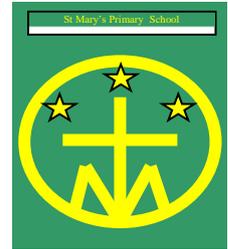


St Mary's Primary School

Term 4 Newsletter

May 2021



I hope you had a lovely long weekend – at least the weather stayed dry for most of it!

Phone calls to Parents

Given that we were not able to have face to face parents' evenings, class teachers phoned each parent before the Easter holidays. It was lovely to hear that most children are happy to be back at school (both for parents and teachers).

Where class teachers were not able to make contact with a parent, a message was left inviting them to get in touch if they wanted to speak to their child's teacher.

If you did not receive a message or would like to speak to your child's teacher about his/her progress, please just contact the school.

Termly Targets/Reports

Termly targets will be sent out over the next week and a report provided before the end of term.

Classes for Next Year

There are 49 P7s leaving and 33 P1s coming in, so our roll will be approximately 260 in August.

At the moment, it looks like we will have 10 classes, three of which will be composites (P2/1, P3/2 and P6/5).

As previously explained, composite classes are created because the number of children at a particular stage exceeds the agreed numbers for individual classes.

If your child is allocated to a composite class, this decision will be taken on the basis of his/her Literacy Group, which is in accordance with Inverclyde Council guidelines.

Through discussion with current teachers, careful consideration will be given to the different groupings for each class in order to create the most effective teaching and learning environment for all children (both within the straight and composite classes).

We understand that parents are sometimes concerned that their child will be put into a different class from his/her friends. Whilst this is often unavoidable, we will look for opportunities for children to work together and socialise as a year group (as soon as current restrictions allow).

We will also have a number of staff changes next year. I will keep you informed when I have more information about this.

P1 and P7 Inductions

Following guidance issued last week, we are unable to have our usual induction visits for P1 or P7. Instead, information will be given through letters and online activities.

Breakfast Clubs

We have been advised that St Mary's will be getting a Breakfast Club at some point, but not yet. Priority is being given to schools to get the existing Breakfast Clubs back in place and ensure there is enough staff to cover them.

We are not sure how many days a week this will run (it won't be every day).

Sacraments

Congratulations to all our P4 pupils who received the Sacrament of Reconciliation for the first time over the past few weeks. Due to the restrictions, the children attended on an individual basis with their parents and Father Tom reported that this worked out really well.

First Holy Communions will take place over two Masses on Saturday 15th May. Due to the increased numbers allowed in St Mary's Church, each child can now have three guests. If siblings attend, they must be included in the guest numbers.

Confirmations will take place over two evenings, Tuesday 25th and Thursday 27th May (two services each evening). Each child will also be allowed to have 3 guests (their sponsor plus two others). As a reminder, sponsors must be over 16 years of age and a practising Catholic).

The P4 Thanksgiving Mass and P7 Leavers' Mass will take place in the church during school time and, due to numbers, will be live streamed for parents (dates have still to be arranged).

School Trips

Following the most up to date guidance for schools, we have been advised by our health and safety Department not to arrange any end of session trips.

Rather than have a whole school trip this year, we plan to have a fun day for the children in school on Wednesday 16th June e.g. non-uniform day, games, videos etc.

For the P7 Activities Week (Monday 14-Friday 18th June), we will be focusing on activities which can be done in the current class bubbles in school e.g. cinema afternoon in the school hall, pizza afternoon, sports activities outside etc. Where the P7 and P7/6 pupils come together for activities, we will still employ social distancing for everyone's safety.

Sports Day

Instead of our usual Sports Day, we will arrange a day of potted sports in class bubbles. Unfortunately, we will not be able to invite parents this year.

Residential Trips

We have started to contact residential centres with a view to taking next year's P7, if there is enough interest.

One venue has come back to say there would need to be at least 32 guests, staying from Monday to Friday, each in single rooms. They haven't given us a cost but this may prove to be very expensive.

At this point, we are not aware if any residential trips will be subsidised by the council.

We will also only be allowed to proceed with the trip if, at the time, both authorities are deemed safe for travel.

Timekeeping

Despite reminders, there are some children who are still regularly late for school. If children are arriving in class at different times, this causes disruption to all children's learning.

I fully understand that the weather and traffic problems can occasionally cause disruption but would ask that regular latecomers make every effort to be at school on time.

Behaviour Outside of School

Unfortunately, we have been made aware of a few incidents with a very small number of our children misbehaving within the local community.

Although this is taking place outside of school hours, when it is reported to the school, I have a duty to bring this to your attention and remind all parents that they should know where their children are and what they are doing when they are out playing.

Landscaping of Kelly Street Nursery grounds

This should be starting very soon and will hopefully be finished by August.

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.

We also use our email service regularly to keep parents informed about events etc. If you are not receiving emails, please let us know.

Finally...

If you would like to speak to me about any matter, please do not hesitate to get in touch.

Now that we are back at school, could I please ask that you do not email teachers on their personal Glow accounts. All email correspondence should be sent via the office email and will be replied to during working hours.

Our office email is: InStMarys@glowscotland.onmicrosoft.com