



# St. Mark's Primary Newsletter

## January 2016



Website: [www.ea.e-renfrew.sch.uk/st-marks](http://www.ea.e-renfrew.sch.uk/st-marks)

Twitter: <https://twitter.com/stmarksprimary1>

Dear Parent & Carers

The staff at St Mark's would like to wish you all a Happy New Year and hope that you had an enjoyable holiday with your families. We are delighted to welcome two new members of staff to our school, Miss Donaghy, who will take over in P7b and Miss Donaldson, who will take over P5b, both until June.

Our children have come back to school well rested, happy and ready to learn. Thank you for your continued support, working with us to help our children achieve and be the best they can be. We are delighted to see so many of our children looking smart in their school uniform and we thank you for supporting this. Please remember children should change into their black plimsolls indoors, trainers can be brought to school for children to change into for football but black school shoes should be worn as part of school uniform.

### School Admin

#### Adverse Weather

In the past, over the winter months, we have had severe disruption as a result of bad weather. In the event of a similar situation arising this winter we have put a few strategies in place. East Renfrewshire schools will only be closed in extreme circumstance.



- If the school is closed during the course of a school day you will be contacted, in the first instance, by text message. **Please ensure we have a current mobile phone number on our records for this purpose.**
- The text will ask you to make arrangements to collect your child as soon as possible. You cannot reply to this message.
- Please don't telephone the school unless absolutely necessary as we have a limited number of external lines.
- Your child will be kept here until someone comes for him/her.
- Once the school has been officially closed regular updates will be posted on the East Renfrewshire and school website and updates posted on Twitter and Facebook.

In the event of heavy snow, as first priority, our janitor will clear a path to the breakfast club door from the stairs. Look out for signs directing you if we have to make any changes to the usual routine.

#### Lost Property

We still have a large amount of unclaimed property. Please feel free to call in and have a look through the lost property box.

## School News

### Celebrating Achievements

Gaining recognition for the wide range of achievements can increase pupil confidence, raise their aspirations, improve motivation for learning and keep them engaged in education. It is important that we recognise and celebrate achievements in all contexts for learning, through:

- the ethos and life of the school as a community
- curriculum areas and subjects
- interdisciplinary learning
- opportunities for personal achievement.

To help us gather this information on pupils' personal achievements, I would ask you to follow the link below and provide the information required:

<https://getinvolved.eastrenfrewshire.gov.uk/education/st-marks-pupil-achievements>

This link will remain live throughout session 2016. You can add achievements as often as required by entering your child's name, class and details of their achievement.

### Fair Trade

This year, our Fair Trade Focus is to encourage people to buy rice, because the money made from 90kg of Fair trade rice can send a child to Secondary school for a whole year. Our Fair trade Fortnight will take place during Monday 29<sup>th</sup> February and 11<sup>th</sup> March 2016. During this fortnight we want to teach pupils how to cook exciting and delicious recipes which use rice. We would love some parent volunteers to come in and cook with us, either as a whole class demonstration or with a small group of pupils at a time. If you would be interested, please send a note into school for Miss Mckay.

Many Thanks from Amber, Grace and the Fair Trade Committee

### St Mark's Credit Union

*"A penny saved is a penny earned"*

St Mark's Primary is very lucky to have its own school Credit Union. Working closely with East Renfrewshire Credit Union Ltd, we have established a savers group where pupils can deposit and manage their finances from the school library. This term the Credit Union Committee are trying to encourage pupils to save money rather than spend it. Whether it's saving for a holiday, Lockerbie Manor or a new toy, make your piggy bank the St Mark's Credit Union! Money can be deposited every Wednesday morning in the library and anyone who would like to open a Credit Union account can get an application form from Miss Kennedy.



### Parent Council

The next meeting of the Parent Council will be on Wednesday 3rd February at 7.00pm in St. Luke's High School.

## Parish News

### Catholic Education Week

Catholic Education Week will take place from Sunday 31st January until 6th February. A Cluster mass to celebrate Catholic Education Week will take place in St. Thomas' Church on Thursday 4th February at 7.00pm it would be lovely if you could join us there. Catholic Education will be celebrated on Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> at 4.30pm Mass I would encourage as many families to come along as possible and support our Primary 7 pupils who will be talking about Catholic Education and what it means to them.

### Reconciliation for P4 pupils

The Rite of Commitment for pupils in Primary 4 will take place on Sunday 21st February at 10.00am and the Sacrament of Reconciliation will take place on Wednesday 9th March at 7.00pm in St. John's Parish Church.



