



St. Mark's Primary School

August 2015

Newsletter No. 1



Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome Back

I hope you had a restful summer holiday...although it is now a distant memory!! It was lovely to see all the children return to St. Mark's at the start of the new term. We look forward to working closely with you to make this another happy and successful year for the children and staff of St. Mark's.

I would especially like to say a warm welcome to our new primary one parents/carers and their children.

Photographer

The photographer from Tempest will take individual and family group photographs on Wednesday 23rd September followed by class groups on 26th January 2016.

Full school uniform including shirt and tie should be worn for this event. All children will be photographed unless we have specific instruction not to photograph your children.



Uniform

I would like to take this opportunity to *thank you for supporting our Dressing for Excellence policy*. The children look very smart in their shirts and ties when you see them in and around the school. *Can I please remind parents/carers that all children are expected to change into plimsolls inside school. The plimsolls they have in their gym bag are fine for this use; we are trying to keep the new carpets looking nice.*

School rule - Monday to Friday shirts and ties!!!

- **PE Kits** - these are to be brought to school in a PE bag. Pupils should not wear their PE Kit to school.
- **To date 207 pupils in the school have a school blazer** - that's just fewer than 60% of the pupils in the school. Your support is much appreciated.

Lunch Money

- Please ensure that if your child is paying for lunch that they have their money with them every day.
- Our cashless catering means pupils put their lunch and tuck money into the machine in the main hall on a daily basis.
- Please note that breakfast club pupils do not put their 95p in the machine. All cash for the breakfast club must be handed to Mrs. Muirhead.



Lost Property/Labelling



Last session we had an incredible amount of lost property. This was due to the fact that shoes, trousers, jackets, jumpers, etc did not have any identifying name on them. Can I please encourage you to label your child's personal belongings including shoes and lunch bags.

P.E.

PE is a compulsory and important aspect of our curriculum. It is also a key vehicle by which the Scottish Government wishes to improve the health of Scottish children.

Your child should come to school with a full PE kit on their scheduled PE days. Their kit should be in line with school colours:

- Either an existing school polo shirt or plain white/yellow/red t-shirt
- Black shorts / jogging trousers
- Black / grey sweatshirt for outside
- Trainers/plimsolls
- Waterproof jacket for outdoors

PE sessions will occur on the following days for each class:

| | | | |
|-----|--------------------|-----|----------------------|
| P1a | Tuesday & Thursday | P5a | Wednesday & Thursday |
| P1b | Monday & Tuesday | P5b | Tuesday & Thursday |
| P2a | Tuesday & Thursday | P6a | Tuesday & Wednesday |
| P2b | Monday & Tuesday | P6b | Wednesday & Thursday |
| P3a | Thursday & Friday | P7a | Monday & Friday |
| P3b | Thursday & Friday | P7b | Tuesday & Friday |
| P4a | Monday & Wednesday | P7c | Tuesday & Thursday |
| P4b | Monday & Wednesday | | |

Please note one session will be outdoors in all weather and the other indoors.

Health Promoting School

The school is working hard to remain a **Health Promoting School**. Last session there was a number of initiatives to promote health and well being in St. Mark's.



Can I also encourage parents/carers to think carefully about the snacks they are giving their child each day.

Fresh water is also available from our filtered drinking fountains and pupils are encouraged to bring a filled water bottle to drink regularly throughout the day.

Can I remind parents that fizzy juice is not permitted in the school. Cans and glass bottles are also not permitted.

