



St. Mark's Primary School
October 2013
Newsletter No. 3



Dears Parent & Carers



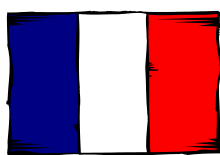
Staffing News

On Friday we will be saying goodbye to Mrs Leca, who after much soul searching, has decided to leave St Mark's to spend more time with her family. We are so very sorry to see her go as she has been such a huge part of our school community. Over the years she has taught and nurtured many, many children. She has always done so with great enthusiasm, passion and dedication. Mrs Leca, for many years was our artistic director of all things "show business" and her flair for the theatrical and her amazing dance routines will be remembered for years to come. As Mrs Leca herself would say "The show must go on" but it won't be quite the same as she will be missed so much by so many. Good luck with everything you do and "Never Forget" all your friends in St Mark's.

Miss Lennox who has been with us on a temporary basis since August will also be leaving us on the 30th October to take up a teaching post in Ayrshire. We wish Miss Lennox every success in her new post.

We have from time to time students from both University/College/Schools in St Mark's for work experience. At the moment we have 2 students from Barrhead High here for the week beginning 28th October and a student from Cardonald College here until 22/11/13. Students visiting the school are mentored by teaching and support staff in the school at all times. On the week beginning 11th November we will welcome 4 students from St Luke's for their weeks work experience.

Vive La France!



Courtesy of the British Council, along with Mrs O'Donnell from St. John's Primary and four other Scottish teachers, Mrs Hallan is off on a week long visit to Lyon in France to develop her French language skills and meet with other modern languages teachers to share ideas and good practice.

She should be fluent by the time she comes back, as she will have to speak in French the whole time- no English allowed! The children are excited for her and can't wait to hear about her adventures.

Supporting Syria

On Thursday 26th September, the Pastoral Pupil Council organised a "Wear your Trainers" to school day. This raised an amazing £385.52 a cheque for £400 has been sent to Save the Children. A massive thank you to parents and children who donated, and to Mrs Seddon for organising this event - a special thank you to Rhiannon Cooper P5a who went on a sponsored "fast" at home and raised a fabulous £69.



Sponsored Skipathon



On Monday 4th November all children in St Mark's will take part in a special skipping event to raise money for play equipment for an outdoor play and learning area that is being created beside our new extension. Sponsor forms will be issued to pupils this week. We greatly appreciate all support and hope that you would like to sponsor our children.

P7 Provost Debate



On Monday 7th October P7 visited the Council Chambers in Eastwood Park to debate in front of Provost Carmichael on their chosen motion: "Books and jotters are history; Technology is the future of Education".

Pupils took on the roles of councillors and debated the subject for over an hour! Councillor Ralph Robertson from Netherlee Ward chaired and facilitated the debate and was impressed with the standard of knowledge, research and talking and listening skills of the P7 pupils. More pictures from the debate are available on the school website.

P3 Trip to Hunterian Museum

As part of our Romans topic, Primary 3a and 3b visited the Hunterian Museum on the 9th October. We learned more about the Antonine Wall which the Romans built across Scotland. We were able to see lots of Roman artefacts such as a boss from a Roman shield, a drain cover from a Roman bath house, legionary distance slabs, board games, Roman sandals and Roman cooking pots. It was a fantastic trip and we now have a much better idea of how the Romans lived!



Ace Pupil Trip

Our ACE and Coral Reef pupils were lucky enough to attend a fabulous pizza making class at Frankie and Benny's where they got to make pizzas from scratch, choosing a variety of toppings they also got to eat them in the restaurant yummy!! The children were also given a goody bag and a balloon to take back to school. This was a fantastic day out enjoyed by all.



P7 Ardentinnny 2nd - 6th December 2013

Reminder to parents the bank is opened each Friday for payments to be made in school, payments can also be made on-line using your child's Scottish Candidate number via the East Renfrewshire website. There is also a link to this on St Mark's Website. Further correspondence re kit etc will be issued shortly

Correspondence by E-Mail & Twitter

We have now set up the new electronic mail system. Parents who have opted to receive correspondence via e-mail will by now have seen letters from the school in their e-mail box. 182 parents have already signed up. Please contact us if you have returned your slip but still not received any correspondence. Remember anything with a tear off slip will still come to you in paper format as well as electronically. If you have not already done so but still wish to sign up for correspondence by e-mail, please use the tear off slip attached to the bottom of this newsletter.

