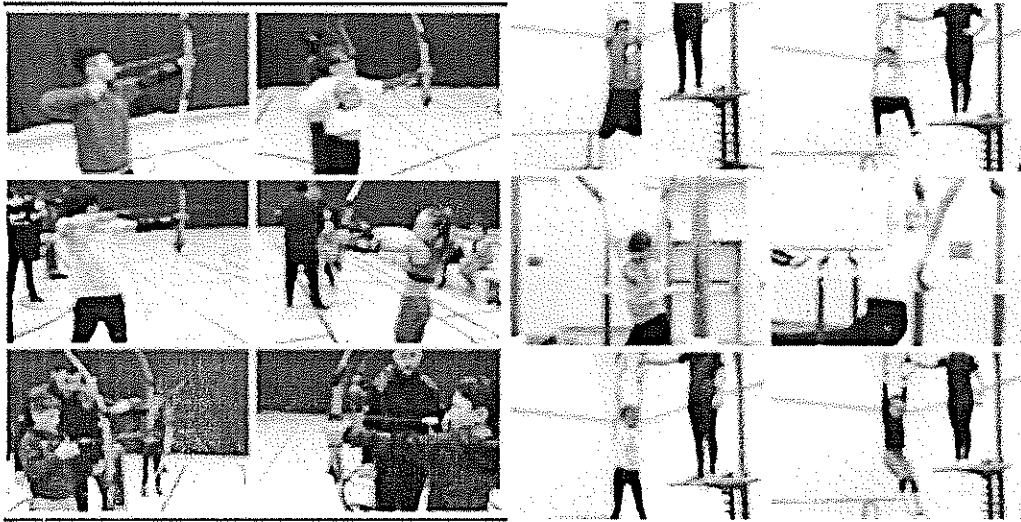


ST MARK'S PRIMARY SCHOOL AND EARLY YEARS CLASS



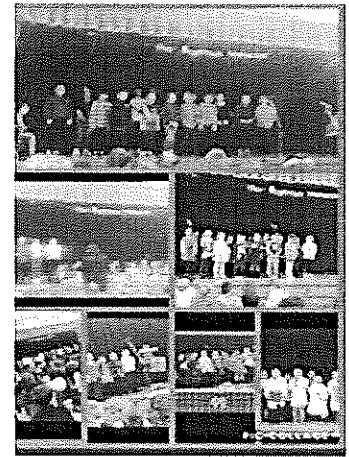
NEWSLETTER MARCH 2019

What a busy and healthy start we have had to 2019 with the introduction of fruity Friday, new water bottles, PE kit, hats and gloves to promote a healthy lifestyle and outdoor play. We have had a variety of sports clubs, in addition to our daily workouts and PE sessions. All of our classes visited Inverclyde National Sports Centre where the children had the opportunity to try new sports including basketball, boccia, archery and gymnastics. The children were amazing, tried everything on offer and were a real credit to the school. We are now half way through this term and have lots more exciting learning opportunities planned for your children!

*Gemma Strain
Head Teacher*

CELEBRATING ALL THINGS SCOTTISH

In January our children had lots of opportunities to experience Scottish literacy, including two theatre productions, trips to the Burns Club, touch of tartan day and our grand finale – a Scottish celebration of learning. The children entertained their peers with songs, poems, dances, rhymes and plays. It was a fantastic opportunity to enjoy our talented pupils and Scots language.



OUR SCHOOL JUST KEEPS GETTING BETTER!

We have been developing our outdoor environment and have lots of lovely new benches. We are awaiting the delivery of more benches, two outdoor classrooms and playground games will be painted on the grounds. We have also bought new equipment for PE, lots of new resources for teaching and learning including updating our reading resources. Now that we have walls in our upper open area, we have developed the learning space to promote active learning. Everyone is excited to use our new reading pod with really comfy couches!

WALK ON WEDNESDAYS



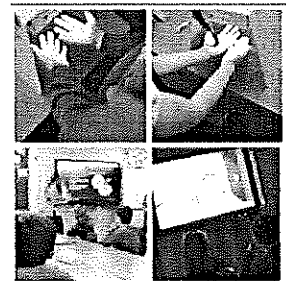
As you will be aware all of our classes take part in at least 15 minutes of exercise each day (Fit 15). To encourage team work we are going to join together and walk as a school once per week. As well as helping everyone to get fit and socialise together.

FAMILY LEARNING TEAM

This term Sarah has continued to promote Read, Write, Count to our classes. Family Connects with Primary 2 families is well underway, as well as another Harry Potter science club.

VISITORS

Mr Craig and Miss O'Connell have joined Primary 6 and Primary 1 this term for teaching experience. They have been a very welcome addition to both classes. Over the next few weeks Miss Fulton will also be teaching in Primary 2/1. We wish all students the very best during their time in our fabulous school. We have also had nursing students working in Primary 4 and Primary 5 teaching the children about personal hygiene and hand washing in particular.



TRIPS GALORE!

Primary 7 visited Dumfries House and participated in various activities relating to science, technology, engineering and maths. They had a fantastic experience and were a credit to the school. Primary 6 and Primary 7/6 also had a great experience at Irvine Burns Club, and Primary 6, 7/6 and 7 visited The Townhouse where they learned about the Holocaust as part of their WWII topic.