Welcome

I would like to say a special welcome to our new members of staff:

| | |
|---------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Miss McNab | Primary 5b |
| Mrs O'Donnell | Covering Class Teacher non-contact time throughout P1-7 (in Mrs McIntyre's absence) |
| Miss Docherty | Covering Class Teacher non-contact time throughout P1-7 |

Our staffing complement for the year is as follows:

| | |
|---------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Primary 1a | Mrs Hemphill |
| Primary 1b | Mrs Ryding |
| Primary 2a | Mrs Rook |
| Primary 2b | Miss Kennedy |
| Primary 3a | Mrs McBrearty / Miss McCann |
| Primary 3b | Miss McAnally |
| Primary 4a | Mrs Robertson / Miss McCann |
| Primary 4b | Miss McKay |
| Primary 5a | Miss Kelly |
| Primary 5b | Miss McNab |
| Primary 6a | Mrs Guy |
| Primary 6b | Mrs Nelson |
| Primary 7a | Miss Flaherty |
| Primary 7b | Miss Clements |
| Primary 7c | Mrs Hamilton (Principal Teacher) |
| Learning Centre | Miss Walker (Coral Reef Room) |
| Support for Learning | Mrs Law & Mrs Roberts |
| Mrs. Carey | Music Specialist P 3-7 |
| Mr. Steven Percy | Active Schools Co-ordinator - St. Luke's Cluster |
| Acting Head Teacher | Mrs Fitzsimmons |
| Acting Depute Head | Miss Healey |
| Office Staff: | Mrs Kennedy Office Manager Mrs McQueen 2.5 days Mrs Ewing Mrs Officer 2.5 days |
| Janitor | Mr McDonnell |
| Pupil Support Assistants: | Mrs Muscat (4days) Mrs Macdonald Mrs Reilly (2.5days) Mrs Morrison (2.5days) Mrs Muirhead Mrs Stewart Mrs McNamee Miss Roberts |

East Renfrewshire Parent Information Line

Available: Mon to Fri 8am- 6pm

Freephone: 0845 84 100 10

East Renfrewshire's Parent Information Line is a free telephone information service concerning all matters relating to children's education. The service is available between 8am and 6pm, Monday to Friday and is also available in Urdu/Punjabi.

Parent Information Line is staffed by professionally trained personnel, who are able to provide information on a wide range of educational issues, e.g.: ideas to help with homework, advice on choosing a childminder and guidelines for using the internet safely with children. Enquiries can be made in confidence (unless a child is at risk and there is a child protection issue).

For more information on East Renfrewshire's Parent Information Line, contact the web site:

www.ea.e-renfrew.sch.uk/parents/

Pupil Groups

We are now in the process of organising our Pupil groups for this session 2015-2016.

The groups for this session will be:

- Eco Committee
- Pupil Council
- Pastoral Pupil Council
- Rights Respecting School
- Health and Wellbeing
- Fairtrade
- Literacy Leaders
- Prolife
- Mathletes



If the children wish to represent their class on one of our many pupil groups they must prepare a presentation and then be elected by their classmates. Being part of a committee requires pupils to attend monthly meetings and represent their class. They may also be asked to speak at assemblies and in front of their class. It is important that if children are nominated by their class that they show commitment and become actively involved in their committee. Pupil groups will meet on a monthly basis to discuss what their group will be involved in.

House System

As a way of promoting positive behaviour in St Mark's we have a house system. There are 4 houses - **Mackintosh**, **Ogilvie**, **Bell** and **Wallace**. The pupils in Primary 1 have now been allocated a house and will be given a badge which is their house colour. Pupils in Primary 1 who have older brothers and sisters in the school will be placed in the same house as them. Pupils are awarded house points for a variety of reasons including behaviour, manners and effort. Primary 7 pupils will prepare their campaigns for our forthcoming elections for our new House Captains and Vice Captains.

Displays in the Hall - Information for Our New Parents/Carers Weekly Star Pupil



This wall display will be used to highlight an individual from each class who has shown hard work, determination, progress, etc over the week. These pupils will be given a star pupil certificate, badge and pencil at our Wednesday assembly.

Head Teacher's Award

Each month one pupil from each class will be selected for the Head Teacher's Award. Each pupil's work will be displayed. At the Wednesday assembly each piece of work will be celebrated and pupils will receive a certificate and prize from the Head Teacher's Treasure chest!

