

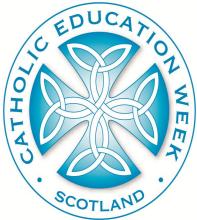


St. Mark's Primary School February 2014 Newsletter No. 7



Dears Parent & Carers

Catholic Education Week



Sunday 23rd February marked the start of Catholic Education Week. The theme of Catholic Education Week is 'Shining the Light of Faith'. On Saturday the Primary 6 & 7 pupils who took part in the Mass at St John's were a credit to our school and were definitely confident individuals. It was lovely to see so many of our other pupils there in their uniforms to support them. Throughout this week the children have been working on a variety of activities within their own classes.

St Mark's Choir Competition Time



St Mark's School Choir will be singing at the Glasgow Music Festival this year. On Monday 10th March, 60 children will be representing the school at this competition. The choir are very excited and will be performing in two categories; Scots music and Hymn singing. Watch this space to find out how the choir get on.

Fairtrade Fortnight 2014



This year's Fairtrade Fortnight takes place from 24th February to 9th March and provides the opportunity for all pupils to find out more about Fairtrade and how they can support it. The theme for this year's fortnight is "Go Bananas". Primary 4/5 and primary 7 will, along with the Fairtrade steering group be co-coordinating a range of activities within the school. Fairtrade banana smoothies and banana loaf will be on sale along with a wide selection of Fairtrade products from Rainbow Turtle. Both classes have also been involved in knitting and crafting a selection of "mug hugs". **On Friday 7th March**, there will be a Fairtrade Coffee Afternoon in the school open to parents and carers. Tickets priced at £1 including tea and biscuits will be on sale in the very near future. Children will also be able to "Go Banana's "and wear a yellow top to school showing their support of Fairtrade. More information will follow very soon about these two events

Changes to our report cards

For some time now, we have been consulting with pupils, parents and staff about revising our report cards.

At present we report to parents in many different ways

- Learning journals
- E-portfolios
- Curriculum afternoons
- Class/Topic Celebrations
- St Mark's Website
- Glow groups
- Twitter
- Parents Evening
- Report cards



In our new reports we have decided to focus on Literacy and English, Maths and Numeracy, Health and Wellbeing, RERC and an overall comment. Curriculum for Excellence continues to be developed and delivered using inter-disciplinary learning and this will be reflected in our new format.

With this in mind here is a flavour of what has been happening in every class so far this term. Everyone has been very busy. As always we look forward to your feedback

News from our Classes

Primary 1

In Primary 1 we are finding out about People Who Help Us for their new Social Studies topic. We are working on our interviewing skills and so far we have interviewed a Physiotherapist (Emily's mum), a Fireman (Gerry's dad) and a Chef (Jacks Dad). We would love to interview as many people as possible to find out as much as we can about the world of work. If you would like to come in and be questioned - in a very friendly way - it would really help us find out more about our local community.



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Primary 2a & 2b



This term our topic is 'When Granny was a Girl'. During this topic we have compared home life, school life and toys from decades ago. We have created our own family tree with stained paper and have set up a class museum to display artefacts such as old dolls, vinyl's and war memorabilia that have brought in from home. We have also been learning old games and rhymes that granny may have played when she was a girl which has been lots of fun! We started by talking about our own personal time lines, as well as our family trees. Now, we are starting to think about the ways in which schools, homes and toys have changed over the past 50 years or so. Our science topic is all about inherited traits, so that is helping us to think about our families too! We now know why some of us can roll our tongues and some of us can't, as well as knowing why we might have certain eye colours or other traits.

Primary 3

Primary 3 have been learning all about Electricity. We experimented with batteries and light bulbs by creating our own electrical circuit. We learned that for an electrical circuit to work, it has to be a continuous loop of conducting materials to allow the electrons to flow and transfer energy. We had lots of fun playing electrical circuit games and impressed our teachers by correctly identifying conductors and insulators.