### 40 hours

P5 & P6 40 hours Adoration will take place on Tuesday 23rd February at 11.30am in St John's Church.

### Ash Wednesday

Ash Wednesday marks the beginning of Lent and will be celebrated on Wednesday 10th February at 10am in St John's Church **parent helpers would be greatly appreciated** for our walk to Church.

## Events/Trips

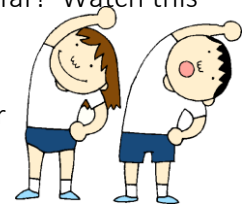
### Choir

Last term during the festive period, our fantastic School Choir went out into the community to sing Christmas carols to the public! Their visits to Asda, Barrhead Health Centre and Millview Care Home were all very well received and in total the children raised £351.80 which we will use to help fund their trip to the Glasgow Royal Concert Hall in March for the Glasgow Music Festival! More details to follow! Many thanks to all of the parents who came to support us, it was very much appreciated!



### Health and Wellbeing

Since the beginning of November, a number of children have been taking part in a sector leading activity called *yo-ball!* The activity combines yoga and football skills to provide children with the opportunity to strengthen their body, improve their balance, and football skills and learn strategies to help them to manage their emotions. Mrs Roberts assists Stephen, a qualified yoga instructor called on a weekly basis and the children are enjoying and making great progress so far! Watch this space for further updates about this exciting venture!



Another exciting activity which we will soon be engaging in as a whole school, is peer massage! This is an opportunity for children to learn how to give and receive a back massage, using the highly acclaimed *Massage In School Programme*. Positive touch is an experience which has many benefits including relaxing children and preparing them for the activities in their school day and building and developing positive friendships with classmates. We will share more information with you soon!

## Turner Experience/Photography and ARTiculate



St Mark's P6 and P7 Art Sparks are starting the New Year with a leap into the Contemporary Art World. Glasgow has been host to this year's Turner Prize for the first time **ever**, as in the past two decades Glasgow School of Art (GSA) has produced no fewer than 18 Turner Prize winners and nominees! The pupils were guided through the United Kingdom's most publicized Art award. Their intellectual and creative response more than impressed the curators and learning officers at the venue! This experience will hopefully fuel some stimulating discussion at St Mark's ARTiculate 2016. This year's focus will be talks based on Photography, linking with the photography club. This club will learn photography techniques, discover classic black and white and colour photographers, use both film and digital technology to create images and manipulate photographs. The children will also benefit and gain inspiration by attending a workshop with Zoe Bannatyne (Edinburgh photographer) and opportunities given through SCRAN to showcase work online. Mrs Kelly, a parent, will give a portrait workshop with the masterclass group during this term. Exciting times ahead!

### Burns' Day Celebrations

On Monday 25<sup>th</sup> January at 1.45pm we celebrated the birthday of our national hero, Robert Burns. As well as performing a selection of Scottish poem and songs pupils wore something tartan such as kilts, ties, scarves etc.

Light refreshments were provided in the hall and lots of parents and families came along to share a wee dram of our other national drink and enjoy our wee shindig.

And in the words of the great man himself – "Dare to be honest and fear no labour".



## Dates for Diary

### JANUARY

Monday 25 <sup>th</sup> January	Burns Day Celebrations in school hall 1:45pm
Saturday 30 <sup>th</sup> January	P7 pupils talking at Catholic Education Mass 4:30pm, St John's
Sun 31 <sup>st</sup> Jan – 6 <sup>th</sup> Feb	Catholic Education Week

### FEBRUARY

Wednesday 3rd February	Parent Council Meeting St. Luke's 7.00pm
Thurs 4 <sup>th</sup> February	P7 Catholic Education Mass 7 – 8pm
Wed 10th February	Ash Wednesday Mass St John's Church, 10am Spring Disco

### Holiday

The school will close at 3.00pm on **Thursday 11th February** and re-open on **Wednesday 17th February**.

Friday 12 <sup>th</sup> February	In-service
Mon 15 <sup>th</sup> & Tues 16 <sup>th</sup> February	Mid Term Holiday
Sun 21 <sup>st</sup> February	P4 Mass of Commitment, St John's Church, 10am
Tuesday 23 <sup>rd</sup> February	P5 & P6 40 Hrs Adoration, St. John's Parish Church, 11.30am

Natalie Fitzsimmons

Acting Head Teacher

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Twitter: <https://twitter.com/stmarksprimary1>

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I have received and read the January 2016 newsletter.

Name of child.....Class .....

Signature of Parent/Carer .....

We value your comments and/or suggestions.