game. We are proud of both teams. But we are most proud of the way both teams supported and encouraged each other during and after the day – a sign of great teamwork and friendship.

Primary 7 School Football Teams – SSFA Tournament

Primary 7 were pleased to enter two teams into the Scottish Schools 7-a-side Tournament this year. The first round was held at Ferguslie Park Sports Centre on 26th January 2018.

It is always an honour to represent OLM Primary School and both the Players and Coaches were excited at the prospect of taking part in the competition. All of the boys prepared well and extra training was arranged to ensure that the players were match fit - as the Tournament was taking place during our winter break.

On the day of the event there was a great deal of nervous anticipation, but the Players, proudly wearing their OLM Team Strips, left the school in good spirits having received and enjoyed the enthusiastic support of all of their classmates and fellow Primary 7 pupils.

The bus journey to Paisley was a noisy one, with all of the boys encouraging one another to play well and represent the school to the best of their ability – with no rivalry between the two teams... well, perhaps a little!

The format on the day was a series of short 12 minute matches: with one of our teams drawn to play 3 matches and the other team playing 4. It was a cold and frosty day but the sun was out and the conditions were good for an enjoyable morning of football.

Unfortunately, despite some excellent performances and some very close matches, the standard of teams competing was very high and neither of our OLM Teams were able to qualify on the day. That said, the commitment, work rate and attitude of all of the boys taking part was a credit to the school and this was commented on by the tournament organisers and other team officials on the day.

The bus journey home was a bit quieter than on the way to the Tournament...but only a little bit quieter! Although both the Players and Coaches were disappointed not to return to the school with better news, there was a real sense of achievement in simply having taken part, having done their very best and having represented the school. The positive memories of the day, despite the lack of qualifying, will stay with both the Players and Coaches for a long time to come.

OLM Football Fundraiser



OLM Football coaches are having a fundraising race night on the 23rd March at St Joseph's church hall 7pm start prompt. They are selling tickets online (Eventbrite ticket site). The link is:

