



**St. Mark's Primary School**  
**September 2015**  
**Newsletter No. 2**



Dears Parent & Carers

**Staffing**

We are delighted to welcome two additions to our Leadership Team; Mrs Roberts and Miss Flaherty. They have been appointed as Acting Principal Teachers until June. Congratulations!



**Coral Reef**

Coral Reef, our Learning Centre is now up and running for this session and Miss Walker is working with a morning group and an afternoon group. The Learning Centre is for a small group within the school. It has elements of both home and the classroom. We will be working on language development, task completion and personal targets. A lot of this work is done through outdoor learning.

**Parent Council**



Many thanks to the Parent Council for our Annual Autumn Disco for pupils in primary 4 - 7 that took place in the school on Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> October. The children had a wonderful time.

The next meeting of the Parent Council will take place on Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> October at 7.00pm in St. Luke's High School.

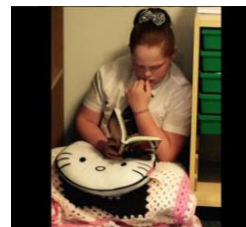
The Parent Councils from within the cluster have very kindly provided funding for the Primary 7 Residential Trip. Each school has been donated the fantastic amount of £259 through fundraising from the Cluster Club and Cluster Quiz. Thank you.

**Recent Letters**

A copy of all the letters sent home will now be available on the school website. You can download or view letters the letters here:  
<https://blogs.glowscotland.org.uk/er/StMarks/letters/>

### Sponsored Readathon

Pupils took part in a Sponsored Readathon on Friday 18<sup>th</sup> September to celebrate Roald Dahl Day; they raised an amazing £1779.84



### E-Mail

Thank you to all of the parents who have opted to have correspondence sent to them from the school by e-mail.



### P7 Manor Adventure 30<sup>th</sup> November - 4<sup>th</sup> December

P7 Pupils will shortly be given information leaflets and medical forms for completion relating to their residential trip. The bank for payment is opened each Friday for pupils to pay in. The preferred method of payment for this trip is via the East Renfrewshire Payment for School website.

### Halloween Parade and Class Parties

Our Halloween Parade and class parties this year will be held on Friday 30<sup>th</sup> October; more information regarding this will follow.



### School Activities

Pupils took part in the National Deaf Children's Society Listening Bus at Isobel Mair on Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> September. The listening bus tours the UK helping children and parents learn about deafness and hearing impairment, showing how technology can help, by letting them try out specialist equipment including watches, alert devices and computers.

Pupils in Primary seven have been taking part in grass bowls at Arthurlie Bowling Club over the past few weeks. They will also be taking part in swimming lessons over October and November.



Tempest Photographer was in on Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> September. If you wish to order pictures, please return completed form by Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> October.

Selected pupils from Primary 7 went to The Museum on the Mound in Edinburgh on Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> October as part of a Cluster Financial Education group. This was a great opportunity for them to develop their personal skills, and the skills of others.



