



St Joseph's Primary School Newsletter

The most wonderful time of the year!

This year our infant department will be putting on fantastic Christmas Nativity performances. Primary 1 have been learning their parts and displaying fantastic acting skills for their rendition of 'The Innkeeper's Breakfast'. Our Primary 2 have been busy with 'Busy, Busy Bethlehem' and Primary 3 children will be bringing 'A Present for a Baby'. Please check the dates for your diary section of this newsletter for our performance times and dates. The ticket allocation slips have been given out to the children and the majority of tickets have been issued, we still have a few tickets left if you contact the office.

During the period of Advent we are reminded of the importance of love and family, with this in mind Primaries 4 - 7 have been organising family Advent services which help to remind us of the true message of Christmas.

Have a fun filled festive season!

Mrs S Martin
Head Teacher

Christmas Fayre

We had a fantastic turn out for our Christmas Fayre on Saturday 25th November. Our total raised currently stands at £3100. All funds raised go directly to our children for buses, equipment, trips, etc. Thank you to our Social Committee who spend a huge amount of time and effort organising the event.



December 2017



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Fundraising

As always, our children have been looking at ways to help the wider community during the period of Advent. This year our children from P3-P7 have chosen a variety of worthy charities, these decisions are made based on their understanding of the work the charities do and links to some charities.

P3 will be collecting for the St Margaret's adoption society. stmargaretsadoption.org.uk/

P4 will be collecting for Missio www.missio.org.uk/

P5 will be gathering items for Mary's Meals back pack appeal. www.marysmeals.org.uk/

P6 are asking for donations of hats, scarves, gloves and socks (for men) to Support the homeless.

P7 will be collecting for the St Andrews's Hospice and Prince and Princess of Wales Hospice (The Butterfly Service)
www.st-andrews-hospice.com/
princeandprincessofwaleshospice.org.uk/

First Minister's Reading Challenge

In October we launched this year's First Ministers Reading Challenge and encouraged all our children to explore the magical world of books. In order to support our avid readers we wanted to replenish our school library with books that would interest, engage, encourage and stimulate our readers. Your donations have helped us immensely with this, through our non-uniform - donate a book day we have been able to replace many older titles and extend the variety of books for our older children. Thank you!!



Our library co-ordinator has also arranged visits for all classes to Busby Library. Our children have been able to borrow books from the library and will be able to return them on their next visit.



Daily Mile

The Daily Mile initiative was launched 2 years ago by Elaine Wylie, former Head Teacher of St Ninian's Primary School in Stirling. I have had the privilege of working with Elaine in the past and I have witnessed for myself the benefits of the Daily Mile. In January we will be launching the St Joseph's Daily Mile, all children will run or walk (a fast walk would also be good!) a mile each day. We will be issuing more information on this initiative in January but please follow the link below to the official Daily Mile website.

<https://thedailymile.co.uk/>

P7 have been running the Daily Mile at St Joseph's since August and they were given a very special mission! See the last page of this newsletter for the mission, can you work it out?



Attendance and late coming

Over the last few months we have been monitoring attendance in St Joseph's. Our school attendance rate is 97.8% which is above East Renfrewshire average and we would like to maintain if not improve upon that percentage. Please support us and your child by ensuring they are at school.

Late coming has also been monitored. Late coming is disruptive to both the late comers and their class. Significant learning can be missed and additional teacher support required to ensure the late comer receives the same learning experience as their peers. Please ensure your child is on time, informal entry starts at 8.50am and the school day commences at 9am.

Dates for Your Diary

Tuesday 5 th	December	2pm	Nativity	P3
Wednesday 6 th	December	10am	Nativity	P3
Thursday 7 th	December	2pm	Nativity	P2
Friday 8 th	December	2pm	Advent assembly	P6
Monday 11 th	December	10am	Nativity	P2
Tuesday 12 th	December	10am	Nativity	P1
Wednesday 13 th	December	2pm	Nativity	P1
Wednesday 13 th	December	7pm	Christmas Disco	P6/7
Thursday 14 th	December	Christmas Lunch		P1-P7
Thursday 14 th	December	6.15pm	Advent assembly@ St Joseph's church	P4
Friday 15 th	December	2pm	Advent assembly	P7
Monday 18 th	December		House Reward Day	Winning House
Tuesday 19 th	December	1.30pm	Class Christmas Parties (non uniform)	
Wednesday 20 th	December	Christmas dress down day - Wear something festive!		
Wednesday 20 th	December	9.30am	Panto	P1-P7
Wednesday 20 th	December	2.30pm	School closes	
Thursday 4 th	January 2018	9am	School reopens	

Twitter

Hurray! Our Twitter feed is now live on our website. This means that all parents can access it without having a Twitter account, although we would like to increase our number of followers!

Over the next few months our class teachers will hopefully begin tweeting the exciting work taking place across the school.



Consultation

In November the Depute First Minister launched a consultation entitled: *Empowering Schools: A Consultation on the Draft Provisions in the Education (Scotland) Bill*.

The Scottish Government are keen to hear your views on it. The consultation closes on 30th January 2018. Please follow the link below to read the consultation documents and give your views.

<https://consult.gov.scot/learning-directorate/education-scotland-bill/>

Playground in icy weather

Over the last few weeks we have had a couple of frosty days and we have noticed that there are parts of the playground which can become very slippery. We have identified these areas for gritting but I would like to urge caution on icy mornings when walking through the playground.



Mrs Martin's Mystery Mission

P7 have inspired the rest of the school to complete the daily mile. Mrs Martin needs p7 to work out how many laps of the infant playground, the MUGA and the upper playground make 1 mile. Here are the dimentions, can you work it out?

1mile = 1609.344 metres (m)

