



St. Mark's Primary School

April 2014

Newsletter No. 9



Dear Parents & Carers

Staff News

We are delighted to welcome back Mrs Robertson who has returned from maternity leave and who will be working with Mrs McBrearty in P6 as her job sharing partner for the second half of the week.

Religious News

May is the Month of Mary. During this month, pupils will have the opportunity to say the Rosary with their class, at our weekly assembly and during lunch time. We ask that you keep the children who will be making their Confirmation and who will be receiving the Sacrament of First Holy Communion in your prayers.



Primary 7 Confirmation will take place on the evening of Thursday 8th May in St Mirrin's Cathedral along with pupils from St John's Primary & St Thomas' Primary. This is a very holy time for our Primary 7 pupils and pupils have been busy making the final preparations. Children, Sponsors and Teachers will meet in the Cathedral Hall, beside the sign saying St Mark's no later than 6.30pm. A letter detailing all arrangements has been issued to pupils, a letter has also been issued by the Parent Council with details of the photography arrangements.

Please keep our Primary 7 pupils in your prayers at this very important time in which they will become fully initiated young Catholics.

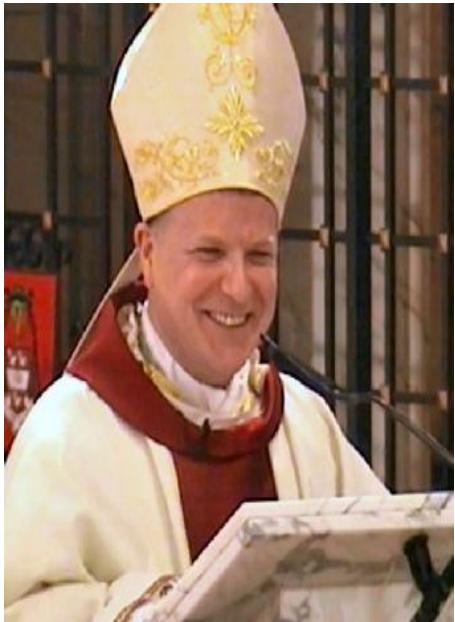
First Holy Communion

On Saturday 17th May at 10am our P4 classes will be making their First Holy Communion, more information will be issued in a letter to our P4 parents.

May Procession

On Sunday 18th of May, at 10am Mass, a procession will take place at St John's Church. Children who have received the Sacrament of First Holy Communion are invited to join in this celebration – pupils are asked to wear their Communion clothes again.

Welcome to our New Bishop



On Wednesday evening, 19th March, the Solemnity of St. Joseph, Patron of the Universal Church, Bishop John Keenan, our new bishop, was ordained by Archbishop Philip Tartaglia, Archbishop Leo Cushley and Bishop John Mone. This was a joyous occasion for the Diocese of Paisley. Myself and two of our pupils represented St. Mark's at the ordination along with 2000 other people. Hopefully, Bishop Keenan will officially bless our school and new extension in the near future. Congratulations to Bishop John Keenan.

New Saints



Tens of thousands of people gathered at the Vatican to celebrate the canonisation of Popes John Paul II and John XXIII.

John Paul II was Pope from 1978 until his death in 2005. John XXIII was born in the Italian city of Bergamo. He introduced a number of reforms in the Catholic Church during his papacy, between 1958 and 1963.



News From Our Pro Life Group



The Prolife Group will be attending the Prolife Centre in Crosshill on Tuesday the 20th May. We will also be having a collection on the 16th May for any baby items people may have which they no longer use. These include toiletries, clothes etc.

News From P2

Primary 2 enjoyed a wonderful end to their topic, 'When Granny was a Girl,' due to an informative visit from Mrs Hallan's "granny." The children learned lots of interesting things about schools, homes and hobbies in the past. After hearing about toys in the past, the boys and girls decided that they think life in 2014 sounds a little better. You can have a look at our photographs from the visit on the school website.

News From Primary 5

Primary 5a and 5b finished our novel study. We had an exciting end to our topic with a visit to Deep Sea World and a visit from Dr Anna, a marine biologist and lecturer at Glasgow University. She shared her knowledge of whales and showed us how she conducts research. She also answered lots of our questions and inspired some of us to become Marine Biologists when we grow up. To start the term both classes have some new teensy-weensy visitors! With the extra money we raised during 'Whale Week' we bought over 60 caterpillars and a butterfly pavilion. We are going to watch them transform into painted-lady butterflies. Each child is responsible for their own caterpillar and its care over the coming weeks. We are hoping to release our butterflies into our new school garden.

French Day

Our children learn French from P.1 in St. Mark's and to showcase our talents we will be having a whole school French day on Friday 9th May.