ACE Child Award

The purpose of ACE child is to recognise the high achievements of individual pupils who have become:

- Successful Learners
- Confident Individuals
- Effective Contributors
- Responsible Citizens
- Nominations for an ACE Child can be made by teachers, support staff, janitor, office staff, kitchen staff, etc.



This is a termly award. The winners of this award will be taken on a very special educational outing. Last session the children went tubing at Bellahouston Ski Centre.

House Display



The pupils try to win points for their house. The points are updated on a weekly basis. At the end of the session the winning house receives the House Cup (which was donated by the Parent Council) and this is engraved with the winning House name. The pupils also receive a party in recognition of their hard work throughout the school year. Mackintosh won the House Cup for the last year - who will be the winner at the end of 2015/16?

Illegal Parking

Can I please once again remind parents and carers dropping off and picking up children to be considerate when stopping and parking. Please DO NOT park over or in our neighbours' driveways particularly at the corner of Fenwick Drive.

Can I please remind parents that they should not drop off their children at the car park gates.

Please remind your child to be polite and respectful to our neighbours when entering and leaving the school.



Breakfast Club

Reminder - we have a breakfast club running in St. Mark's:

Time: Starts at 8am. Last entry is at 8.45am

Entrance: via the Hall door

Cost: 95p per pupil

The breakfast club is staffed by four assistants

After the children have had their breakfast they can play games in the hall! No need to book a place.

Consent Forms

Pupils have been issued with local consent forms that will cover them for local trips within East Renfrewshire for session 2015- 2016. If you have not already returned this please return ASAP; **without this form your child will be unable to take part in trips within East Renfrewshire Area.**

Consent forms will also be issued for trips outwith East Renfrewshire and for sporting activities throughout the year; **these must be signed and return or your child will be unable to attend.**

ICT Forms

Responsible User Agreement forms for the use of ICT equipment in the school will be sent out to all pupils. Could I please ask that parents/carers take time to read this important document? ***Please sign and return this.*** Thank you.

Photographs/DVD/Websites

We often take photographs of children to display in school or the school website. Occasionally, children feature in DVDs relating to school activities. ***If you have any objection to your child's image being used then please let the office know in writing ASAP.***

Medical Checks

The school nurse has asked me to remind parents/carers that only Pr. 7 pupils receive vision checks by the School Health Team. There is therefore a long gap since their last check in nursery and many pupils by Pr. 7 require glasses. Parents are therefore advised to take their child to a local optician periodically, to avoid delay in treatment where required.



Safety in the Park

Our Primary 7 pupils took part last week in a series of workshops in Arthurlie House, Barrhead, based on keeping safe. A range of topics was covered; fire safety, strangers, alcohol and drug awareness and internet safety. This has become an annual event and is extremely worthwhile.



Manor Adventure

Can we remind parents that the cost of the residential trip to Manor Adventure is £140.00. The trip will take place from 30th November until Friday 4th December. Payments can be made each Friday in school or on the East Renfrewshire Payment website. Full payment should be made no later than Friday 6th November.



Drop Off Zone/Sign In Area

The "Drop off Zone" is under the window at the school office. Can we ask that if your child has forgotten lunch bag, PE kit etc etc. that you leave it at the drop off zone with their name on it.

The area to sign into the school and sign your child out for appointments etc is now at main office reception window.



St. Mark's Website

A range of information concerning school life is now available via our school website:
<https://blogs.glowscotland.org.uk/er/stmarks/>

This will be updated on a regular basis by Miss Flaherty. Please access the website regularly and so keep informed of school events, success, information from each class and new developments.

