



St. Mark's Primary School

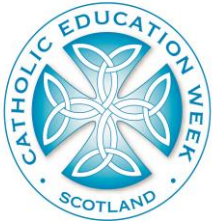
February 2015

Newsletter No. 7



Dear Parent & Carers

Catholic Education Week



Sunday 15th February marked the end of Catholic Education Week. On Saturday 14th February the pupils that took part in the Mass at St John's Church were a credit to our school and Emily Wilson was definitely a confident individual when she spoke to the congregation about Catholic Education in St Mark's. It was lovely to see so many of our other pupils there in their uniforms to support them. Throughout the week the children worked on a variety of activities within their own classes.

Our Journey Through Lent - A time for Reflection

As Easter fast approaches it is perhaps a good time to pause and reflect on our Lenten journey. Some of us have given up things we love- chocolate, sweets or crisps (difficult!). Others have given up bad behaviour-fighting with our brothers and sisters or answering back (very difficult!). Many of us have started doing something - going to mass, saying our prayers and helping out at home (very, very difficult!). Perhaps you have been joining in with the many different community prayer opportunities: Lenten assemblies or morning Mass at St John's Church at 7.30am on Wednesdays and Fridays. Whatever you've been doing keep up the good work and if your journey has faltered - get back on track and try again.



In school the Pastoral Pupil Council has been leading Stations of the Cross at our Easter Garden and altars during their lunchtimes. We will also be having Stations of the Cross for the whole school outside during Holy Week.



Please join us each Wednesday morning from 9.10am until 9.30am for our weekly Lenten Assembly.

- Wednesday 4th March Primary 6a to lead
- Wednesday 11th March Primary 7 to lead
- Wednesday 18th March Primary 6/7 to lead
- Wednesday 25th March Primary 5b to lead
- Wednesday 1st April Primary P5a to lead

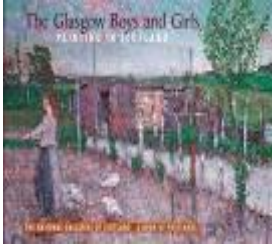


Parents Evening 12th March 2015



Letter regarding parents evening will be issued this week, can we encourage all parents/carers to complete and return the tear off slip indicating preferred times. We will endeavour to do our best to meet all requirements. It has also become tradition at Parents Evening in St Mark's to "bring a Bottle" for our Parent Council Summer Fete. A table for collections will be set up in the school hall.

ART-iculate



This term ART-iculate has been launched! This is a fantastic opportunity for Primary 6 and 7 children to immerse themselves in the lives and works of the Glasgow Boys and Girls. These painters were a pioneering group of Artists that were driven and motivated; they embraced change, created masterpieces, and became Scottish icons in the process.

The children thoroughly enjoyed four workshops at Kelvingrove Art Gallery and Museum, where one room is dedicated to the group. The museum houses an impressive collection of the Boys' and Girls' pieces that were created between 1880 and early 1900. The education providers were very impressed by the attitude and knowledge displayed by the children.

Primary 6 and 7 will be given an opportunity this term to choose and research a painting by one of these famous Glasgow Boys or Girls.

They will then take part in an upper school ART-iculate competition, to orally present their findings. The finalist will compete in St Mark's Art Exhibition, 2015. There will be guests in attendance as well as invited judges from Glasgow School of Art.

Standardised Testing

Over the past few weeks the pupils in Primary 3, 5 and 7 have been involved in the East Renfrewshire Council standardised tests. The tests have all now been completed. Well done to all involved !

P5 Active 8 Netball Festival



Pupils in Primary 5 took part in P5 Active 8 Netball Festival at St. Luke's High School on Wednesday 25th February. The children had a great time!

Euro Quiz

Pupils in Primary 6 took part in the annual Euro Quiz at Albertslund Hall, Newton Mearns on Thursday 26th February. A big thank you to St. Mark's team for all their hard work in preparing and participating in this highly competitive competition.



St Mark's Choir Competition Time



St Mark's School Choir will be singing at the Glasgow Music Festival this year. On Monday 16th March, 35 children will be representing the school at this competition. The choir are very excited and will be performing in two categories; Scots music and Hymn singing. Watch this space to find out how the choir get on.