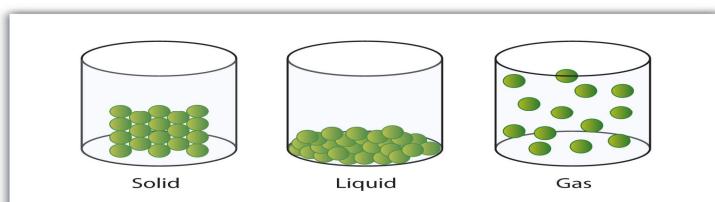
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Primary 4/5 & 5a

Primary 4/5 and 5a have started Mandarin lessons. For 5 weeks they will be learning how to introduce themselves, discuss their family, use basic vocabulary and write some mandarin words.

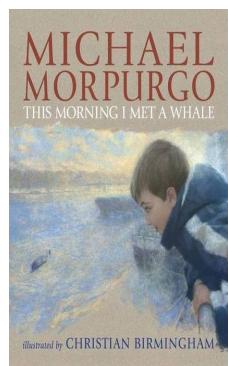
Primary 4/5

In science we have been learning all about materials. We have looked at different types of materials and we can now identify a solid, liquid and gas, we can also discuss their properties. During this topic we have carried out many experiments which we have really enjoyed doing! We can now talk about the processes used to change materials such as dissolving, freezing and evaporating. We are now waiting for our evaporation experiment to finish and hopefully we will have some sugar crystals!



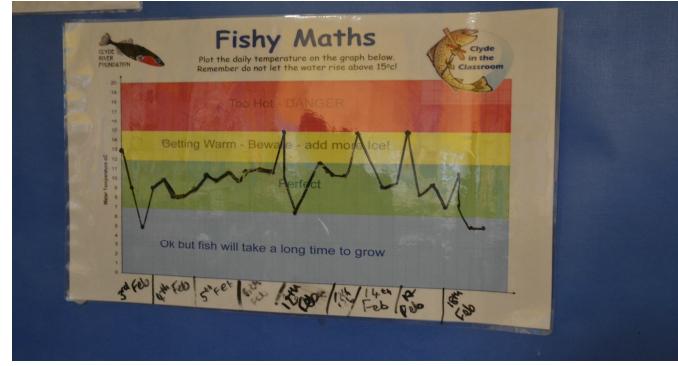
Primary 5a and Primary 5b

Our topic for term 3 is a book study called *This Morning I Met A Whale* by Michael Morpurgo. We have been doing lots of interdisciplinary learning through our topic. In Science and Social Studies we have been exploring environmental problems; who or what have caused them and what we can do to help. We have been learning about climate change, conservation, energy conservation, waste and pollution. We have written a letter to the marine biology department at the University of Glasgow asking them to come in to speak to us.



Primary 6

In Primary 6 we are currently working on our Clyde in the Classroom project. This involves four checks daily on our trout which are currently kept in the P pod room. Checks include monitoring the water temperature, checking for any dead eggs/alevin, adding iced water bottles to adjust the temperature, topping up water within the tank or the cleaning bucket and reporting back to classmates. We are enjoying looking after living things and watching them grow and change each day.



Primary 6/7

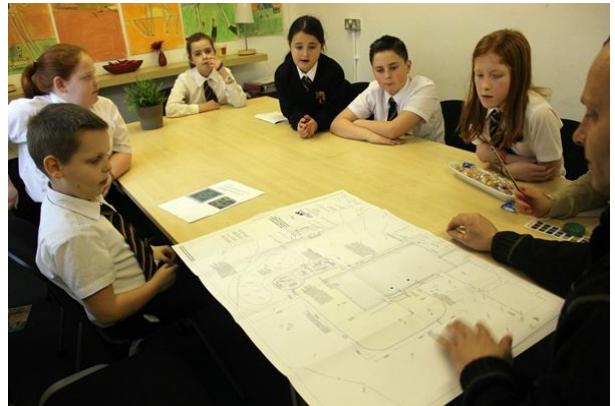
Primary 6/7 were excited to meet new additions to the St Luke's family on Tuesday afternoon.

