

ST MARK'S PRIMARY SCHOOL AND EARLY YEARS CLASS



NEWSLETTER JANUARY 2019

Happy New year everyone! I hope you had a wonderful festive season and enjoyed spending time with family and friends. Thank you for all of your support in Term 2, particularly during the very busy Advent season. 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*

STAFF ABSENCES

Unfortunately we have started this year with a couple of absences. Mrs Paterson, our Early Years Practitioner is still recovering from the operation she had at the end of December. Mrs Fallon had a nasty fall at the start of the Christmas holidays and has broken her shoulder. Mrs Logue is also unwell with a chest infection. We wish all three ladies a very speedy recovery and hopefully they will be back to full fitness very soon. Mrs McKie and Mrs Shearer will support management duties in Mrs Fallon's absence.



ST MARK'S STARS



Last month we launched a new incentive to praise our little stars. Class teachers will nominate someone in their class who has stood out that week. This might be for making an effort, behaviour, classwork, playground behaviour – anything at all. Each week, our stars will receive a certificate, their photo will go on display on our stars wall and at the end of the month will have an extra playtime.



HEALTHY BODIES, HEALTHY MINDS!

INVERCLYDE NATIONAL SPORTS CENTRE

This term, all of our classes will have the opportunity to visit the National Sports Centre to participate in some sporting activities. There will be no charge for this trip. Further details to follow soon.

WATER BOTTLES

We have purchased water bottles for all pupils to encourage and promote healthy living. Water bottles should remain in school and can be filled when required.

PE KIT

In order for all children to participate in all aspects of the school curriculum, we are in the process of purchasing PE kits for those who regularly come to school without it. If your child requires a kit please let the school know as soon as possible.

FREE FRUIT ON FRIDAY! Coming soon!

To encourage healthy eating, we are hoping to provide free fruit on a Friday at break time. I'm sure you will agree this is a great opportunity for the children to have one of their five a day and make healthier choices.

FAMILY LEARNING TEAM

Sarah will continue to work in school on a Thursday. As well as Read, Write, Count events in Primary 6, 7/6 and 7 she will also be starting a new project, Family Connects, for Primary 2 families. There will be a coffee and chat to launch this event and share this information on 17th January.



PRIMARY 6 AND 7 – WWII

This term Primary 6 and 7 children will be working collaboratively to learn about World War II. They will visit The Townhouse on Tuesday 8th January for the Gathering the Voices exhibition.

PRIMARY 7 STEM EXCURSION

Primary 7 will visit Dumfries House on Wednesday 16th January where they will participate in various activities relating to science, technology, engineering and maths.

SCOTS LANGUAGE FORTNIGHT

This term our classes will focus on Scots language through poems, stories, songs and rhymes. We have arranged a few events for our children to enhance their learning.

"OH YE CANNAE SHOVE YER GRANNY AFF A BUS" SHOW

A theatre group will visit the school on Monday 21st January to perform a Scots show, "Oh Ye Cannae Shove Yer Granny Aff A Bus".



BURNS CLUB

Primary 6 will visit Irvine Burns Club on Tuesday 22nd January, and Primary 7/6 will visit on Tuesday 29th January.

TOUCH OF TARTAN DAY/SCOTS CELEBRATION

Our Special Events Committee are arranging a dress down/touch of tartan day. The children will be invited to wear their own clothes, with a touch of tartan if they have it. In return, they should bring in a donation (suggestion £1) to help support our free breakfast club.

In the afternoon, there will be a Scots language celebration for all of the classes. This may be performing a song, poem or dance.

"THE JOURNEY" SHOW

The Baldy Bane theatre company will visit the school on Friday 1st February and will perform to Primary 6 and 7.

CLASS EXCURSIONS AND PARENT HELPERS

I'm sure you will appreciate the time, cost and effort it takes to organise all of these events for your children. This year walkabout consent forms have made it easier for us to take classes to nearby places. However, please ensure you complete and return consent forms for other trips. It is also becoming increasingly difficult to find volunteers to help on trips. If you can come along we would really appreciate it. Without adult helpers we are unable to take the children out and about.

PRIMARY 1 AND EARLY YEARS CLASS REGISTRATION 2019/20

Primary 1 – Week Beginning 14th January 2019

Early Years Class – Week Beginning 28th January 2019

Please note the school has sent out separate letters with more information on this.



GENTLE REMINDERS

Please ensure all children are collected from school on time. As our school office is very busy, children who have not been collected will remain in class to cut down on congestion. As we only have one phone line in school please do not ask staff to make personal calls, such as calling taxis.

LATE COMINGS AND UNAUTHORISED ABSENCES

Our school late comings and attendance rate for the past few years have consistently been below the council average. This is carefully monitored weekly both by the school and local authority, in line with North Ayrshire Council's attendance policy. I'm sure you will agree that it is important for children to be on time for school and attend every day when fit to do so. Our breakfast club also allows flexibility in the mornings and provides a healthy and nutritious start to the day. Through regularly sharing this information, I am hopeful that our attendance will improve in 2019. Thank you in advance for your support on this matter.

	LATE COMINGS	UNAUTHORISED ABSENCES
OCTOBER	274	28
NOVEMBER	348	51
DECEMBER	293	101
TOTAL	915	180

Important dates for January and February

Monday 7 th January	Back to school
Tuesday 8 th January	P6 and 7 trip - Gathering the Voices WWII (the Portal)
Tuesday 15 th January	P1 Registration 2019/20
Wednesday 16 th January	P1 Registration 2019/20
Wednesday 16 th January	P7 trip – Dumfries House STEM day
Thursday 17 th January	Family Connects coffee morning
Monday 21 st January	“Oh Ye Cannae Shove Yer Granny Aff A Bus” show
Tuesday 22 nd January	P6 to Irvine Burns Club
Friday 25 th January	Touch of tartan day – donation to breakfast club Scots Language afternoon
Tuesday 29 th January	P7/6 to Irvine Burns Club
Thursday 31 st January	P1, P2/1 and P2 trip – Inverclyde Sports Centre
Friday 1 st February	P3M, P3R and P4 trip – Inverclyde Sports Centre P6 and 7 “The Journey” show by the Baldy Bane theatre company
Monday 4 th February	P5/4, P5 and P7/6 trip – Inverclyde Sports Centre Sacrament of Confirmation at St Mary's Church
Tuesday 5 th February	P6 and P7 trip – Inverclyde Sports Centre
Friday 8 th February	HOLIDAY
Monday 11 th February	HOLIDAY
Tuesday 12 th February	IN SERVICE DAY