<https://goo.gl/B2BgQx>

PRIMARY 6
PRESENTS

Roll

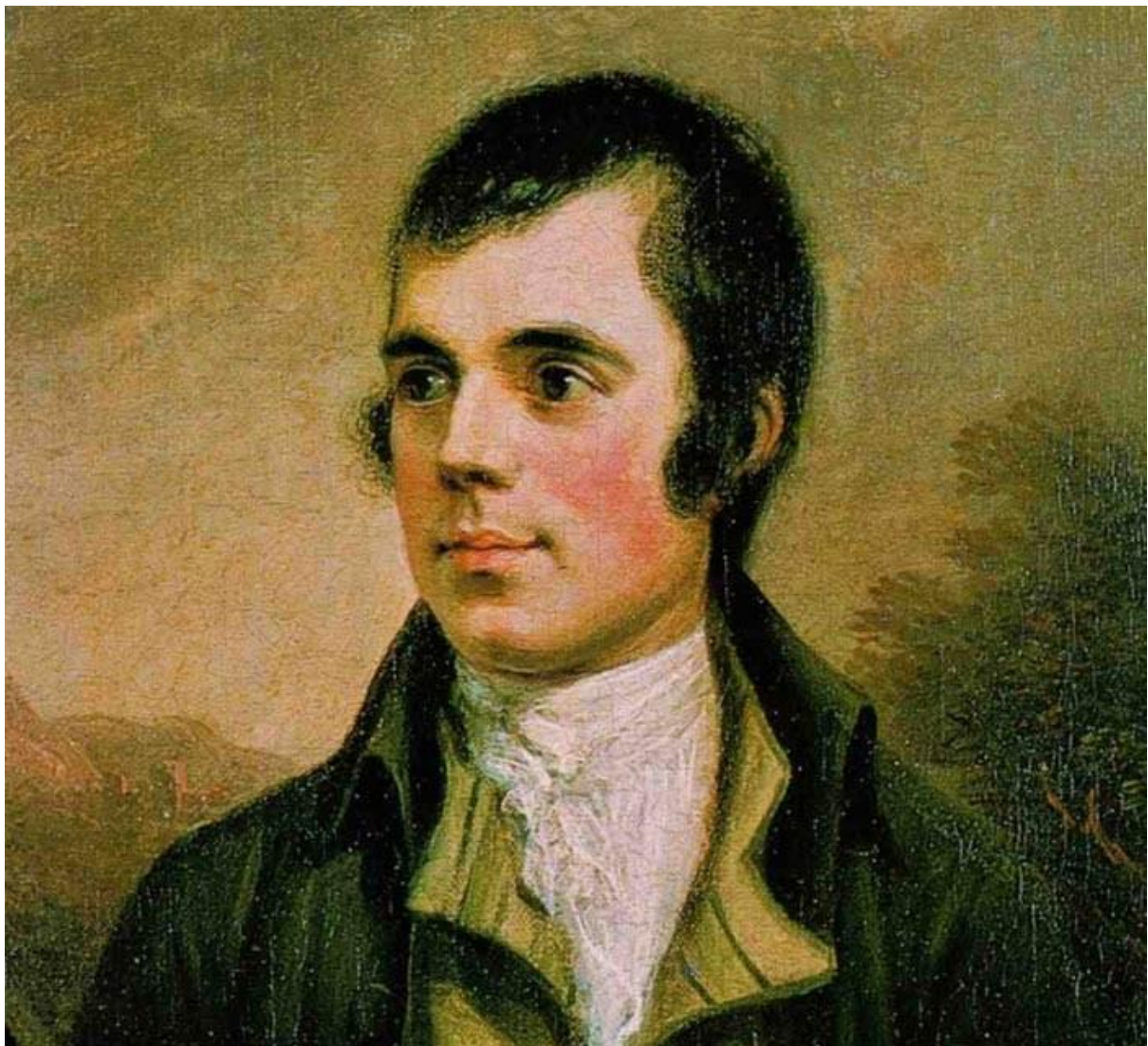
Back the Stone

Easter Cantata
2018



P6 pupils are busy preparing for their Easter performance of 'Roll Back the Stone' by Nick Perrin as we journey through Lent together. The story explores Jesus' journey from Palm Sunday to Easter through song and drama. The school choir will also take to the stage at the beginning of the performance. The Cantata will be performed on Wednesday 7th March at 11am and 1.30pm in Eastwood Theatre. We would like to extend an invitation to all parents/carers across the school to share the story with you. Tickets cost £3.50 and can be ordered through ParentPay for all who are interested. We would also like to invite the wider ecumenical community as it is a very moving experience in the lead up to Easter. Please contact the school office on 0141 570 7286 to book your tickets.

Burns Supper



Primary 7 pupils held a Burns Supper here in school for their parents/carers. In true Scottish traditional style the haggis was piped in and enjoyed by all. It was a most enjoyable afternoon and the pupils entertained the adults with music, dance, poems and recitals of Burns most famous works. A number of parents commented on the children's public speaking, musical and dancing talents.

K'Nex Challenge



P6 pupils had a brilliant time on Thursday 8th February taking part in the technology, design and build challenge judged by Mrs Dillon Ruddy and Mrs Devlin. The children had to work in pairs to build a new road bridge over the river Clyde that will allow all vehicles to cross the river but also allow boats, which may be taller than the bridge, to pass under. The winning team from Our Lady of the Missions was Luke Gallagher and Gordon Grant and the runners up were Lily Cook and Orlaith Kilpatrick. Well done! They will move on to the next round against teams from our Cluster primaries of St Joseph's, St Clare's and St Cadoc's on Wednesday 21st March from 9.30am – 11.00am at St Ninian's High School.

Provost Debate



Our P7 pupils are taking part in the Provost Debate in the Council Chambers. P7d were the first class to take part and they were debating 'Social Media should be banned for anyone under the age of 14'. The pupils put their views forward and a great debate took place. The motion was not passed as seventeen pupils voted 'against' and fifteen pupils voted 'for'. Provost Fletcher and Councillor Merrick commented on their fantastic debating and public speaking skills.

Euro Quiz



Congratulations to the Euro Quiz team who prepared thoroughly with Mrs McNeil to take part in a challenging competition alongside 13 other schools from across East Renfrewshire.