Fairtrade Fortnight 2015

Fairtrade Fortnight takes place between 23rd February and 8th March. It provides an opportunity for all pupils to learn more about Fairtrade. For Fairtrade Fortnight 2015 we're celebrating cocoa, the most important ingredient in one of our favourite treats. The Fairtrade committee will be visiting classes on the week beginning 2nd March to help us turn a spotlight on the farmers who grow the food and drinks we enjoy every day. By sharing their stories we can



remind everyone about the dramatic difference Fairtrade makes and how much it is still needed. In addition, the Fairtrade Committee will be running a small banana shop, a Fairtrade logo competition and sharing informative videos on the school website.

This term Primary 2 are studying Fairtrade as part of their social studies topic. They have entered a Fairtrade chocolate wrapper competition, will be holding a coffee morning and are designing a bag to promote Fairtrade goods. They have also been learning about the life of Fairtrade farmers and the importance of equality.

Primary 2 Fairtrade coffee morning will take place **Tuesday 10th March at 10.00am.**

Parents and carers of Primary 2 pupils are invited to attend with all monies raised going towards a Fairtrade charity. We would be very grateful for any snack donations such as cakes and biscuits to ensure a successful event.



Don't forget....Parent Council



The Parent Council will meet at St. Luke's on Wednesday 4th March at 7.00pm.

Cross Country Event

On Monday 11th of March some of our Primary 6 and 7 pupils will take part in a Cross Country event - they will be excellent ambassadors for St. Mark's. Thank you also to Miss Kennedy who will accompany the pupils.



P7 National Entitlement Card

Primary 7 pupils have been issued with forms for parents to complete allowing them to receive their National Entitlement Card. Pupil's photographs for the cards will be taken in school during March.

Polite Reminders.....

Lost Property



There is a large amount of lost property stored outside the school office. Can we please encourage parents/children to come and claim any lost property before we stop for the Easter break as we will be clearing the lost property box of everything at this time.

If Your Child Is Absent from School

When children are ill can we please ask parents to call and alert the school as close to 9am as possible.

Update your details

Please ensure all alert the school office when there is a change to your contact details etc. It is vitally important that we have the most current details in case of emergency.

Bus Stop

Can I please ask parents/carers **not to allow** their children to run into the gardens of neighbours in and around the bus stop facing the school. Your support would be very much appreciated.

Easter Parade

On Thursday 2nd April at 1.15pm, the children from Pr. 1-7 will be involved in our annual Easter competition. The competition will be as follows:

Pr. 1&2

Easter Drawing Competition

(the children in Pr. 1 & 2 will decorate an Easter worksheet at home which will be given to the pupils by their class teachers)

Pr. 3, 4 and 5

Easter Bonnet/Baseball Cap Competition

(the children in Pr. 3, 4 and 5 will decorate a hat for this competition at home)



Pr. 6 & 7

Easter Egg Competition

(the children will decorate a HARD boiled egg at home)



One boy and girl from each class will receive a prize for the best entry!
All parents, carers and family members are welcome to this event. *Please note the doors will not open until 1.15pm*

Dates for Diary

Tuesday 3rd March

Tuesday 3rd March

Friday 6th March

Sunday 8th March

Tuesday 10th March

Thursday 12th March

Monday 16th March

Thursday 19th March

Wednesday 25th March

Tuesday 31st March

Wednesday 1st April

Thursday 2nd April

P5 & P6 Adoration St. John's Parish Church 11.30am

God's Loving Plan Information Evening 7pm

P3 to attend First Friday Mass at 9.30am

P4 Mass of Commitment 10.00am St. John's Parish Church

P2 Fairtrade Coffee Morning

Parents Evening 3.10pm - 8.30pm

Choir performing at Glasgow Music Festival in the Royal Concert Hall

Spring Dance

P4 & P5 5.00pm - 6.00pm/P6 & P7 7.00pm - 8.30pm

P4 Reconciliation 7.00pm St. John's Parish Church

Cluster Performance P4-P7 St. John's Church 1.30pm

Parent Council Meeting St. Luke's High School 7.00pm

Chrim Mass St. Mirin's Cathedral 7.00pm

Easter Bonnet Parade 1.15pm - 2.30pm

Close for Easter 2.30pm

Gerard J. McLaughlin

Head Teacher

I have received and read the February 2015 newsletter.

Name of child.....Class

Signature of Parent/Carer

We value your comments and/or suggestions: