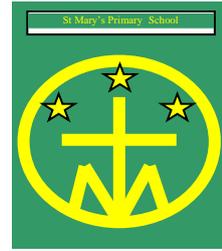


St. Mary's Primary School

Newsletter

November 2020



Welcome back to a new term. It's such a shame that we can't welcome you into our beautiful new building just now – I'm sure you would be amazed at how the school has been transformed and the wonderful facilities we now have!

I am so proud of how our children have adapted to the new building and settled back into learning.

Parent Partnership

On behalf of the pupils, I would like to thank all members of the Parent Partnership for their support to the school. Our children have benefited in many ways from the hard work of this group.

As you can imagine, providing treats for so many children costs a lot of money! Without your help, their fundraising would not be possible – thank you for your great support with this.

The next online Zoom meeting is planned for Monday 16th November at 7pm – please get in touch if you would like to attend.

Learning Logs

We hope that you are enjoying reading your child's learning log. This is only a snapshot of your child's learning, but it provides an excellent opportunity for you to talk to your child about his/her achievements and challenges over the week.

Please remember to sign it each time it comes home (even if the children forget to remind you!) and return it on Monday morning.

We would also be delighted if you would take a few minutes to write your own positive message for your child and teacher to read. This might be related to what is in the learning log, but please also feel free to write other positive comments about, for example, how your child has coped with this week's homework or an activity that your child has enjoyed out of school.

School Parties

Please see below the provisional dates for the school Christmas parties – how we celebrate the parties will depend on the current safety restrictions around Covid 19.

We will inform you if we have to make any changes to these dates.

	Dining Hall (1.30-3.00pm)	Gym Hall (1.30-3.00pm)
Monday 14 th December	P7/6	P4
Tuesday 15 th December	P6/5	P6
Wednesday 16 th December	P3	P5
Thursday 17 th December	P5/4	P7
Friday 18 th December	P2B	P2A
Monday 21 st December		P1

The children may come to school that day wearing ‘appropriate’ party clothes.

Weather permitting, the children will still have playtime outside on the day of their party, so don’t forget to make sure that they are well wrapped up, as well as looking lovely!

Christmas Lunch

This will take place on Friday 18th December.

Last year it was suggested that, as P1-4 are entitled to a free lunch, it might be a nice idea to suggest that the children make a small, voluntary donation to Mary’s Meals.

Save the Children’s Christmas Jumper Day is on Friday 11th December this year. However, we thought it would be a nicer idea for all children to wear something festive on the Christmas lunch day instead, and any voluntary donations from P5-7 will go to Save the Children.

Peanut Allergies

We have a few children in school who are allergic to nuts. I would therefore be grateful if you would remain vigilant and ensure that all snacks/lunchboxes are nut-free (we have had a few peanut sandwiches in lunchboxes recently).

Uniform

Thank you very much for your support in helping to maintain a high standard of uniform in the school. It is lovely to see so many children wearing their full school uniform again.

A few gentle reminders – please don’t buy hoodies or black jumpers or cardigans for your children to wear in class. Also, children should not be wearing bright trainers to school.

We are now able to have PE indoors but the children still can't change for PE. They should continue to wear school polo shirts/sweatshirts and leggings/jogging trousers on PE days, however, if possible, school skirts/trousers should now be worn on all other days.

If this would cause you hardship, please do not hesitate to get in touch with me in confidence.

Beginning/End of the School Day

Thank you to all adults for wearing a face covering when dropping off or picking up children from school.

Please remember to maintain a 2m distance while you are waiting for your child at the end of the day.

I would like to remind you that younger children should not come into the big playground to play whilst waiting for older brothers and sisters to come out.

Finally, dogs are not allowed in the playground at any time.

Playground Supervision

As previously mentioned, children should not arrive at school until 8.45am, as there is no adult supervision in the playground.

Catholic Education Week

This will run from 16th November (feast day of St Margaret of Scotland) to 30th November (feast day of St Andrew).

Although we are not able to attend Mass in church, the children will still be able to take advantage of the online Masses and various other Catholic Education Week activities in school.

Mobile Phones

Unfortunately, we have had a number of incidents recently where children have been secretly using mobile phones in school. Not only is this a serious breach of school rules, there is a risk that the phones could be used to cause harm or upset to others (through messaging or taking photographs without permission) or to access inappropriate websites.

If your child needs to bring a mobile phone to school, please remind him/her that it **must** be turned off before coming into the school playground in the morning. It must also remain completely switched off until he/she leaves the school grounds at the end of the day.

Primary 7 Confirmations

P7 confirmations next year will take place in local parishes, rather than at St Mirin's Cathedral. The exact arrangements will depend on the scale of the pandemic and government restrictions likely to be in place after Easter.

Already, you may be thinking about your child's sponsor – please remember that he/she should be at least 16 years of age and a practising Catholic.

S1 Confirmations

These will now take place in St Mary's Church on Tuesday 17th and Thursday 19th November.

We wish our former pupils every blessing as they embark on the next step of their faith journey.

Contact Details

Occasionally, we still have difficulty contacting a few parents/carers in an emergency. If you have recently moved house or changed your phone number, would you please pass on this information to the office.

And finally.....,

If you would like to speak to me about any matter, please do not hesitate to contact the school.

Yours faithfully

Mrs A Guthrie
Headteacher