

Reminder

Can I please remind you that we finish school on Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> June at 1pm.

Lunch will be 12-12.30pm. School reopens to staff on Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> and

Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> August for in-service.

**Pupils return** on Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> August – doors open at 8.45am.

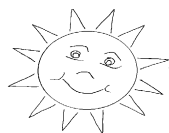
Our breakfast club will start again on Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> August at 8.00am.

As Head Teacher I would like to take this opportunity to thank all staff for their tremendous dedication and professionalism this session.

On behalf of the staff here at St. Mark's, I would like to thank all our parents/carers. We hope that everyone has a very happy, enjoyable summer holiday and we look forward to continued success in the new session.

Have a fantastic break!

Regards



*Gerard J. McLaughlin*

**Gerard J. McLaughlin**  
**Head Teacher**

I have received and read the June'14 newsletter.

We value your comments and/or suggestions:

## St. Mark's Primary School

June 2015

Newsletter



### Dear Parents and Carers,

Following a very busy summer term, here is our final newsletter for this session.

This is my last newsletter to you as head teacher of St. Mark's...but you don't get rid of me that easily! I will be back in August '16.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the parents/carers and pupils who have offered their best wishes as I take up my new seconded post. Mrs. Fitzsimmons will naturally become the acting head teacher and Miss Healey will step into the acting depute head post. I ask that you extend them the same kindness and support that you have always shown me.

### Staffing Update

Primary 1a	Mrs Hemphill
Primary 1b	Mrs Ryding
Primary 2a	Mrs Rook
Primary 2b	Miss Kennedy
Primary 3a	Mrs McBrearty (0.5) & Miss McCann (0.5)
Primary 3b	Miss McAnally
Primary 4a	Mrs Robertson (0.5) & TBC (0.5)
Primary 4b	Miss McKay
Primary 5a	Miss Kelly
Primary 5b	Miss McNab
Primary 6a	Mrs Guy
Primary 6b	Mrs Nelson
Primary 7a	Miss Flaherty
Primary 7b	Miss Clements
Primary 7c	Mrs Hamilton

Art	Mrs McIntyre
PE	TBC (0.5)

Learning Centre/Coral Reef	Miss Walker
Learning Support	Mrs Law
	Mrs Roberts
	Miss McCann (0.5)
Acting DHT/Learning Support	Miss Healey
Acting HT	Mrs Fitzsimmons

Please note the above arrangements may be subject to change during the summer holidays  
Today the children were informed who their teacher will be for the new session – a note was given to each pupil today.

## Staffing

Congratulations – Can I take this opportunity to congratulate Mrs Leamy and Mrs Nelson for successfully completing their NQT year. Both teachers have worked extremely hard this session.

Unfortunately, Mrs Leamy leaves us this year. On behalf of the whole school community we wish her every success in her teaching career in the future.

Our Pupil Support Assistants for next year will be as follows:

Mrs Macdonald

Mrs Muirhead

Mrs Muscat

Mrs Stewart

Miss Roberts

Mrs Reilly/Mrs Morrison

Mrs McNamee

Our office staff:

Mrs Kennedy (Office Manager)

Mrs Ewing

Mrs McQueen/Mrs Officer

Janitor: Mr McDonnell

## Special Thanks

This year we have enjoyed the support of many, many parents who have been disclosed and offered their assistance on school trips, school events, escorts for swimming lessons...to name but a few.

We couldn't have done it without your support!

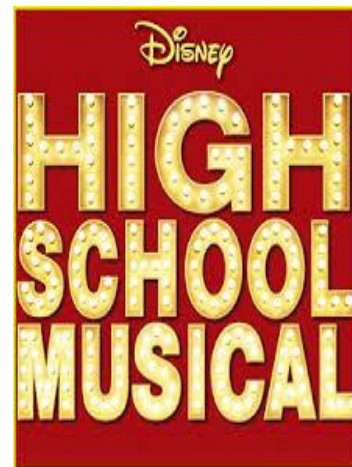
THANK  
YOU SO  
MUCH!

## Health Week



So far it has been a busy week in St. Mark's. To date we have had a number of activities: tennis, judo, badminton, bowls, cook school, a visit from Police Scotland's underwater divers, golf....to name but a few! Can I extend a huge thank you to Mrs. Hamilton and Steven Percy for helping to create such a comprehensive programme for the school.

## School Show - Drama Club



Our Drama Club delivered yet another fantastic show this year – High School Musical. Can I thank Mrs Hamilton, Miss Clements and Mrs Nelson for directing the show. This production incorporated the talents of the Drama Club along with the whole school! It was enjoyed by over 160 parents and extended family over two days. Thank you to Mrs. McIntyre for the backdrops, etc.

Many thanks to all the teaching, support staff and office staff in the school who helped back stage, with rehearsals and with printing programmes, tickets and posters – it was a real team effort!

## Awards Day

This will take place on **Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> June at 9.30am** in the school hall – again all parents and carers welcome. Please note this will probably last until 11am approx.

## House System

Congratulations to ???????? House who won the House Cup – if you want to know who won House of the year then you will need to wait until the Award ceremony!

## French Day



Our French Day was a great success. The pupils looked great in all their French outfits....stripy tops, berets, etc. The quiz and concert demonstrated how talented our pupils actually are. Can I thank Mrs Roberts for all her hard work in preparation for this very busy day.

## Sports Day

We were blessed with dry weather for our Sports Day. Thank you to Steven Percy (Active Schools Coordinator) and Mrs. Hamilton for organising the event.