Children are asked to come to school dressed with a French theme; i.e. French colours (red, white and blue); Marcel Marceau, etc. or school uniform if they do not wish to dress up.

It is not a non-uniform day- no tracksuits or football strips please.

Children will experience a French café with *croissants et jus d'orange* at break time.



There will be a French quiz before break and at 1:30 there will be a display of knowledge (French Songs) involving all classes, to which parents and carers are invited.

After School Clubs

St Mark's after school clubs are now once again underway with the "Active School Teams" running sports and Tennis clubs commencing week beginning 28/4/14, and the school staff running clubs with effect from 12th May. Can we please ask that all parents/pupils keep a note of the dates for these clubs and that pupils and school are aware of arrangements for the children getting home after clubs.



Gardening Club

St Mark's is taking part in the Royal Horticultural Society's school gardening campaign. We have already achieved our level 1 award and have one more goal before we attain our level 2 award. This particular goal is to recruit a few parents, grandparents or carers to join our club. If you are a keen gardener or fancy joining the gardening club we would love to hear from you. The gardening club normally meets on a Wednesday between 3-4pm during term time. We wouldn't expect you to attend every week but if you could attend on certain occasions when you are free and maybe drop in to share your expertise and gardening tips with the group that would be brilliant. If you are interested or require more information please contact the school.

Report Cards

Our report cards will be issued to pupils on Friday 6th June.



Special Lunch Menu - Thursday 15th May

On Thursday 15th May our children can enjoy a special "International Buffet Party" for lunch. The menu will include English sandwich platters, Italian fingers of pizza, American bite size hotdogs, as much as you can eat salad bowls and a selection of desserts.

Presentation To Mrs Shaw, Our New Director of Education

On Tuesday 22nd April Mrs Shaw visited St Mark's where we presented her with a beautiful picture painted by Chloe Miller & Emily Wilson. Mrs Shaw was delighted with this special gift and plans to hang it in her office.



Neilston Show

The Annual Neilston Show is taking place on Saturday 3rd May. We have an allocation of "free child entry" tickets which your child can pick up from the school office.



Primary 7 & Primary 1 Induction Dates

Our P7 Parents' Induction Evening is being held in St Luke's High School on 15 May 6.30pm. Letters have been issued to P7 pupils detailing this.

Two cluster dates have been set 13th & 21st May 2014 for our P7 pupils to visit St Luke's. Pupils will be escorted there and back during the school day from St Mark's.

Dates for our new P1 induction are Tuesday 20th May at 7pm, (for parents and carers), Tuesday 3rd June and Monday 16th June both 1.30pm. Further details on this will follow.

Extension and Upgrade Update

I'm delighted to inform you that our extension is now complete! However, I discovered this morning that a number of windows had been smashed by vandals over the weekend! Can I ask you to contact the community police/wardens if you see anything untoward in and around the school over the coming months – your support with this would be much appreciated. An official opening of the extension will take place in due course and all parents and carers will have the opportunity to see the extensive work that has been carried out.....more information to follow.

The council has upgraded six of our classrooms. This involved painting and the installation of new lighting and carpets in each classroom. As a result we have decided that outdoor shoes **should not be worn in any of our classrooms**. To help with this we have purchased a pair of plimsoll shoes for each pupil. The parent council has very kindly purchased a shoe bag and name tag – the shoe bag will remain in school so that children can put their outdoor shoes/plimsolls into it at the beginning and end of each school day.

As mentioned in the last newsletter our main entrance area and corridors have been painted. Hopefully, you will notice the next time you are in the school all of the additional work that has been carried out inside and outside of the school.

We have managed to get most of the back of the school painted. We will turn our attention now to getting the front of the school painted! This work will hopefully be completed by the end of May!

Lost Property

Can we please appeal again for Parents to label all items of clothing and for parents & children to check for any lost property on a regular basis. Our lost property box was cleared at the end of last term.



Friday 2nd May
Monday 5th May
Wednesday 7th May

Thursday 8th May
Tuesday 15th May
Saturday 17th May
Sunday 18th May
Tuesday 20th May
Friday 23rd May
Monday 26th May
Tuesday 27th May

Dates for your Diary

Ladies Pamper Night – St. John's Church Hall
Bank Holiday
7pm Parent Council Meeting at St Luke's 7pm - All welcome
Primary 7 Confirmation – 6.30 for 7pm
P7 Induction Evening at St Lukes High School
P4 Communion St John's Church – 10am
May procession – for Pr 4 pupils
New P1 Induction Evening in school hall – 7pm
Holiday
Holiday
In Service Day – school closed to pupils

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

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

Signature of Parent/Carer

We value your comments and/or suggestions