## After School Clubs

<b>Time &amp; Venue</b>	<b>ACTIVITY</b>	<b>OPEN TO</b>	<b>COST</b>	<b>DATES</b>
<b>MONDAY</b>				
3.00pm - 4.00pm Meet in Room 13	Outdoor Club Jerry Park	Primary 4 - 6	Free (4 weeks)	7 <sup>th</sup> , 14 <sup>th</sup> , 21 <sup>st</sup> Sep & 5 <sup>th</sup> Oct
3.00pm - 4.00pm ICT Suite	Computer Gaming Club	Primary 3 - 5	Free (6 weeks)	26 <sup>th</sup> Oct, 2 <sup>nd</sup> , 9 <sup>th</sup> , 16 <sup>th</sup> , 23 <sup>rd</sup> & 30 <sup>th</sup> Nov
3.00pm - 4.00pm Gym Hall	Cheerleading	Primary 5 - 7	Free (4 weeks)	26 <sup>th</sup> Oct, 2 <sup>nd</sup> , 9 <sup>th</sup> & 16 <sup>th</sup> Nov
3.00pm - 4.00pm Muga	Boys Football	Primary 6 - 7 Boys	Free (11 weeks)	7 <sup>th</sup> , 14 <sup>th</sup> , 21 <sup>st</sup> Sep, 5 <sup>th</sup> , 19 <sup>th</sup> , 26 <sup>th</sup> Oct, 2 <sup>nd</sup> , 9 <sup>th</sup> , 16 <sup>th</sup> , 23 <sup>rd</sup> & 30 <sup>th</sup> Nov
<b>TUESDAY</b>				
3.00pm - 4.00pm Muga	Multisports	Primary 4 - 7	Free (8 weeks)	15 <sup>th</sup> , 22 <sup>nd</sup> , 29 <sup>th</sup> Sept, 6 <sup>th</sup> , 20 <sup>th</sup> , 27 <sup>th</sup> , Oct, 3 <sup>rd</sup> & 10 <sup>th</sup> Nov
<b>WEDNESDAY</b>				
3.00pm - 4.00pm Room 3	Cooking Club	Primary 6 - 7	Free (4 weeks)	28 <sup>th</sup> Oct, 4 <sup>th</sup> , 11 <sup>th</sup> & 18 <sup>th</sup> Nov
3.00pm - 4.00pm Art Room	Arts & Craft Club	Primary 2 - 3	Free (5 weeks)	28 <sup>th</sup> Oct, 4 <sup>th</sup> , 11 <sup>th</sup> , 18 <sup>th</sup> & 25 <sup>th</sup> Nov
3.00pm - 4.00pm Gym Hall	Play Club	Primary 2 - 3	Free (8 weeks)	16 <sup>th</sup> , 23 <sup>rd</sup> , 30 <sup>th</sup> Sept, 7 <sup>th</sup> , 21 <sup>st</sup> , 28 <sup>th</sup> , Oct, 4 <sup>th</sup> , 11 <sup>th</sup> Nov
<b>THURSDAY</b>				
3.00pm - 4.00pm Meet Room 14	Gardening Club	Primary 5 - 7	Free (4 weeks)	10 <sup>th</sup> , 17 <sup>th</sup> , 24 <sup>th</sup> Sept & 1 <sup>st</sup> Oct
3.00pm - 4.00pm Gym Hall	Handball	Primary 6 - 7	Free (4 weeks)	10 <sup>th</sup> Sept, 17 <sup>th</sup> , 24 <sup>th</sup> Sept, 1 <sup>st</sup> Oct
3.00pm - 4.00pm Gym Hall	Tennis	Primary 4 - 5	Free (4 weeks)	22 <sup>nd</sup> , 29 <sup>th</sup> Oct, 5 <sup>th</sup> , & 12 <sup>th</sup> Nov
3.00pm - 4.00pm Gym Hall	Judo	Primary 5	Free (4 weeks)	23 <sup>rd</sup> , 30 <sup>th</sup> Oct, 6 <sup>th</sup> & 13 <sup>th</sup> Nov

### Diversity Day

Our Primary Six pupils participated in the ER Diversity Day in the Barrhead Foundry on Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> September, where they learned about the diverse community, country and world we live in. Maureen Sneddon, our Quality Improvement Officer sent an email to praise the children for their efforts.



"I just wanted to thank you and your staff and pupils for supporting this year's Diversity Day. It seemed to be a great success. The pupils were fantastic and credit to their schools and the organising committee really appreciated school staff and parents being able to be there at the afternoon session."

### Religious and Moral

On Friday 11<sup>th</sup> September all pupils took part in an Inaugural Mass in St. John's Parish Church. Many thanks to everyone who attended. Pupils in Primary 6 and 7; First Friday Mass on Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> October has been cancelled and will take place on Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> October. This mass will include an enrolment service for primary six pupils who have been invited by the Scottish Catholic Education Service to enrol pupils for The Pope Francis Faith Award.



P3 Sacramental meeting took place in St John's Church on Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> September.

P4 Sacramental meeting took place in St John's Church on Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> September.

P7 parent information meeting for pupils in Primary 7 who will receive the Sacrament of Confirmation took place on Tuesday 29<sup>th</sup> September.

We are very excited as Bishop John is visiting the school on Monday 5<sup>th</sup> October.

### St John's Church Fete

Several P7 pupils came along to the St John's Church fete on Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> September to sell leeks, potatoes and cabbages grown and harvested from the school gardens in their own 'farmers market'. The choir sang beautifully entertaining the crowds. The weather was lovely and there was a good turn out from parishioners, staff and pupils in this great community event.



Please encourage your child to continue their Faith Journey by taking part in the Children's Liturgy Group each Sunday over the school year in St. John's Church Hall at 10.00am. Pupils are then taken over to the church to join the celebration Holy Mass with their families.



### Parking

Can I please once again remind parents and carers dropping off and picking up children to be considerate when stopping and parking. Please DO NOT park over or in our neighbours' driveways (yes some people have been caught!!!!) particularly at the corner of Fenwick Drive. Please remind your child to be polite and respectful to our neighbours when entering and leaving the school.