St Mark's now has a Twitter account, access using the link on the school website or you can follow us at @StMarksPrimary1. Our followers are gradually rising but can I encourage you all to follow us if you have a Twitter account for announcements and information especially our Primary 7 parents as Miss Healey will be 'tweeting' updates from Ardentinnny.



Lunch Money



Can we please once again remind parents to encourage children to put their lunch money in the catering machine as soon as they come to school in the morning, unfortunately we are continuing to experience a number of children turning up for a school meal with no credit in their account. We continue to champion the use of the on-line payment system by parents avoiding the need to give cash to your child.

Lost Property/Labelling



As advised in our September Newsletter lost property is once again building up (stored in drawers under the office window) can we please remind parents to label all of the children's school clothes and if your child has lost an item to check the lost property. We already have jackets and a blazer unclaimed there will be a table at parents night for lost property to be re-claimed, however, after Parents night we will be clearing all un-claimed lost property as unfortunately we do not have space to keep this.

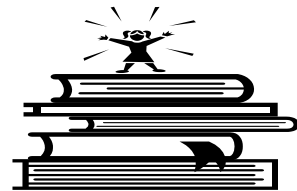
After School Clubs

Details of this terms after school clubs were issued last week your child will be advised via a note in their bag if they have secured a place at the new clubs which include Netball, Book Club, Arts and Crafts, Computer Programming, Magical Maths and Rocket Readers. Look out for the new Tennis after school club open to pupils in P4 this will be running from Thursday 14th November for 4 weeks.



Parents Evening

Our Parents/Carers Evening will be held on Thursday 7th November 2013. You will have received a letter to be returned to the school where you should indicate your preferred appointment time (we will always do our best to suit your requirements).



The Book Fair will be at the school 6th - 12th November. Your child will be given a chance to attend the Book Fair during class time to view and purchase books, books will also be available to buy on the evening of the 7th. You will also have a chance to purchase school uniform. It has also become tradition at Parents Evening in St Mark's to "bring a Bottle" for our Parent Council Xmas Fare a table for collections will be set up in the school hall.



Halloween Parade and Class Parties

Our Halloween Parade and class parties this year will be held on Thursday 31st October. Your child will have received a letter with a tear off slip indicating whether you will be collecting them for a home lunch. Children can be collected for lunch at 12.20pm and must be returned to school by 1.15pm. Parents of children in P1-3 only are invited to join us in the school hall for the Halloween Parade. For children staying in school for lunch, fancy dress outfits can be brought into school in a bag to allow children to get changed into them in the afternoon. The School Kitchen will be providing a special menu for Halloween your child's teacher will let them know what this is before Thursday. There will also be chocolate apples on sale from the kitchen at a cost of 60p.

Financial Education Week
11th -15th November



The aim of Financial Education Week is to develop financial understanding in ensuring that young people leaving school have the skills required to deal confidently with everyday financial issues.

In previous years we have had successful visits from parents, carers and local business owners, who have kindly offered to talk to groups of children about their understanding of finance and using money 'in the real world.' The children thoroughly enjoyed these visits!

I would like to extend an invitation to anyone interested in talking to the children about using money, to note your interest with the school office via the tear off slip attached to the recent letter which was issued regarding this event.

Primary Proms

Mrs Seddon will be accompanying our School Choir to this years "Primary Proms" event which will take place in St Andrew's Church (formerly Arthurlie Church) on Monday 21st October at 6.30pm. Children from the choir have been issued with a letter with details and also have been given the option to purchase tickets for this event.



Dates for your Diary

- 30th October 2013 P3 trip to Glasgow Museum Resource Centre
- 30th October 2013 P1 Parents/Carer Workshop (running 30/10, 6/11, 13/11)
- 31st October 2013 Halloween Parties
- 1st November 2013 Whole School All Saints Mass at St Johns Church
- 3rd November 2013 P7 Confirmation Mass of Enrolment St John's Church at 10 o'clock
- 6th November 2013 Parent Council Meeting St Lukes High School - All Welcome
- 7th November 2013 Parents/Carers Evening
- 19th November 2013 School Choir Primary - Proms at St Andrews Church
- 29th November 2013 St Andrews Family Night (More Details to Follow)

Gerard J. McLaughlin
Head Teacher

E Mail Account

Yes I would like to receive correspondence by E-Mail

Childs Name/ Class _____

Parents E-Mail Address (please print) _____

Signed _____ Dated _____

I have received and read the September '13 newsletter. (Please tear off and return to the school).

Name of child.....

Room.....

Signature of Parent/Carer

We value your comments and/or suggestions

