



St. Mark's Primary Newsletter



Dear Parent & Carers



During this season of Advent, there are many activities taking place throughout the school, helping us to prepare for the great feast of Christmas. On Wednesday afternoons at 2pm we will hold our Advent Services with pupils leading the prayers and scripture readings. The Pastoral Pupil Council would like to invite pupils, friends and families to a daily Advent service that they will be leading. These services will take place Tuesday - Friday at 8.40am in room 1. It would be lovely to see lots of people there to support the pupils.

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.

School Activities

On Thursday 19th November pupils in Primary 6 took part in an East Renfrewshire Badminton Tournament at Springhill and Auchenback Primary School.

Both Primary 1 classes visited the Barrhead Foundry where they received a Bookbug Family Bag to celebrate Book Week Scotland.

On Monday 23rd November 16 Primary 5-7 pupils took part in the East Renfrewshire Primary Proms at Carlibar Primary School. They sang fantastically and were a credit to our school!

On Monday 14th December the Choir will be singing at Barrhead Health Centre from 10am until 11am and then at Asda from 11.30am until 12.30pm. On Monday 21st December they will be singing at Asda again from 11.30am until 12.30pm. Please come along and support us!



Financial Education Week

During November we celebrated Financial Education Week. We had a number of visitors into the school including staff from Asda. Pupils and staff from St. Luke's visited Primary 3 and Primary 7 to help develop their financial awareness.

Fair Trade Update

At Parent's night, pupils hosted a Fair trade stall to promote Fair Trade. Pupils raised a fantastic £130.45. By hosting a Fair Trade stall we have helped to make a difference, not only in direct benefit to producers from the sales made, but also in spreading the word and message of fair trade to the wider community.

A big thank you to the children involved in the making our stall welcoming and for giving up their time to sell items at the stall. Also thank you to the parents who purchased items at our stall.

Religious and Moral

Primary 3 Mass of Enrolment took place on Sunday 29th November at 10.00am in St. John's Parish Church, thank you for the excellent turn out.



Pupils in Primary 4 will attend First Friday Mass on Friday 4th December at 9.30am in St. John's Parish Church. Parents are welcome to come along and join us.

Lockerbie Manor

The Primary 7 pupils had a fabulous time in Lockerbie Manor. It was a great opportunity to work with children across the cluster that they will be going to St Luke's with. They made us very jealous with their Twitter updates.



Christmas Fete 11th December

We are looking for your help this year more than ever to ensure that the children and parents can enjoy the best fete ever. We are kindly asking for the following donations. Week commencing 7th December, we are looking for good quality toys and cuddly toys.

Home baking on the day of the fete please.

We will also be having a Christmas Theme Day on Friday 11th December; children can wear anything from tinsel to a Santa hat or a Christmas jumper. We would ask that each child brings a donation for the Christmas fete to be used for prizes at our tombola - this can be a tin or packet of food, biscuits, chocolates or anything else you can donate.

Thank you from the Parent Council

Christmas Fete Timetable

The pupils will visit the fete with their teachers at the following times:

Stage	Time
Primary 1	1.00pm - 1.15pm
Primary 2	1.15pm - 1.30pm
Primary 3	1.30pm - 1.45pm
Primary 4	1.45pm - 2.00pm
Primary 5	2.00pm - 2.15pm
Primary 6	2.15pm - 2.30pm
Primary 7	2.30pm - 2.45pm

Christmas

We will be holding our annual Nativity "The Nativity" with seasonal songs on Tuesday 15th at 1.30pm and Thursday 17th December at 6.30pm. Tickets available from the school office.

Please note no children on knees, one ticket per seat.



Christmas Parties

The Christmas parties will take place on Tuesday 22nd December pupils can wear party clothes to school that day.

Lunches

Hot soup is available to purchase to supplement packed lunches especially on cold days at a cost of 65p. Christmas lunch will be available in the dining hall for pupils on Wednesday 9th December.



Medication

If your child requires medication throughout the day, please remember that you must complete an administration of medicine form in order that medicine can be given to your child by a member of staff. Forms can be obtained from the school office.



Dates for Diary

Christmas Music Concert Tuesday 8th December at 7pm

Christmas Lunch Wednesday 9th December

Christmas Fete Friday 11th December 1pm

Choir Singing at Barrhead Health Centre at 10-11am and Asda at 11.30-12.30pm Monday 14th December

P1 & P2 Nativity 1.30pm Tuesday 15th December

P1-P3 Panto at Eastwood Theatre Wednesday 16th December

P4-P7 Panto at Eastwood Theatre Thursday 17th December

P1 & P2 Nativity Thursday 17th December 6.30pm

Choir Singing at Asda at 11.30-12.30pm Monday 21st December

Final Advent Mass 11.00am on Tuesday 22nd December

Christmas Parties Tuesday 22nd December



P1 Registration for pupils starting school in August 2016

East Renfrewshire Council has set up one week when you should register your son or daughter at your local primary school for school education in East Renfrewshire Council. You must register at your catchment school, even if you intend to make a placing request to another school or to defer your place and keep your son or daughter at home for another year.

You may choose to enrol your son or daughter in either the local denominational or local non-denominational school. The choice will determine the secondary school to which your child will transfer.

If he or she is aged five between 1st March 2016 and the end of February 2017 you should come along to the primary school between 1.30pm and 3.30pm any day during the week of Monday 11th January to Friday 15th January 2016.

You should bring your son or daughter's birth certificate, Baptismal certificate if you have one, your child benefit statement or a bank statement showing your benefit award, a copy of your current council tax notice and mortgage statement or rental agreement.

Open Day for New 2016 Primary One Parents/Carers

An open day for the new August intake will take place on Thursday 14th January 2016 at 9.30am and again at 2.00pm. This gives new parents the opportunity to come and visit the school.

Holidays

Please note that on Tuesday 22nd December pupils will finish at 2.30pm and should return to school on Wednesday 6th January.



May I take this opportunity to wish you all a Happy and Holy Christmas.

Meanwhile, please remember to visit our website on www.ea.e-renfrew.sch.uk/st-marks

Natalie Fitzsimmons
Acting Head Teacher



Name.....

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

Name of child..... Class

Signature of Parent/Carer

We value your comments and/ or suggestions