

ST MARK'S PRIMARY SCHOOL AND EARLY YEARS CLASS  
WELCOME NEWSLETTER  
AUGUST 2018

*Dear parents and carers,*

*Welcome to a new school year! I hope you all had a fantastic summer with your family and friends. It was wonderful to enjoy some beautiful Scottish sunshine and a deserved break.*

*Thank you so much to everyone for making me so welcome in my new role as Acting Head Teacher. I am excited and honoured to be part of such a wonderful school community, and privileged to help your children to grow and learn.*

*Please be assured that the staff in our school will always work with you to support your child during their time at St Mark's PS. If you have any concerns or queries, big or small, please let us know.*

*We are very much looking forward to working with you, and fully encourage parental engagement in your child's education.*

*I have included photos of our staff team for the year and we are all very much looking forward to getting to know you.*

*I hope this will be an enjoyable, fun filled and productive year for all of our children.*

*Many thanks  
Gemma Strain  
Acting Head Teacher*

**OUR VISION**

*Healthy bodies, healthy minds,  
Fit for learning, fit for life.*

**OUR VALUES**

- RESPECT
- ACHIEVEMENT
- INCLUSION
- CARING
- COMMUNITY
- CREATIVITY

### Settling in

Our new Primary 1 and Early Years Class have all settled in beautifully. It was lovely to welcome new families to our school, and we are looking forward to getting to know you over the coming year.

### Welcome Mass

We would like to invite you to celebrate Mass with us to mark the start of our new school year on Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> September at 2pm. Tea and coffee will be served after Mass, and this will give us the opportunity to meet informally with you.

### Drop off and collection

Primary 1 – 3 children are collected from their classroom door (with the exception of Mrs Reid's P3 class – door next to gym hall). Please notify the class teacher or school office if someone different is picking up your child.

Primary 4 – 7 children should also line up at their classroom door, and do not require parental supervision in the playground.

**Due to health and safety children should not come to school in taxis unsupervised.**

### Breakfast Club

We are lucky to have a fantastic breakfast club for all of our primary school children. It is on from 8.30am until 9am 5 days per week, is free of charge and runs smoothly thanks to a team of volunteers. If you wish to send your child to breakfast club, your child should enter through main door of office. **Please note breakfast club does not start until 8.30. The playground is only supervised from 8.45.**

### Attendance and late comings

It is important that your child is on time for school every day. If your child is going to be absent, please telephone 01294 271167 or send a text message to 07860051461 before 9.30am. A written note should be sent to the school office if your child is going on holiday during term time.

**We will carefully monitor late comings and absences, making every effort to improve our attendance rate, in line with North Ayrshire Council's policy.**

### Parent Council

Our Parent Council offers wonderful support to the children and families of St Mark's PS, planning various activities to benefit our children. We are looking for new members to join our Parent Council. If you would like to meet other parents and help our children this year please contact the school or Susan Crancher (Chairperson).

### Parent Helpers

We are fortunate to have fantastic parent helpers in the school. If you have a couple of hours you could spare to help our children we would really appreciate it.

### Labelling

Please ensure all clothes, bags, jackets, PE kit, packed lunch boxes and water bottles are clearly labelled. If your child does not have a PE kit or a water bottle, please let me know. PE is a fundamental part of our school curriculum and kit is required to take part. Jewellery should not be worn to PE for healthy and safety reasons. Thank you for your support on this matter.

### School lunch

Our pupils order their school lunch each morning, ensuring everyone should get what they ordered. School lunches are free to P1-P3 pupils and cost £2.05 per day for P4-P7 pupils. When paying for school lunches please use the ParentPay system (contact number 01294324759 with any queries). North Ayrshire Council have a new process for recovering unpaid debt so please ensure your child's account is in credit. However, if you feel your child could be entitled to free school meals please call 01294 310000 to apply.

### Football training

Football training will commence very soon for P6 and P7 pupils. Information letters have been issued to relevant classes.

### Flu immunisation consent form

These have been issued to pupils, and as an incentive, there will be a reward for the class who returns all their forms first!

### Annual data check

Our annual data check forms will be coming out soon. Please make sure you add your mobile number and email address – this will enable you to access the Xpressions App. The contract the Council has for sending text messages has recently been reviewed and there will now be charges for this service. Unfortunately, these costs will need to be covered by the school's budget. The Xpressions App is an alternative cost-free way of sending and receiving messages. This can be downloaded from the Apple Store or Google Play Store, and we would encourage all parents to install this application to help in lowering school costs. An information leaflet is enclosed explaining how to set-up and use the application.

### Class letters

Class teachers will soon be issuing letters with information relating to your child's class. During this term there may be activities planned for your child's class.

### Important dates for this term

Wednesday 29 <sup>th</sup> August	6pm	Arran meeting
Monday 3 <sup>rd</sup> September	2pm	Welcome Mass, followed by tea and coffee
Friday 7 September	TBC	P2 Meet the Teacher
Tuesday 11 <sup>th</sup> September	TBC	P3M Meet the Teacher
Monday 17 <sup>th</sup> September		P7 to Arran
Monday 24 <sup>th</sup> September		School closed to pupils - In Service Day
Tuesday 9 <sup>th</sup> October	TBC	P4, P5/4, P5 French afternoon
Wednesday 10 <sup>th</sup> October	3.15	Parents' Evening
Thursday 11 <sup>th</sup> October	11am	Harvest Celebration
Friday 12 <sup>th</sup> October		Go Purple Day to support Ayrshire Hospice
Friday 12 <sup>th</sup> October	3pm	School closes for October break
Monday 22 <sup>nd</sup> October	9am	School reopens

### Important dates later this year

Sacrament of Reconciliation (Primary 3)	Sunday 2nd December 3pm	St Mary's Church
Sacrament of Confirmation (Primary 4)	Monday 4th February 7pm	St Mary's Church
Sacrament of Holy Communion (Primary 4)	To be confirmed	

meet the Staff



Mrs Strain



Mrs Fallon



Mrs Shearer



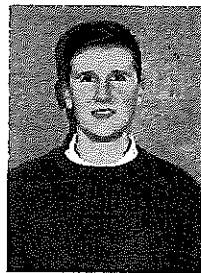
Mrs McKie



Mrs Reid



Miss Lynch



Mr Hughes



Mr McQuillan



Mr Hume



Miss Higgins



Miss Singleton



Mrs McCabe



Miss McGinness



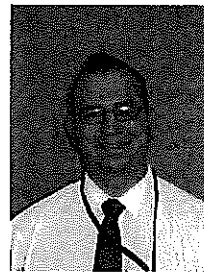
Mrs McEvoy



Mrs Crozier



Mrs Bruce



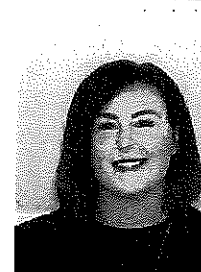
Mr Kilpatrick



Mrs Galloway



Mrs McDonald



Miss Robb



Mrs Abbott



Mrs Paterson



Mrs Pedan



Miss Thomson



Mrs McGill



Mrs McGlone



Mrs Young



Mrs Rainey



Miss Ridley



Mrs Logue



Mrs Kerr



Mr Blair