### Brake Bus

On 10<sup>th</sup> June the whole school took part in the Brake Walk; a road safety march to encourage drivers in our local community to slow down, especially around our schools.

This event was a great success! The staff and pupils were dressed in their brightest clothes and carried banners with messages such as "20's Plenty!" We even had our community policemen to escort us safely along the route.

We stopped on the Main Street and received lots of encouragement from passers by and many of the drivers showed their support by tooting their horns. Mrs Hamilton also helped to raise spirits using the megaphone to spread our very important message! Everyone really enjoyed themselves and it didn't rain either!! Many thanks to Mrs. Leca (one of our former teachers ) for organising this event.

Well done to all of our pupils and we'll look forward to marching again next year!



### Bikeability

For the past 8 weeks our Pr 6 pupils have been undergoing intensive cycling training from Miss McAnally, Miss Walker and Miss Kelly . The children all worked exceptionally hard – well done! Certificates will be presented during the Awards event on Wednesday.

### Parent Council

Can I thank Mr. Paul Gibson (Chair Person) and all the members of the Parent Council for their hard work and dedication to the school and all the pupils of the school. Their efforts throughout the year have been very much appreciated by the whole community of St. Mark's – they deserve a well earned rest over the summer holidays!

Ps The Parent Council are always looking for new members!



### End of Year Mass

On Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> of June at 2.15 in the school hall we will celebrate our final Mass of this session. Parents, carers and family members are most welcome to join us.

Many thanks to Fr. Paul for all his time and support this session

### Primary 7 Leavers' Mass and Disco

On Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> June, we had our Leavers' Mass for our Primary 7 in St. John's Church. This was a celebration of the pupils' 7 years at St. Mark's Primary School. I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Parent Council for all their hard work and fundraising to ensure this is a special occasion for both parents and pupils.

### Sacramental Preparations and Celebrations

May was a beautiful month here in our school as Primary 4 and Primary 7 pupils celebrated the Sacraments of Holy Communion and Confirmation in St. John's and also in St. Mirin's Cathedral in Paisley. The events were very moving and spiritually uplifting. A very big thank you to the staff and to Fr. Paul, for being very supportive and assisting with the preparations and in officiating at various ceremonies. Thank you also to parents and sponsors who continue to assist the children in living out their Faith on a daily basis.

### ACE (A Curriculum for Excellence) Pupils

The winners of this term's ACE pupil awards were announced at Wednesday's assembly. They are as follows:

Oliver Geddes Pr 1a  
Katelynn Dunne Pr1c  
Jack Sergeant Pr 2b  
Katie Cooper Pr 4a  
Grace Lancaster Pr 5a  
Maria Podguskaya Pr5b  
Lewis Johnston Pr6b  
Paige Mackie Pr 7

Mia Gibson Pr1a  
James Fung Pr 2b  
Dione Jose Pr3b  
Olivia Martin Pr5a  
Katie Baird Pr5a  
Sophie Lancaster Pr6a  
Erin Kennedy Pr6b  
Cora McCann P7

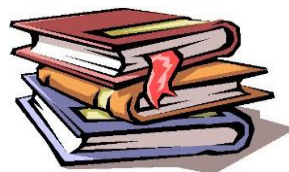


### Lost Property

Please encourage your children to locate and take home all clothing and personal property. I am always amazed each year at the number of expensive jackets, pieces of uniform, training shoes, etc that are discarded by pupils. Pupils will have the opportunity to view all lost property items this week. Any items left will be taken to the charity shop during the holidays. ***Please ensure all items are labelled for next session.***

### Book Amnesty

Please have a look at home and see if you have any books lying around. We would appreciate if you could return them. Replacing books is extremely expensive and I would therefore ask for help in ensuring your child returns all books that they may have at home.



### Extra-Curricular Activities

The children of St Mark's have benefited from an extended range of after school clubs including gardening, tennis, cooking, gymnastics, badminton, dance, ICT, Mental Maths, netball, football and of course our super choir.

A lot of time and effort goes into

planning each term for the children of St Mark's. I would like to say a big THANK YOU to Mrs Roberts for coordinating our clubs. Many thanks also to the office staff for sending out letters and keeping the registers.

Finally, can I thank all those staff members who volunteered for all of the clubs listed above – I'm sure you will agree they did an amazing job.

### Pr 7 Leavers

Our very best wishes are extended to the boys and girls of Primary 7 as they get ready to move on to high school. The Primary 7 pupils have produced a year book. This can be purchased from the school at a cost of £4.

**We wish Primary 7 every success for the future.**

### Dressing for Excellence School Uniform

Please bear in mind the following when purchasing uniform over the summer.

- **When purchasing new school shoes, ensure that they are suitable black school shoes and not black trainers**
- Skirts should be of an acceptable modest length and coloured black.
- Black blazers are encouraged to be worn at all times. I would ask that any blazers which could be recycled should be handed into school.
- Black gym shoes should be worn at all times within the school building - these can be purchased from your local supermarket.

### School Meals

Parents of pupils in Primary 4-7 should make regular top ups to their child's account in order to stay in credit. If you receive a text alert then you have gone into deficit and should lodge money within 24hours. This will help the school office staff by reducing their workload and also allow the school to keep the school meals account balanced. Any outstanding debt should be repaid by the end of the term.



### Free School Meals – Primary 1-3

Can I remind all Primary 1-3 parents that pupils are entitled to a free school meal. The numbers of pupils who take a free school meal are still low in comparison to those pupils in Pr 4-7 who pay for it!

Can I encourage parents/carers to look through the school menu and maybe help us promote our free lunch in Pr 1-3....it would save parents a lot of money and time!