Our team: Daniel P, Sally M, Andrew W and Niamh McF came third overall.

The pupils thoroughly enjoyed the experience. They found it challenging but rewarding. Their general knowledge of the EU was excellent and won them third place in the competition. Well done!!

Pope Francis Faith Award



The Pope Francis FAITH AWARD is an award of the Bishops' Conference of Scotland, designed to help children to show "signs of love" in their daily lives and to be active members of their local Church. It invites young people at the Primary 6 and 7 stages to use the Gifts of the Holy Spirit and to see how they can bear fruit in their homes, schools and parishes. It is directly connected to what young people are learning about the Sacrament of Confirmation.

Primary 7 pupils have completed all of the 'Gathering Points' and are now ready to start working on their concluding evidence for home, school and if appropriate parish. The pupils who are applying for a parish commendation have already approached their Parish Priest to ask him to sign off their Parish Commendation Sheet. The pupils who achieve the Pope Francis Faith Award will be presented with their certificate and Faith badge at the leavers' Mass in June.

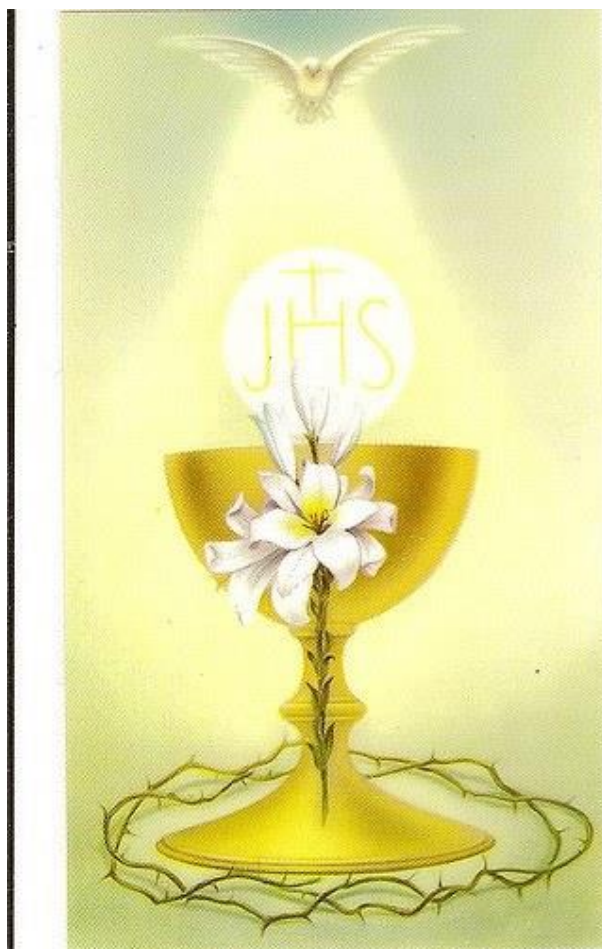
Primary 6 pupils are working through the 'Gathering Points' in class and are trying to complete the relevant Faith Actions for each of the gifts of the Holy Spirit. If appropriate, Primary 6 pupils should be looking for opportunities to become involved in their local parish.

Lent



During Lent any donations for Missio and SCIAF via the 'wee boxes' in each classroom will be most gratefully received. The children have been asked to carry out small deeds, works of charity and raise small donations during Lent. A number of P7 pupils are attending Mass at St Ninian's on Tuesdays and Thursdays at 8.25am during Lent.

P4 Sacramental Preparation



The children of St Joseph's enjoyed a beautiful celebration of the Sacrament of Reconciliation on Thursday 15th February.

The children of St Vincent's are preparing well for the Sacrament of Reconciliation on the 13th and 14th March.

P4a and P4b **Tuesday 13th March at 7pm**

P4c and P4d **Wednesday 14th March at 7pm**

Children should wear full school uniform.

First Communions Dates

St Joseph's	19th May	P4a and 4d at 10am, P4b and 4c at 12 noon
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Mass of Thanksgiving	20th May	10 am mass
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St Vincent's	19th May	10am mass
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Holy Name	13th May	12.15pm mass
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Thank you to Father Stephen, Father Jonathan, Father Hill and Father Burke for their continued spiritual support and guidance.

