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Twitter

Our school regularly uses Twitter to share information and celebrate successes. The main account for the school is run by Mrs Wallace. Please Follow us @SMPG1964 to keep up to date with all that is happening. In addition to our main school account, our teaching staff also have accounts which you can Follow.

You may wish to follow:

Mrs Russell, our Depute Head Teacher @MrsRussellDHT

Mrs McGachy, our P1 teacher @StMichaelsP1

Miss Delaney, our P2 teacher @StMichaelsP2

Mrs Coughlan and Mrs Watson, our P3 teachers @StMichaelsP3

Miss Pyott, our P4 teacher @StMichaelP4

Mrs McEnaney and Mrs Williamson, our P5 teachers @StMichaelsP5A

Mrs McColl, our P6/5 teacher @StMichaelsP6_5

Mrs Neeson, currently our P6 teacher during Miss Black's absence @StMichaels_Lit

Miss Kearns, our P7 teacher @StMichaelsP7

Miss Donnelly, our Nurture teacher @RainbowRoomSMPG



Hallowe'en Fun

COVID didn't get in the way of us having lots of fun at Hallowe'en! Our pumpkin patch treasure hunt was a great success. We are very grateful to the Co-op in Dubbs Road, Tesco in Port Glasgow, Murray's in Princes Street and our staff for the very generous pumpkin donations that were made. A special thank you is also sent to our Parents' Group who provided the children with their treats on the day. A great time was had by all! <https://t.co/cbWDM3dHUh>



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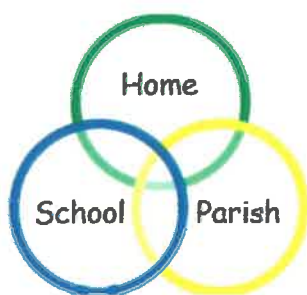
Mary's Meals

Did you know that with £15.90 Mary's Meals can feed a child at school for a whole year? From Monday 23rd November until Friday 27th, pupils and staff will have the opportunity to make a donation to support the work of Mary's Meals. The UK Government will double all donations made up until 31st January 2021. Please support this very worthwhile cause if you can. You can find out about the fabulous work of Mary's Meals at

<https://www.marysmeals.org.uk/>



Religious Celebrations



It feels very strange not being able to bring our whole school together physically in prayer and we certainly miss having our families and parishioners with us for important Masses and Services in the school.

On Friday, Father Chima celebrated a Mass of Remembrance with our P7 class where prayers were offered for all our loved ones who are no longer with us.

Over the next few weeks Father Chima will celebrate the following with us

- Mass led by P6 to conclude Catholic Education Week – Friday 27th November at 11am
- Advent Service led by P6/5 – Monday 30th November at 11am
- Advent Service led by P3 – Monday 7th December at 11am

Where possible, we will share these special events with the rest of the school via a video link.

Unfortunately we are unable to sing at any of our Masses and Services just now due to current national advice.

Dates for the celebration of the Sacraments are still being finalised and will be shared with you in due course. At this stage it is very difficult to say what the format of these special events will be. It may be that COVID restrictions are still with us and that we need to adopt a similar approach to that taken this year for First Communion and Confirmation with the celebrations taking place at a few different times with restricted numbers being able to attend. Please keep this in mind when the dates are shared. Everything is subject to change at the moment.

Father Chima will visit our P4 and P7 children in class over the coming weeks and months to assist the teachers with the preparation of the children. Please support your child at home with any preparation they may be asked to undertake at home.

Please remember that many parishes live stream their weekly Masses, helping to support us in our faith journey during these challenging times. We are only too aware how difficult it can be to get a place at Mass to be able to attend in person.

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Planning Christmas Festivities

Our staff are working hard to keep the magic of Christmas alive for all the children. Although we cannot hold our usual Nativity and Christmas concert performances full of songs, with classes mixing together in front of an audience, we will be able to bring the “Spirit of Christmas” into your homes through the power of technology. More details about this will be shared soon!



In December we usually hold our Winter Wonderland; one of our favourite events in the school year. Unfortunately we won't be able to do this in the same manner as before, but the children will still be able to make a host of Christmas crafts which you can order from home. Each child will bring an order form home which will let you select the items you would like to purchase. We ask that the order form and the exact payment are returned to the school in the envelope we will provide. All money raised goes towards purchasing resources for the children to use at school.

Please make a note of the following important dates

- Thursday 10th December – virtual Winter Wonderland
- Friday 11th December – Christmas lunch for pupils (please see attached menu)
- Tuesday 15th December – P4 Christmas party (am); P5 Christmas Party (pm)
- Wednesday 16th December – special Christmas performance shared with the pupils in class; starring several of the annual Beacon Arts Centre pantomime cast
- Thursday 17th December – P6 Christmas party (am); P6/5 Christmas Party (pm)
- Friday 18th December – P1-P3 Christmas party with magical virtual visit from Santa
- Monday 21st December – P7 Christmas party (pm)
- Tuesday 22nd December – School closes at 2.30pm for Christmas holiday

COVID Safety Measures Update



Thank you to everyone for wearing a face covering at drop off and pick up times. Your support with this has been first class!

