



St. Mark's Primary School

March / April

Newsletter No. 8



Dears Parent & Carers

Easter Show

This Easter pupils from P3 & P4 performed a show titled 'Easter Story'. The first performance took place on Monday 30th March at 1:30pm and the final performance will be tonight, Wednesday 1st April at 7pm in the school hall.

Tickets are priced £3 (£2 concession/child)

Religious and Moral

Bishop John visits St. Mark's

Today Bishop John visited our school and joined Primary 1 and the Pastoral Pupil Council as they did the Stations of the Cross. Bishop John also visited some of the 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!).

Primary 4

Congratulations to our Primary 4 pupils who made their Sacrament of Reconciliation last week. It was a beautiful service which was supported by the St. John's Choir. I would like to say a special thank you to Miss Kelly and Miss Walker for preparing them so well for this special occasion. Thank you also to Fr. Paul for his continued support.

Cluster Passion Performance

Primary 4-7 pupils took part in a Cluster Passion Performance on Tuesday 31st March.

Chrism Mass will take place at St. Mirin's Cathedral on Wednesday 1st April at 7.00pm. Everyone welcome.

All pupils will take part in a cluster Easter Mass on Friday 24th April at 10.00am. Parent helpers are needed.

Pupils in Primary 2 will take part in First Friday Mass on Friday 1st May. Please come along and join us.



Pupils in primary 7 will receive the Sacrament of Confirmation in St. Mirin's Cathedral on Tuesday 12th May at 7 .00pm

Preparations are well under way for pupils in Primary 4 who will receive the Sacrament of First Communion in St. John's Parish Church on Saturday 16th May at 1.00pm. The Thanksgiving Mass will take place on Sunday 17th May at 10.00am in St. John's Parish Church. Those pupils who have received Sacrament of First Communion can wear dresses/kilts etc.



Staffing

I'm delighted to inform you that Mrs Fitzsimmons (DHT) will be returning to the school after the Easter Holidays. I would like to take this opportunity to say a very special thank you to Miss Healey who has been doing Acting DHT for the past 7 months. I know her support has been gratefully appreciated by staff, pupils and parents.

P7 Leavers Mass and Dance

Due to unforeseen circumstances the Leavers Mass and Dance for pupils in primary 7 will now take place on Wednesday 3rd June, not Wednesday 17th June as previously stated.

Cross Country

On the 11th March a group of Primary 6 and Primary 7 pupils took part in a Cross Country Championship at Rouken Glen Park. The pupils had a fantastic morning and despite cold and wet weather conditions showed a positive attitude, representing the school exceptionally well. There were two races, a boys' race and a girls' race, both with around 80 pupils from other schools within East Renfrewshire. St Mark's pupils showed dedication and resilience, all completing the tough track in good time. A great morning was had by all, well done Primary 6 and 7.



St Mark's School Choir



Well done to the school choir who took part in the 103rd Glasgow Music Festival at the Royal Concert Hall on the 16th March. They sang in a Scots singing competition and a hymn singing competition. Feedback on the day was very good and the children were a credit to themselves and St. Mark's! They were commended for their clear diction, rhythmic singing and attention to their conductor. Their lunch at Di'Maggio's in-between competitions was a well-deserved reward for all of their enthusiastic preparation for such a high profile event. Many thanks to all of the parents and carers who came along; your help and support were very much appreciated by pupils and staff!

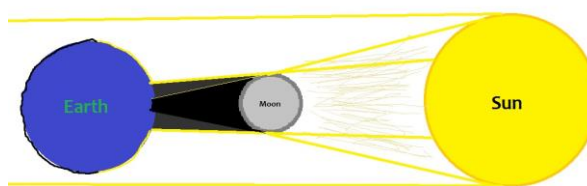
P6/7 ERC Dance Competition



On Tuesday 24th March P6/7 participated in a School Dance Competition Event which was held at Eastwood High School. The girls worked very hard and created their own interpretation of a chosen song by singer-songwriter, Ne-Yo. The dance was a compilation of modern dance and gymnastics. The girls' performance was outstanding and energetic. The girls had a lot of fun taking part and were proud to represent St. Mark's Primary School. Well done girls!

British Science Week 2015

British Science Week took place from 13th-22nd March with the highlight being the Solar Eclipse on Friday 20th! To mark the week, we were learning about scientists of the past and their contributions to our lives today. We also invited Steve Owens, a dark sky specialist, to speak to the P4-7 about Space and the Solar Eclipse. All classes made eclipse viewers and viewed the fantastic spectacle on Friday morning using their viewers and special viewing glasses. In the afternoon, P1-2s decorated cakes to illustrate the solar eclipse, the P3-5s made models of the solar eclipse and the P6-7s looked at the theory of *apparent size* which explains why the Moon appears to cover the Sun despite the fact that it's much smaller!



We were also very lucky to have a group of S5/S6s from St. Luke's at St. Mark's on Friday afternoon to demonstrate a variety of Science experiments including: *elephant's toothpaste*, *pocket rocket* and *hovercrafts* amongst others. The week was a fantastic experience for all children and their enthusiasm and enjoyment of all activities was very clearly evident from their 'sunny' dispositions!!!

Book Fair - Thank You

This year's book fair was another roaring success. A big thank you to all our generous parents and grandparents alike, who bought their little bookworms, an array of fantastic books. receiving a substantial commission ! The classes will spend this on exciting new books for our school library.



Total raised £1002.89 Commission £541.00

Gardening Update



The school has bought a variety of new equipment and resources towards gardening projects. So far we have purchased new tools, bark, compost, a variety of beautiful plants, hanging baskets, shrubs and decorative pots. The most exciting new purchase is a polytunnel. It will be built over the coming weeks and each class will then have better access to growing fruit and vegetables. The gardening club have already started planting seeds and composting in preparation for our summer growing season. As our experiences of growing our own produce expand we will be able to eat and share through cooking. Our brand new barbeque will come in handy when we create delicious healthy recipes!



Easter Enterprise

The gardening club will be selling daffodil pots during the Easter parade. Parents/carers can purchase them from the garden stall for £1. They make a lovely Easter table decoration and after flowering the bulbs can be planted in your garden for annual bloom.

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

Easter Holidays

Please note the school will close at 2.30pm on Thursday 2nd April and re-open as usual on Monday 20th April as usual.



I would like to wish everyone a very happy and holy Easter on behalf of the staff and pupils.

Kind regards
Gerard McLaughlin
Head Teacher

**HAPPY
EASTER**

I have received and read the March / April 2015. (Please tear off and return to the school).

Name of child..... Room.....

Signature of Parent/Carer

We value your comments and/or suggestions