Please continue to keep the pupils of P4 in your prayers as they continue on their Sacramental journey. May God continue to guide them as they prepare to receive the Eucharist.

P7 Sacramental Preparation



Primary 7 pupils continue their preparation to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation.

Primary 7 pupils will receive the Sacrament of Confirmation on the following dates:

- St Joseph's - 25th April at 7.00pm (in St Mirin's)
- St Vincent's - 31st May at 7.00pm
- Holy Name - 7th June at 7.00pm (in St Mary's Pollokshaws)

This is an extremely special time for our Primary 7 pupils and we ask that you keep them in your thoughts and prayers.

Primary 7 Retreat



The P7 pupils will take part in a retreat on Monday 16th April at Schoenstatt Retreat Centre in the Campsie Hills along with pupils from St Joseph's Primary School in preparation for the Sacrament of Confirmation.

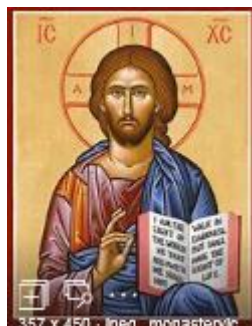
Blue Planet



Many of you will have watched the incredible BBC series on our Blue Planet. The message portrayed has hit home nationally and internationally with the initiatives governments are now proposing to address this shocking abuse of our world. We have asked our school cafeteria to stop using plastic lids on our drinks and minimise use of straws already. I would ask that you consider how we can support this as a school and give feedback on the form below.

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Centenary Cluster Banner



You may have noticed the new banners at the school entrances. Please do have a look at the Icon which commemorates the 100 years of Catholic Education. The wording was agreed between the two clusters and is now displayed in the three churches which are associated with our school: St Vincent's; Holy Name and St Joseph's. The original Icon is due in East Renfrewshire in August so I will keep you posted regarding events for the reception of Jesus the Teacher.

STEM Invitation



STEM

St Ninian's would like to invite you to a STEM Fair

Tuesday 13th March (5pm – 8pm)

Come along and enjoy a fantastic evening at our STEM Fair!

- Fun, interactive activities for everyone
- Enjoy competitions and challenges while learning about STEM careers
- Speak to real Scientists, Engineers and Mathematicians

Class Photographs



Tempest photographers will take Class on Monday 12th March and Tuesday 13th March. Pupils should wear formal uniform including shirts and ties on these days.

Dates for your diary



Week beginning 26th February: Fair Trade fortnight

1st March: World Book Day

1st March: Head Teacher drop in

7th March: P6 Cantata in Eastwood Theatre

13th March: Tempest photographer for class photographs

14th March: Sacrament of reconciliation - St Vincents

16th March: P5 Curriculum event

26th March: Holy week commences

27th and 28th March: Parent's nights for whole school

29th March: Whole school Easter egg hunt

Theatre Ticket Offer



Hello there,

My name is Declan Gorman, contacting you on behalf of Theatre South Productions, a local East Renfrewshire performing arts club, founded in 1992.

I would like to extend a personal invite to all at Our Lady of the Missions Primary to our upcoming production of 9 to 5: The Musical at Eastwood Park Theatre. The show runs from Tuesday 13th March until Saturday 17th March, with evening performances each night and an additional matinee performance on the Saturday.

As part of the local community, we would be delighted to offer a 20% discount on all tickets for Tuesday 13th, Wednesday 14th, Thursday 15th evening performances and the Saturday 17th matinee performance. Simply visit the [Eastwood Park Theatre website](http://www.eastwoodparktheatre.co.uk) and enter code "20OFF" before checkout to activate the promotion.

It would be greatly appreciated if you could share this throughout the school community in any way you see fit. If you have any queries or if you would like to make a large group booking, please do get in touch.

Thank you for your time and we hope you are able to make it along and support our local club.

Kindest Regards,

Declan

Easter Holiday



School will close at **2.30pm** on Thursday 29th March for Easter Weekend and Spring Break and re-opens on **Monday** 16th April.