

Holidays—Reminder

School will close on Friday 20th December at **2.30pm** and re-open on Monday 6th January 2012 at **8.45am** – breakfast club as normal from 8am

Countdown to Christmas

Wednesday 18th December	Mass in Rm 11 (parents and carers welcome)
Wednesday 18th December	3rd Advent Service 9:15 – Parents/ Carers welcome
Thursday 19th December	Pr. 1-5 Christmas Party – 1.20pm
Thursday 19th December	Pr. 6-7 Christmas Disco – 7-8.30pm
Friday 20th December	11am School Mass - Parents/Carers Welcome
Friday 20th December	Early closure – 2.30pm

On behalf of all the staff and myself I would just like to wish you a happy and peaceful Christmas. I look forward to working with you in the New Year.

Gerard J. McLaughlin
Head Teacher

I have received and read the December '13 newsletter.

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

Signature of Parent/Carer

We value your comments and/or suggestions



St. Mark's Primary School Newsletter December 2013



Dear Parents and Carers



During this season of Advent our children participated in various activities to help us to prepare for the feast of Christmas.

Each Wednesday morning at our assembly we held an Advent Service with pupils leading the prayers and scripture readings.

We also had a weekly Mass which was attended by many pupils and staff.

School Nativity

Last night we had a sell out Nativity show! The children were absolutely fantastic. Your support was very much appreciated by staff and pupils. Can I say a special thank you to Mrs. Law, Mrs. Carr and to two of our parents (Mrs. Dziobek and Mrs. Horsley) for helping to make the costumes – the pupils looked great!

Pro-life Group

So far, we have had great support from our classes who have been contributing their 20p each week to raise money for their class. The group would like to take the opportunity to thank those who have been very generous and even contributed more than 20p each week – we are very grateful! In the next session we will be holding another collection so please do not throw away any old baby things this Christmas!



Christmas Card Competition Winners

Winner for Primary 1-3

Daniel Gusarov Pr. 2

Winner for Primary 6-7

Abbie Davidson Pr. 6

Their art work can be seen on the school website



ACE Pupils

On Wednesday 11th December Mrs Reilly and Mrs. Macdonald had the privilege of taking this term's ACE pupils to see the Pinocchio pantomime at the Pavilion Theatre. The treat was extra special as one of our very own Pr. 7 pupils, Charlie Gardner, was performing in the show. Our pupils commented how confident she was on the stage – well done Charlie. Our ACE pupils were extremely well behaved.....and thoroughly enjoyed the show – oh yes they did!!

Our ACE pupils were as follows: **Ben Horsely, Neive Smith, Arzoo Ayub, Olivia Czarnik, Kiara McLean, Antonia Edgar, Toni Cameron, Katie Dunne, Emma Henry, Abigail Boyle, Zoe Ross Byrne, Beth Roxburgh, Adi Kopka, Cora McCann and Jordan Gilfillan.**

Class Parties

Class parties for Primary 1-5 will take place on the afternoon of Thursday 19th December – ***all Primary 1-5 pupils should wear their party clothes to school (no football strips or sports clothes –jogging outfits, etc)***

Please note: Primary 6 -7 must wear their school uniforms!!!

Thank you to our Parent Council for funding this event

Primary 6 & 7 Disco

On Thursday evening the Parent Council have organised a disco for the Pr. 6&7 pupils. This will take place on Thursday 19th December 7-8.30pm.

Parent Council

The staff and I would like to say a big thank you to our Parent Council who work hard all year supporting all the various activities of the school. As well as fundraising which is very much appreciated and enables us to purchase equipment or organise events they are always ready and willing to lend a hand in helping out with class or whole school activities. The school and your children benefit greatly from the support and dedication of our parent council. Can I take this opportunity to ask you to continue to offer your support to them in their work in the New Year.



Ardentinny 2013 – P7

Our Primary 7 pupils returned from Ardentinny last Friday – the children had a great time. One of their first activities was to make up their beds i.e. putting on a flat sheet, pillow case and duvet cover – I heard it was very entertaining!!! Can I say a special thank you to each of the members of staff who gave up their own free time to accompany them – Miss Healey, Miss Walker, Mrs. Stewart and Steven Percy (our Active Schools Coordinator).

Without their support this type of activity would not be possible.



Adverse Weather



In the past, we have had severe disruptions as a result of bad weather around this time last year. 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 www.eastrenfrewshire.gov.uk, and school website and updates posted on Twitter.

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 as sometimes we have to make any changes to the usual routine.

More information can be found on our school website



Registration for Primary 1

If your child is aged five between 1st March 2014 and 28th February 2015 **you and your child** should register at your local school from Monday 13th – Friday 17th January 1.30 – 3.00pm

Please bring the following documents:

- Child's Birth Certificate
- Child Benefit Letter or Bank Statement with proof of child benefit being paid in
- Council Tax Notice
- Mortgage Statement or Rental Agreement showing same name & address as on the child benefit letter
- Baptismal certificate if appropriate

Formal notice of the **REGISTRATION** process will be published in the press indicating that dates are between **Monday 13th and Friday 17th** January '14 in all local schools. For this purpose you must REGISTER at your catchment school.

Open Afternoon for our New Primary 1 Parents and Carers

On Thursday 16th January I will have an open morning and afternoon for our new Primary 1 parents/carers:

Morning: 9.15am
Afternoon: 2pm

This information meeting will give parents/carers an opportunity to meet the Head Teacher, get some background information about the school and have a short tour.

School Website

Mrs. Hallan and Miss Flaherty have been working on updating the school website on a regular basis with lots of pictures and school news. Please try to visit our school site...you will see lots of interesting information.

The address of the site is:

<https://blogs.glowscotland.org.uk/er/StMarks/>

School Choir

A big 'well done' to our School Choir who have been involved in a variety of events over the past few months. They have recently performed at Silverburn for Visibility Scotland and the Barrhead Health Centre. On Tuesday 2nd December our school choir raised £338.83 in one hour for Visibility!

Can I especially thank Mrs. Seddon and Mrs. Carey (Music specialist) for taking the school choir. You will also be able to hear them perform at our Mass on Thursday.



Some Pictures from our Nativity Show '13