As time goes on it is easy to become tired of safety measures and complacency can set in.

Please continue to speak with your child about the following things at home

- the importance of good hygiene; thorough hand washing and sanitising are essential in suppressing the virus
- the importance of catching coughs and sneezes in the joint of the elbow
- the importance of keeping 2 metres distance from staff; it is important that we can keep each other safe
- the importance of staying in their own play zones as a class bubble and not engaging in rough or physical contact play

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Learning At Home

Sometimes children need to self-isolate because they have been in direct contact with someone who has tested positive for COVID-19. This means that they need to stay at home for 14 days. As they are not unwell, it is important that they continue to learn during this time. The easiest way for this to happen *should be* through use of Teams and other online learning platforms shared by your child's class teacher. However, we know this is not always the case. To assist us with our contingency planning for pupils who are unable to attend school, please complete our survey by using this link



<https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=oyzTzM4Wj0KVQTctawUZKYD9UY8nNv9Mmi0nIL2n0pUNDNCOVhZVzY4NDhSREUzSlhGR1ZWV1FKNy4u>

By doing this we will have all the information we need to support your child should they ever need to self isolate. The survey will also allow us to gauge how online homework tasks are for your child when they are at school. Your support in completing the survey is very much appreciated.

PE Lessons

We are now able to use our halls for PE lessons when the weather outside makes outdoor lessons unrealistic. Following consultation with parents at the end of last term, pupils are still invited to wear their relaxed school uniform as changing facilities are still unavailable at this time. In some of our senior classes we still have pupils coming to school in sportswear and leggings that are not appropriate for school. We ask that families are mindful of our school uniform colours; t shirts should be white and any sweatshirts/knitwear should be maroon.



All jewellery must be removed for lessons and therefore should be left at home on days when PE is taking place. Earrings must be removed and cannot be covered with plasters. We ask that parents refrain from getting their children's ears pierced until the end of the summer term. Children are often very upset when they discover they cannot participate in PE lessons for 6 weeks due to new piercings during term time.

Nut Free School

Pupils are asked not to bring any nuts or nut-based products to school. This is to help keep pupils and staff safe who have serious allergies. Your support with this is very much appreciated.



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Mobile Phones and Associated Technologies

There are may be occasions when parents and carers feel it is necessary for their child to carry a mobile phone to school.

In these circumstances **it is essential** that pupils follow *Inverclyde Council's* policy. The main points of the policy are:

- Mobile phones and associated technology must be switched off at all times within the school grounds.
- Pupils must not, under any circumstance, record lessons, instructions, discussions or conversations with members of school staff.
- Where a school pupil is found by a member of staff to be using a mobile phone or associated technology for any purpose, the phone or device will be confiscated from the pupil and returned only to the parent, guardian or carer.
- Unless express permission is granted by a member of the school senior management team to the contrary, mobile phones or associated technology must not be used to make calls, send SMS messages, surf the internet, take photos, video or any other application within the school and in school grounds or during any school activity.
- Exceptions may be permitted in exceptional circumstances, should the parent/guardian specifically request it. Such requests will be handled on a case-by case basis, and should be directed to the Head Teacher. It is likely that in such circumstances mobile phones may only be used by pupils in a designated area in the school office area.
- Mobile phones or associated technology are not permitted into rooms where an assessment or examination is taking place, under any circumstances.
- Parents are reminded that in cases of emergency, the school office remains the vital and appropriate point of contact and can ensure a pupil is reached quickly, and assisted in any appropriate way
- Pupils are required to mark their mobile phone or associated technology clearly with their names
- In order to reduce the risk of theft during school hours, pupils who carry mobile phones or associated technology are advised to keep them well concealed and secure and not 'advertise' they have them.
- The school accepts no responsibility for replacing lost, stolen or damaged mobile phones or associated technology belonging to pupils while travelling to and from school and whilst at school. Education Services does not hold insurance for personal property brought to schools and it will generally not pay for any loss or damage to such property. Pupils should think very carefully before bringing valuable items such as mobile phones or associated technology to school.

We encourage you to give the school your full support in this matter by ensuring your child understands this policy. We encourage our pupils to hand their phones in to their class teacher in the morning to be stored for safe keeping. They are then returned at the end of the day.

The full policy can be accessed at the school office.

Inverclyde Primary and Nursery School

Christmas 2020 Lunch menu



Main Meal



Steak Pie with Roast potatoes and seasonal vegetables

Or

Festive Roast Turkey Sandwich

Dessert

Individual Christmas Ice cream

*vegetarian options available on request



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