### Primary 1

Now that all our Primary 1 pupils have settled in well and are becoming more independent we will be encouraging them to come in in the morning on their own without their buddies.

### Air Quality Around Schools!!

As part of our commitment to improving local air quality, East Renfrewshire Council now has powers to issue fixed penalty notices to drivers who don't switch off their engines when stationary. Council officers will be carrying out patrols around local schools and speaking to drivers who let their vehicles idle unnecessarily.

Air quality within East Renfrewshire is generally good and meets national standards, however we are always keen to make further improvements. Within East Renfrewshire, road traffic is the main source of air pollutants. Parents and others taking children to and from school can help to reduce children's exposure to exhaust fumes by leaving the car at home, by parking further away from the school and by turning off their engines when stationary.

### Flu Vaccination Programme 2015

The Flu Vaccination Programme will take place in the school on Monday 19<sup>th</sup> October; any forms that have been returned after the closing date will be picked up by the Health Board.



### Good Hygiene - Good Health

Help combat bugs - the best way is to follow good hygiene practices. Please encourage your children to

- ✚ Always carry tissues.
- ✚ Use clean tissues to cover your mouth and nose when you cough and sneeze.
- ✚ Bin tissues after one use.
- ✚ Wash your hands with soap and water.



## 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.



## 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. 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



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.

## Reminder Dates for Diary

Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> November Primary 6 and 7 pupils will attend Mass at St John's. This will also be an enrolment service for the Pope Francis Faith Award for Primary 6.

Friday 6<sup>th</sup> November First Friday Mass for pupils in Primary 5 St. John's Parish Church at 9.30am

Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> November Mass of Commitment for Primary 7 in St. John's Parish at 10.00am

Financial Education Week takes place from Monday 9<sup>th</sup> until Friday 13<sup>th</sup> November

Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> November Parent's Evening - appointments to follow.

Friday 27<sup>th</sup> November St. Andrew's Dance in St. Mark's Primary

Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> November P3 Mass of Enrolment St. John's Church 10.00am

Friday 11<sup>th</sup> December Christmas Fete

Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> December Primary 1 and 2 Nativity 1.30pm

Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> December Primary 1 and 2 Nativity 7.00pm

Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> December Final Advent Mass 11.00am in St. Mark's Primary

Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> December Class Parties

Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> December Finish for Christmas holiday

Don't forget  
parents  
evening!

## Outdoor Learning

In St. Mark's pupils participate in outdoor learning which can deliver key features of Curriculum for Excellence. Schools across Scotland are demonstrating a real commitment to encouraging and supporting their children and young people to develop as successful learners, responsible citizens, effective contributors and confident individuals. We are all considering the best ways to provide genuinely enjoyable and challenging learning experiences.



Many of these experiences will be found outside the classroom and we would therefore ask that you ensure your child comes to school with appropriate outdoor clothing for our inclement weather. Children can bring in a change of shoes for indoors and keep these in a bag on their coat peg to change into. We have waterproof jackets available for children, but would ask that you encourage your child to wear their jackets, wellingtons, hats etc. when outdoors, or on an excursion.

## Holiday Reminder

The school will close on Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> October at 3.00pm (clubs will run as normal) for the October school break, we reopen Monday 19<sup>th</sup> October 8.45am with Breakfast Club running as normal from 8am.



## Aid for Refugees at Calais Camp

You will all be aware of the plight of refugees mainly from Syria and the efforts many of you have already made to send aid to charitable or aid organisations to support families who now find themselves homeless and in great need of help. Councillor Waters is co-ordinating aid to those who are held in refugee camps in Calais and is organising a convoy which leaves on Thursday 29 October. We are looking for donations of the following things which are much needed and in very short supply are:

- small torches;
- double AA batteries for torches;
- tea lights; and
- jars and packets of ready to eat baby food.

The general list the Aid organisations are asking for include:

- warm clothing for men and boys;
- waterproof clothing for men and boys;
- sturdy footwear for men, women and children (all sizes and all ages);
- camping equipment in working order;
- basic toiletries (soap, toothbrushes, toothpaste etc); and,
- transportable food (anything non-perishable, e.g. tinned food, rice etc).

The group will accept other types of clothing donations as they will always find a use for them.

Please hand in any items to the school no later than Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> October. Many thanks for your continued support.

In St. Mark's our aim is to ensure your children have the best possible educational experience. We want them to be safe, well and happy. If you have any concerns please do not hesitate to contact the school and we will do all we can to address them.

**Natalie Fitzsimmons**  
**Acting Head Teacher**

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Name .....

I have received and read the September '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