School Lunches

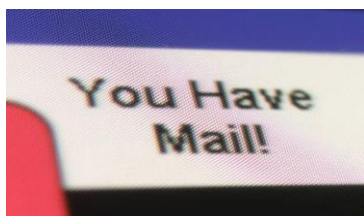
Last session there was a significant number of pupils who regularly came to school without money for their lunch. We would hope that this number would remain low from day to day as it causes additional administrative burdens on the school. The school has no facility to give pupils change for the machine so we ask that you ensure your child has the correct money.

Pupils whose balance falls below £1.95 or who forget money will be issued with a 'virtual voucher' and a text message will be sent by the staff in the school office. The money 'loan' £1.95 should be returned to your child's account the following day, in order to balance the books - the school office do not collect this money.

St John's Church Fete

Some of our very artistic pupils have been busy using their talents to create some interesting works of art which we will be selling along with our Farmers Market where we will be selling home grown products. Please join on Saturday 5th September from 12.00 - 3.00pm.

E-Mail



Here at St Mark's we are trying very hard to keep parents regularly informed about what is going on in the school; sending letters home can be rather unreliable with parent/carers either receiving multiple copies or letters going astray. A letter will be sent out next week to P1 parents requesting support from parents/Carers for e-mail addresses. Can we please ask that you return the tear off slip which came with the letter indicating whether or not you wish to receive communication by e-mail (can we please ask that you write your child's name on the tear off slip) - we will be in contact soon to let parents know when the transition to e-mail will begin.

Medication

If your child is required to take any medicine during the course of the school day you must visit the school office and complete a consent/request pro-forma which will ensure that all medicines are administered safely. No child should be given medicine to take without the school having been informed.



GLOW

Glow is the name for the Scottish Schools Digital Network. The aim of GLOW is to promote creative learning and teaching in the classroom by fully supporting the delivery of Curriculum for Excellence. Over the next few weeks, every child from Primary 5 to 7 will be reminded of their username and updated password. P6 and P7 are already updating their personal details in their e-portfolios on GLOW. This means GLOW can be accessed at school and at home. This will provide an excellent opportunity for children to showcase their work at different times throughout the year. Over this term, remaining pupils apart from P1 will be given updated passwords to enable to access GLOW. P1 will be given their passwords later.



Further information about GLOW is available at:

<http://www.educationscotland.gov.uk/usingglowandict/>

Twitter

We are very keen to embrace the councils 5 capabilities and so in order to **modernise the way we work** we will use our website to keep you updated and informed. We will continue to promote St Mark's so if you haven't yet signed up to twitter please do so that you can follow us <https://com/stmarksprimary>

Children and Young People's Regional Summit

On Monday 24th August, Sophie Lancaster, Kaylyn Bernard and Mirrin McClune of Primary 7 travelled along with Miss Clements and pupils from St. John's, St. Thomas' and St. Luke's to the Children and Young People's Regional Summit which was held in Oban.



They were given opportunities to meet children from primary and secondary schools across Scotland and give their views and suggestions on issues within Scottish education. These ideas were then given to Angela Constance MSP, the Cabinet Secretary for Education and Lifelong Learning and the pupils participated in a very interesting question and answer session with her before meeting a variety of MSPs, including the First Minister Nicola Sturgeon. Some of the topics the pupils discussed were the curriculum, resources and funding, children's rights and tackling poverty.

September Weekend Holiday - Reminder

The school will close at the usual time on **Thursday 24th September** and re-open on **Tuesday 29th September** - Breakfast club will be open as usual at 8am.

Children wanted for new TV programmes!

King Bert Productions are looking for children aged 7 - 12 years who love reading, to take part in a new Channel 4 show hosted by David Walliams. During the show David will be counting down the top 50 favourite children's books, meeting famous authors and actors along the way. They are looking to film children's comments regarding the books which have made the list. Groups of 2-3 friends would be brilliant. Filming will take place early September so they are hoping to speak with parents of any interested children as soon as possible.