BURNS COMPETITION

Many thanks to the following children who represented our school so well in the recent Irvine Burns competition:

Tyler Watters, Skye Graham, Sophie Caldwell, Orla Quigg, Olivia Cowan, Derry O'Byrne, Millie Kane, Amy McCandlish, Skye Latham, Millie Barnes, David Daniels, Jenna McFadden, Katie Joyce, Alexander Griffin.

Special mention to Olivia (P3 winner), Orla (P2 runner up), Derry (P3 runner up) and Millie (P4 runner up)

WORLD BOOK DAY

This year we will celebrate World Book Day slightly earlier, on Tuesday 5th March. More details to follow soon!

COMING SOON...OUR NEW AND EXCITING LENT FUNDRAISER!!!!

More details to follow soon!

EURO QUIZ

Our Primary 6 representatives and Mr McQuillan are busy preparing for the Euro Quiz later this month. We are certain they will make us very proud!



JASS

Primary 5, 6 and 7 continue to work towards their JASS awards. Primary 5 and 6 now make regular visits to Vennel Gardens, the local sheltered housing complex, where they have been entertaining the residents and guests with dancing, singing and playing musical instruments. They have even taught some of their new friends how to floss! The children enjoy hearing stories from the residents about life during and after the war. JASS schools are hoping to come along on one of our visits to see for themselves the wonderful connection our children have made as part of the JASS scheme. Look out for updates on Twitter.

We now have three Primary 7 pupils who have gained their Gold Award! We are so proud of this achievement and hope there will be more children joining them very soon.



SACRAMENT OF CONFIRMATION

Congratulations to the children in Primary 4 who celebrated the Sacrament of Confirmation earlier this month. The children will continue in their journey of faith by preparing to celebrate their First Holy Communion in May.

CELEBRATIONS OF LEARNING

Primary 1, 2/1 and 2 are looking forward to welcoming parents and visitors to join them in celebrating what they have learned about dinosaurs. Primary 6, 7/6, and 7 are also inviting parents and friends in as part of their collaborative WWII project.

POLITE REMINDERS

- Please ensure all children are collected from their classroom by 3pm.
- If your child is arriving after the bell at 9am they must report to the office to ensure they are registered and their lunch is ordered before going to class.
- Please do not ask staff to make personal calls from the school office, such as calling taxis.

SCHOOL PARKING

- Please ensure you only park in designated spaces in the parent car park.
- Do not park in the disabled bay unless you have a disabled badge and are walking your child to class.
- Please do not park on grass verges.
- If the car park is full and you are parking in surrounding streets, please be respectful to local residents.

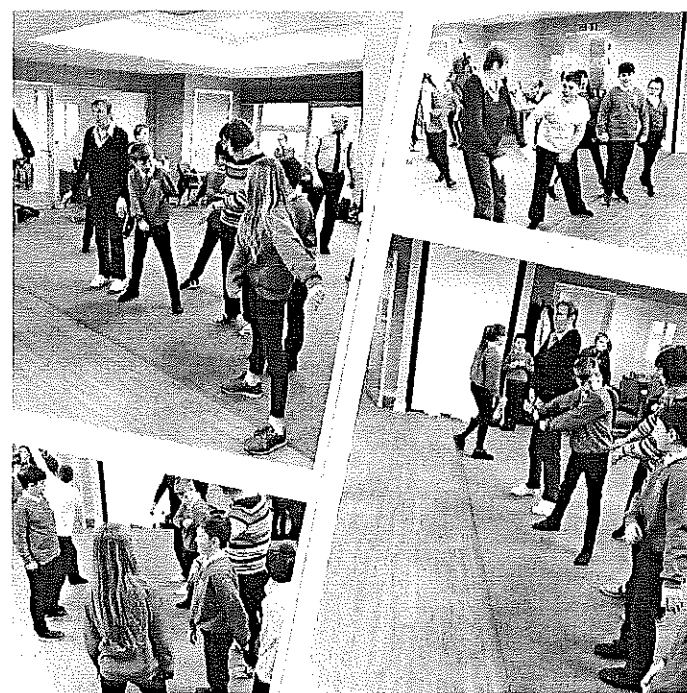
LATE COMINGS AND UNAUTHORISED ABSENCES

We will continue to monitor late comings and absences in line with North Ayrshire Council policy. Please ensure your child attends school on time when possible and absences are reported to the office. I am hopeful together we can continue to improve our attendance statistics.

	LATE COMINGS	UNAUTHORISED ABSENCES
JANUARY	351	62
FEBRUARY	206	107
TOTAL	557	169

Important dates for March and April

Tuesday 5 th March	World Book Day Celebrations	
Tuesday 5 th March	Pancake Tuesday – pancakes on sale	
Wednesday 6 th March	Ash Wednesday Mass	1.30pm
Thursday 7 th March	P1, P2/1, P2 Open Afternoon	1.30pm
Friday 8 th March	P6 Euro Quiz	
Monday 11 th March	STEM/World at Work Week	
Wednesday 20 th March	P6, P7/6, P7 WWII Showcase	1.30pm
Friday 22 nd March	Reports to parents	
Wednesday 27 th March	Parents' Night	
Friday 29 th March	Dress down day (donation for breakfast club)	2.30pm finish
Monday 1 st April	School Easter Holidays	
Monday 15 th April	School starts back	
Tuesday 16 th April	M and M theatre production in school	1.15pm
Wednesday 17 th April	Bunny hop disco (details to follow)	
Thursday 18 th April	Holy Thursday	
Friday 19 th April	Good Friday - school closed	
Monday 22 nd April	Easter Monday – school closed	



Have a lovely Easter holiday!