



St Mary's Primary School

Newsletter

May 2022

Dear Parents

As we come towards the end of this year, I would like to thank you for all your support and understanding in terms of the restrictions we have had over this year. We really love our “new” school and are looking forward to inviting you back into the school for our open afternoon.

I'm sure you already know this but your children are a real credit to you. They have coped so well with the changes over this year and have continued to work really hard in school. We are so proud of them and their achievements this year.

You will see from our Calendar of Events that we are finally able to take part in normal school activities again, which is great news!

New Headteacher

Mr Mark Deegan has been appointed as the new headteacher and will take up his post in August. I wish him every success in his new role and hope that he will be as happy in St. Mary's as I have been over the past 11 years.

I will be working closely with him over the coming months to ensure a smooth transition for the school.

First Communicants

Congratulations to our P4 children who celebrated their First Holy Communion on Saturday. Both Masses were lovely and the children were just perfect.

I would like to thank Mr Macdonald for preparing them so well and Father Tom for working so closely with us to make the celebration such a memorable occasion for all.

The P4 Thanksgiving Mass will take place on Thursday 12th May at 1.30pm in the school. All family, relatives and friends are most welcome to attend.

Parent Partnership

On behalf of the children, I would like to extend thanks to the Parent Partnership for all the treats they have provided for the children this year.

They have also funded new picnic benches this year, which will be a great asset for promoting outdoor learning.

Classification

We are still working on classes for next session and you will be informed about them before we finish in June.

We will have 10 classes next session, three of which will be composite. Composite classes are formed when the number of children at a year stage is greater than that allowed, or where the number is much smaller than the number allowed. A composite class has a maximum number of 25 children. Although in the same class, the two year groups have different learning programmes to suit their stage and ability.

School Uniform

We are very proud of our school uniform and thank you for your support in ensuring such a high standard.

Just in case you are really organised and already starting to buy uniforms for next year, the agreed uniform, as per the School Handbook, is:

- *Green shirt and school tie*
- *Grey pullover or grey cardigan*
- *Green sweatshirt with school badge*
(Please do not buy hoodies for inside the class)
- *Green polo shirt with school badge*
- *Grey trousers and grey or green pinafore or skirt*
(Please ensure that skirts are an appropriate length for school)
- *Black shoes for boys.*

Sensible, black, flat-heeled shoes for all girls are advised. The number of stairs in our building could present a hazard for fashion heeled shoes.

As a reminder, the wearing of jewellery in school should be kept to a minimum. In particular, I would ask that girls do not wear dangling earrings, as these could pose a health and safety risk.

If you decide to get your child's ears pierced, please do this in the first week of the school holidays. That way, your child will still be able to participate in PE when school returns in August.

Please also remind your child not to wear jewellery to school on PE days, as it can be lost when removed for PE.

Inverclyde Council has a policy that football colours are not allowed in school. This applies to school bags, pencil cases etc as well as clothing.

PE Kit

Our PE kit consists of black shorts and a white t-shirt. Please remind your child to bring in his/her PE kit every Monday and take it home on a Friday. This should also include a pair of jogging trousers and suitable footwear for occasions when the children are outside for PE (the last thing we want is for school trousers or shoes to be ruined during outdoor PE).

As a reminder, the children should no longer be wearing leggings or jogging trousers to school on PE days – they should wear their uniform and change into their PE kit for their lesson.

After School Clubs

With the help of our Active Schools Coordinator, Gary Forbes, we are delighted to be able to run some after school clubs again this term. However, can I please ask that if your child signs up to one of the clubs, he/she commits to attending every week while the club is on. Otherwise, it is really difficult to maintain accurate registers.

If your child is not able to attend for any reason, please contact the school so that we know your child is going home safely.

I would like to thank Mrs Combe for giving up her time to run the after school Athletics club. The children have taken part in a number of competitions recently and have done really well due to her commitment and training skills.

I would also like to thank Mr Fulton who has taken on the role of training our football team.

Attendance

Due to the number of Covid cases in school, there has been a fall in our overall attendance rate this year. This is understandable but we still need to know your child is safe if they are not at school.

Please contact the school office on the first day of absence between 8.30 and 9.30am and keep in touch if the absence continues.

If we don't hear from you by 9.30am:

- Firstly, a text will be sent to the main contact
- If no response is received to the text, a phone call will be made to the main contact
- If there is no reply, then we will contact your emergency numbers
- If we are still unclear about the whereabouts of your child, we may choose to contact other agencies for advice, who may then decide a home visit is needed to check all is well and your child is safe.

Our priority in following all these steps is to ensure that your child is safe and well.

Parking/School Gates

Please remember to park safely and considerately when dropping off and picking up your children from school.

Dogs are not allowed in the playground at any time and smoking is inappropriate at the school gates (we often get complaints from parents about these two things).

Playground Supervision

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

Medicines

If you would like us to administer medication to your child during the day, please bring it straight in to the school office, where you will be asked to complete a consent form.

Please do not allow your child to keep medicines in his/her bag, as this could potentially harm other pupils. The one exception would be inhalers, as older children are now encouraged to keep them with them.

Peanut and fish Allergies

We have a few children in school who have who are allergic to nuts and/or fish. I would be grateful if you would continue to ensure that all snacks/lunchboxes are nut-free and fish-free (this includes peanut butter sandwiches and prawn cocktail crisps).

Although we still serve fish in the school canteen, this is carefully managed to ensure the affected child does not come in contact with it, which would be much more difficult with snacks/packed lunches.

Contact Details

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

Also, if you move house, even within the school catchment area, we need to see proof of address before we can change it on the system.

If you move outside the area, you will be asked to complete a "Request to Remain" form.

Finally

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