Studio Lambert are currently looking for children from across the country to take part in their new production called *Gogglebox Kids*. Like *Gogglebox*, *Gogglebox Kids* will feature groups of children from up and down the country watching and reviewing a selection of programmes, clips and films for a one-off Christmas special.

Gogglebox Kids will feature approximately 10 groups of children from different households who are representative of British children today. Some of these groups will be siblings, some will be cousins and some will be groups of young friends who get together to watch TV.

If you are interested in finding out more about either of these opportunities, contact lynne.taylor@readingagency.org.uk.



Inspired by Joan Eardley by Anya Henry P7

**St Mark's ARTiculate 2015
A Literacy and Visual Arts Adventure**

St Mark's Art Show took place on Thursday the 21st May. This year the pupils had a slightly different agenda, the primary 6/7 pupils took part in Art-iculate, and this was an opportunity for solo talks based on paintings by The Glasgow Boys and Girls. All four classes were immersed in the works of the Glasgow Boys and Girls, they began this Literacy and Art Adventure at the Kelvingrove Art Galleries where they attended workshops tailored to this topic. The finalists were judged by Ron Cowie, Senior Education Officer at Education Scotland, Alan Horn, Director of Development, Glasgow School of Art and Muriel Gray, Chair of the Glasgow School of Art Board of Governors. No pressure there! The pupils were outstanding and received a lot of acclaim from distinguished guests. Sophie Lancaster and Emily Wilson were the two overall champions. All the finalists spent a morning at the Glasgow School of Art before the end of term. What an achievement!

The six paintings on display are paintings chosen by Wholefood Staff for this exhibition. They are all based on the theme of the famous Glasgow Boys and Girls.

**Parent Council Parent Council AGM Meeting
Cheese and Wine Evening**

The first meeting has been arranged for Wednesday 2nd September at 7.00pm in St. Mark's Primary School. Our first meeting will be our annual general meeting and a Cheese and Wine evening. We would like to invite as many parents and carers to this event.

On behalf of the Parent Council of St Mark's I would like to firstly welcome all those parents and carers of our new P1 intake to the school. I would also like to thank everyone for the last twelve months' worth of support, time afforded and donations to our successful programme of fund raising events which took place last year. We look forward to another series of fundraising events, details of which and dates will be published on the school's website and on our own Facebook page after the AGM on Wednesday 2nd September.

As a school, we are extremely fortunate to have a proactive and hardworking teaching staff who are always looking to develop extra curricular activities for the children; and to provide fun and exciting ways for our children to learn and interact both inside and outside of the classroom. In these times, the funding for some of the equipment needed for these activities and the time spent on delivering them is not as readily available as before and so for events to continue then we all need to rally together whenever we can and support the days and nights that will help for these fun times to continue.

The PC meet once a month, generally on the first Wednesday at 7 PM in either St Mark's or St Luke's school and details are again made available in advance. If you cannot make it along please feel free to get in touch via our Facebook page if you would like to help out at any of the fundraising events that we have planned.

Thank you in advance and I would like to wish all pupils the best of luck for the academic year ahead.

Paul Gibson, Chairperson

East Renfrewshire Disability Action (ERDA)

East Renfrewshire Disability Action (ERDA) were launched at the Barriers & Bridges Community Conference event in March 2011 and exist as a local disability organisation to raise the issues and concerns of disabled people at a local and national level and to challenge policies and decisions which maintain and reinforce the social, physical, attitudinal, cultural and economic barriers that prevent disabled people taking up their rightful role as full and equal citizens. The organisation is always on the look-out for new members both disabled and able bodied. For more information, please e-mail enquiries@erda.org.uk or the website at www.erda.org.uk.

***Please find attached copy of our school calendar for session
2015 - 2016***

Thank you once again for all your support.

**Natalie Fitzsimmons
Acting Head Teacher**



I have received and read the August '15 newsletter. (Please tear off and return to the school).

Name of child.....

Room.....

Signature of Parent/Carer

We value your comments and/or suggestions