



St Palladius Primary February 2023 Newsletter







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What a quick month January was! As we look forward to February we continue to focus on providing high quality learning and teaching experiences for our learners, with a focus on outdoor learning and digital technologies.

As always, please do not hesitate to contact me at the school if you have any concerns, worries or thoughts. Times are still challenging for us all and we are here to support each other.

Mrs McCallum

Scots Language Week

Scots Language Week will begin on Monday 23rd January. The children will be learning about the Scots language through poems, stories and songs. Your child will have a poem to learn at home during this time.

Scottish Assembly

The children will showcase their learning at the Scottish Assembly on Thursday 2nd February at 9.30am. We would love you to join us for this celebration of Scots language and culture.

Burns Supper

P7 will lead a Burns supper on 31th January for P5 – P7 and invited guests. They have been working hard on their poems and toasts for the day.

Family Scottish Games Afternoon

Families and pupils of all stages are invited to join us for a fun afternoon of Scottish games on Wednesday 1^{st} February from 3.00pm - 4.15pm. Cheryl, our Family Learning Worker will lead this.

Tempest Photography

Tempest Photography will visit on Monday 6th February to take individual and family photographs. Please contact the school in advance of this day if you would like your child photographed with older or younger siblings who do not attend the school.

Winter Warmer Wednesdays

Our whole school Winter Warmer Breakfasts were a great success. The children enjoyed cereal, toast, porridge and fruit to set them up for the day! We hope to do something similar over the coming months.

Our thanks to Lidl for supplying the fruit and giving us a discount on everything else.

Breakfast Club

Attendance at our Breakfast Club on a Monday has dwindled over the recent months, causing us to consider the viability of it. Later this week, I will send out a Microsoft Teams Form asking for your opinion on how we take this forward.

Young STEM Leaders

Our Young Stem Leaders will begin their training this term. They will be working with Cheryl, our Family Learning Worker to complete the Award. Good Luck everybody!

Afterschool Clubs

Our afterschool clubs are going very well and this term we are pleased to be able to offer some more options.

We now have a Rugby Club run by Declan Hannah on a Thursday after school. This is for P6 and P7 and is preparation for Jack's Rugby Tournament which will be held on 15th March this year.

Monday: P1-P3 Games Club

Tuesday: P7 Transition Club

Wednesday: P4-P7 Dance Club

Wednesday: P4-P7 Tech Titans

Thursday: P3/4 Music Club

Thursday: Rugby P5-P7

If you could help with a lunchtime or afterschool club (restrictions allowing), please contact me at the school.

Sacrament of Confirmation

In a change to previous years, the Sacrament of Confirmation will be celebrated by individual parishes this year. Father Mark will celebrate Confirmation with the candidates on Sunday 19th February at 11.30am in St Palladius Church.



Child Smile

Lisa visited the school and was delighted with the dental hygiene routines in place at school. She replaced worn toothbrushes and replenished the supply of toothpaste. Our enthusiastic learners listened as Lisa emphasised the importance of brushing our teeth and visiting the dentist.

Pupil Equity Fund Update

We have purchased a Health and Wellbeing resource and extended Mrs Berrie's contract for additional days with the last of our Pupil Equity Fund. This allows us to continue to meet the emotional and social needs of our learners. Details of next sessions funding will outlined at the end of March.

Parent Council

Our next Parent Council Meeting will take place at **6.00pm on Monday 6th March.**

All meetings will now take place in school and we are able to offer supervision for children. Our invitation is extended to all parents/carers and members of the wider family who are able to contribute to ensure the best experiences for learners in our school.

World Book Day

We will celebrate World Book Day on Thursday 2rd March. As usual, children can wear pyjamas or a onesie as we celebrate bedtime stories.

Puberty

We will be starting puberty talks with P6 and P7 during this term. Please contact me at the school if you would like to look at the materials we use for this.

P7 Transition

P7 will be working with staff from their chosen secondary school over the next few months. This will include virtual lessons, lessons from visiting staff and class/individual visits. If you or your child have any questions or worries in advance of this move, please give me a call at the school to discuss it.

Transition Mass

All cluster secondary schools will to celebrate Mass together at St John's Church in Stevenson on Thursday 23rd February. Each school will be responsible for preparing a section of the Mass and they will be supported by senior students from St Matthew's Academy.

Winter Weather

We are all braced for an imminent cold spell of weather. Please ensure your child has appropriate clothing for being outdoors at this time.

We have a number of items of winter clothing at the school and there are some available at Owl Tree Crafts. Please help us to re-use them as needed. This is part of our Eco School, 'Reduce, Re-use and Recycle' scheme.

You can donate items of winter clothing for re-use to the school.

Thank you for your support.

Attendance and Late Coming

Each month we look at the attendance figures for each child. At St Palladius, we have not yet reached the excellent attendance numbers we had before covid. I felt it was important to stress again how essential it is that your child attends school every day and arrives on time. If a child is late, they miss the important morning routines and check-in that set the class up for the day. They also miss the introduction of lessons.

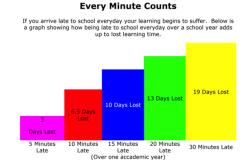
The following graphics represent the cumulative effect on children's learning caused by absence and late coming.



ATTENDANCE MATTERS

WHAT DO YOUR
ATTENDANCE
FIGURES
ACTUALLY MEAN?

BE SMART BE THERE!
Percentages based on 190 academic days



Diary Dates

31st January: Burns Supper

1st February: Family Scottish Games Afternoon

2nd February: Scottish Assembly

6th February: Tempest Photography

10th February HOLIDAY

13th February HOLIDAY

14th February In-service

19th February: Sacrament of Confirmation

22nd February: Ash Wednesday Mass

23rd February: P7 Transition Mass

2rd March: World Book Day

6th March: Parent Council Meeting

24th March: Parent Council Family Disco

30st March: Parent/ Carer Meetings

31st March: 2.30 Stop for Holidays