S1s received 10 living eggs at the start of last week which have now all successfully hatched. They are now the proud parents of 10 healthy (fluffy) newborn chicks. S1 pupils will take care of them and monitor their development over the next few days. Staff from the science department brought down the chicks to meet P7 as part of the transition programme from primary to secondary.



St Mark's Gardening Club

Last month the gardening club met with the site manager of our new extension and the pupil council to discuss redesigning the school garden. East Renfrewshire Council has now approved the new garden and it should be completed late March/ early April. The design is based on four rectangular raised beds and one flower bed. Nicola Spence from P4/5 had the overall winning design which will now be created by the builders. The gardening club has started to prepare for the new garden and the children have started to sow peas, carrots, spinach and strawberries.



Cross Country Event

On Monday 24th of February some of our Primary 7s took part in a Cross Country event in Cowan Park – they were excellent ambassadors for St. Mark's. Thank you also to Miss Walker who accompanied the pupils.



Art Exhibition Thursday 27th March

Parents and Carers are invited to show their support for our budding artists. St Mark's Art Exhibition which will be opened from 2 – 4pm. As well as the Children's art work being on display, music will be provided by our school choir and music groups. Refreshments will also be available to purchase on the day.

Commonwealth Art Competition

All pupils have had the opportunity to enter an exciting art competition during last week's house time. 10 winners have been chosen from all of the entries and they will be sent forward to the Commonwealth Athletes Village and will be displayed there in the rooms of the athletes and officials! The athletes and officials will get to keep a print of the poster to take back to their country as a gift from Scotland and will write a postcard at the end of the commonwealth games to thank the children for their posters.

Parents Evening 13 March 2014

Letter regarding parents evening will be issued week beginning 24th February, can we encourage all parents/carers to complete and return the tear off slip indicating preferred times, we will endeavour to do our best to meet all requirements.

Lockerbie Manor P7 Residential Trip 2014

On Thursday 13th February we held a meeting in the school regarding this year's residential trip to Lockerbie Manor. Thank you to all parents who attended. Deposits of £30 are now being taken and should be paid by 7th March at the very latest to secure a place, the pay in bank will be opened on a Friday only. Cash or cheques can be paid in via your child, alternatively you can pay in via the ERC payment for school site.

P7 National Entitlement Cards

Primary 7 pupils will shortly be issued with forms for parents to complete allowing them to receive their National Entitlement Card. The majority of the form will be populated with pupils details, pupils photographs for the cards will be taken in school during March. This card replaces the Young Scots Card and will be issued to your child when they reach High School.

Polite Reminders

There is a large amount of lost property stored outside the school office. Can we please encourage parents/children to come and claim any lost property before we stop for the Easter break as we will be clearing the lost property box of everything at this time.

Can we please once again remind parents to be cautious when parking around the school please no not drop off/pick up on the yellow lines or over our neighbour's driveways.

When children are ill can we please ask parents to call and alert the school as close to 9am as possible.

Please ensure your child has sufficient lunch and tuck money in their account each day. If you receive a text regarding insufficient funds please pay this back to the school immediately.

Please ensure all you alert the school office when there is a change to your contact details etc. It is vitally important that we have the most current details in case of emergency.



Dates for your Diary

Wednesday 5 th March	Ash Wednesday Service in School 2.15pm
Wednesday 5 th March	Parent Council Meeting in St Mark's 7pm
Thursday 6 th March	World Book Day
Friday 7 th March	First Friday Mass P4 10am (parents Carers welcome)
Sunday 9 th March	Mass of Commitment P4 – 10am St John's Church (parents carers welcome)
Thursday 13 th March	Parents Evening / Book Fair
Tuesday 18 th March	11.30am P5 & P6 to St John's Church for 40 Hours Adoration
Thursday 20 th March	P6/7 Spring Disco 7pm – 8.30pm
Thursday 27 th March	Art Exhibition 2 – 4pm
Monday 31 st March	P3a Trip to the Chocolate Factory (more details to follow)
28 th February & 7 th March	P4 Room 8 Swimming 1.30pm

I have received and read the January 2014. (Please tear off and return to the school).

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

Signature of Parent/Carer

We value your comments and/or suggestions