

ST MARK'S PRIMARY SCHOOL AND EARLY YEARS CLASS



NEWSLETTER OCTOBER 2018

Welcome back everyone after our October break. I hope it was a happy and enjoyable break for all. Many thanks for all of the good wishes last term. It was a jam packed and fun filled first term in my new role. No doubt this term will be just as busy if not more so! Please remember if you have any concerns, or just fancy a chat you are more than welcome to pop in at a suitable time.

*Gemma Strain
Head Teacher*

PARENTS' NIGHT

Thank you so much for your attendance at our recent Parents' Night. It was a fantastic opportunity for the staff to meet with you and inform you of your child's progress over the first term and plan targets for the coming year.

PRIMARY 7 ARRAN TRIP

Our Primary 7 children had a fantastic trip to Arran Outdoor Centre in September and participated in a wide range of activities. It was a super bonding experience for all.



SCHOOL IMPROVEMENTS

Over the October holidays our two open classes in the senior school had walls built. Although the doors have still to be added we are already noticing huge improvements to the teaching environment.

NEW STAFF

This term we will be joined by a raising attainment teacher and two new classroom assistants. We are very much looking forward to all three staff members starting very soon.

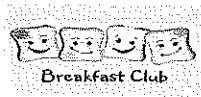


JASS

Many thanks to all of the parents who attended the parent session to share information on our Junior Award Scheme for Schools. Amazingly, all of our Primary 5, 6 and 7 pupils are now working on this progressive learning programme based on their individual interests and abilities.

VENNEL GARDENS

This session we are continuing to build on our multigenerational friendship with Vennel Gardens Sheltered Accommodation. Primary 6 will be visiting soon to share some songs and we are hoping that some of our new friends will join us for lunch at school this term.



BREAKFAST CLUB

Thank you so much to our fantastic team of breakfast club helpers who give up a little time to help make a big difference to so many of our children each day. If you could spare a little time each week please contact the school or breakfast club helpers.

FRENCH AFTERNOON – Ooh la la!

Primary 4, 5/4 and 5 entertained family and friends at their recent French showcase. As well as enjoying songs, facts and even jokes, our visitors participated in lots of French themed activities. I think the highlight was definitely the yummy French café!

POLICE VISITS

Primary 6 and 7 participated in an anti-shoplifting campaign earlier this year and found the workshops really useful. PC Ferguson led an upper school assembly on internet safety and attended our Parents' Night to help inform families of the importance of online safety.

MAKING MUSIC

Primary 5 to 7 have been enjoying various opportunities to learn to play music. Primary 5 are sounding fantastic on the glockenspiel already. Our brass instrument players and

drummers are making great progress!

FUNDRAISING

Last term we had a dress down day for the Breakfast Club raising £180 and topping up much needed funds.

Our Primary 6 class held a collection for the North Ayrshire Foodbank alongside their marvellous Malawi Celebration. Primary 6 are an extremely creative bunch and have started raising funds for their trips to Arran NEXT year through various themed tuck shops! Our annual Go Purple Day for the Ayrshire Hospice was a great success and we raised £195!



FIT FOR LIFE!

We had a very active start to the school year with cheerleading and fitness breakfast clubs, 3 clubs after school (gymnastics, badminton, football), a basketball taster for Primary 3 – 7 and even a yoga class on the in service day for all staff!

This term is shaping up to be full of fun after school activities including football, fitness, badminton, Coding, and a Harry Potter club! Our Primary 7 Sports Leaders will also be organising lunch time clubs for younger children. Some children from Primary 5 will take part in North Ayrshire Day of Dance in November.

STUDENTS

We have 2 teaching students joining us this term who will be working in P7 and P2/1.

SACRAMENTS OF CONFIRMATION AND FIRST RECONCILIATION

Arrangements are beginning for the children in P3 and P4 who will be receiving the Sacraments this year. There will be a meeting for parents on Thursday at 25th October at 7.15pm. The Sacrament of Reconciliation will take place on Sunday 2nd December at 3pm, and the Sacrament of Confirmation at 7pm on Monday 4th February at St Mary's Church.

P7 PARENTS EVENING AT ST MATTHEW'S

There is an information evening for parents of Primary 7 children on Monday 12th November at 7pm. All Primary 7 children will also participate in STEM day at St Matthew's on Tuesday 13th November with other schools in the cluster.



READING

The book fair was really well supported this year once again raising £338.93. This is a very welcome bonus to our library and will enable us to buy lots of new reading material for the children.

All pupils will be visiting the Irvine town library soon to experience all the facilities they have to offer and take part in activities related to the topic they are studying.

COMMITTEES AND SENIOR SCHOOL LEADERSHIP PROGRAMME

Committee members have appointed for our Pupil Council, Rights Respecting School committee and Eco committee. In addition all classes in the senior school have taken on an area of responsibility to encourage leadership skills. This includes maintenance, ICT, special events, gardening and the outdoors, Health and Well Being and our community.

HALLOWEEN ARRANGEMENTS

A letter was issued this week detailing the arrangements for Halloween in school. Our children will have the opportunity to dress up and participate in Halloween activities on Wednesday 31st October in addition to the Parent Council Pyjama party on Monday 29th October. Thank you for your continued support to ensure these events are successful and enjoyable for the children.

ALL SAINTS DAY

Father Boyd will say Mass in the school on Thursday 1st November at 1.45pm.

Important dates for this term

Tuesday 23 rd October	Parent Council AGM
Thursday 25 th October	Sacramental Meeting
Monday 29 th October	Parent Council disco
Wednesday 31 st October	Halloween activities
Thursday 1 st November	All Saints Day Mass
Friday 9 th November	Dress Down Day (donation of prizes for bingo night)
Monday 12 th November	P7 Information Evening at St Matthew's
Tuesday 13 th November	P7 STEM challenge day at St Matthew's
Wednesday 14 th November	Parent Council bingo night
Friday 16 th November	Holiday
Monday 19 th November	Holiday
Monday 26 th November	Catholic Education Mass at St Matthew's
Tuesday 27 th November	Parent Council Meeting
Sunday 2 nd December	Sacrament of Reconciliation
Monday 10 th December	Early Years Class trip to see the Funbox
Wednesday 12 th December	P1-3 Christmas Show (morning performance)
Thursday 13 th December	P1-3 Christmas Show (afternoon performance)
Friday 14 th December	P4-7 trip to see Cinderella panto
Tuesday 18 th December	P1 and 2 Christmas party (morning)
Tuesday 18 th December	P3 Christmas party (afternoon)
Wednesday 19 th December	P4 and 5 Christmas party (morning)
Wednesday 19 th December	P6 and 7 Christmas party (afternoon)
Wednesday 19 th December	P1-3 trip to see Sleeping Beauty panto
Thursday 20 th December	Early Years Class Christmas party
Friday 21 st December	Christmas service
Friday 21 st December	School closes for Christmas holidays
Monday 7 th January	School reopens