



Newsletter January 2014

Dear Parents,

We have had a very settled start to 2014; all the refurbishment work is complete and there is now the work ethos that we are used to. Visitors have commented on how bright and attractive the school looks so we are delighted with the finished product even if we had to wait a while.

Below are a few important news items for you so please read over carefully.

New staff

We appointed Miss C. Lynch and Mr. M. Harkins to positions of class teacher. Interviews were held on 27th January 2014. Miss Lynch is presently teaching P6/7 and that will continue. Mr. Harkins is currently working in St. Mary's Primary in Coatbridge and will take up his substantive post hopefully after the February holiday.

Miss L. McEwan will be leaving us after the February holiday and I would like to thank her for her dedication and professionalism while at St. Gerard's. We are very grateful for all that she has brought to the school since August 2013. We wish her every success in her new ventures.

Sacraments

Pupils in P6 & P7 will celebrate the Sacrament of Confirmation on Monday 3rd February at 7pm. Bishop Toal will be with us for the celebration as we continue to support our children on their Faith journey

Pupils in P3 will celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation on Monday 24th February at 7pm.

Pupils in P4 will celebrate the Sacrament of The Eucharist on Saturday 17th May at 11am followed by the Communion Breakfast in St. Gerard's School Hall. We traditionally ask P3 parents to help prepare and tidy up after the breakfast with the idea that next year other families will be doing this for them. I would be grateful if you could contact the school to let me know if you are available to help on this day. If there are any generous parents with children not in P3 we would be grateful of your help. It is only a few hours out of your time and is for a worthy cause.

Enrolment

We enrolled 37 new P1 children for August 2014. Based on our current school roll we will have 220 pupils in August 2014. Our P7 pupils going on to Cardinal Newman High School and a few other secondaries will be 43.

Open Days

Our 40th Anniversary open days will be on 13th & 14th February. Visitors can come along and look at photographs, stories, poems from children and take the opportunity to have a tea/coffee. Please let me know if you have any photograph from days gone by. If you bring them in we will photocopy them and return them to you at that time. Further information will be out soon allowing you to visit at a time when your child is available to be with.

Lenten Charities

Lent begins on 5th March 2014. We will be raising funds charities during this period so invite your children to contribute some of their pocket money during this time for worthwhile causes. The following charities will be our focus for Lent 2014.

Handicap Children's Pilgrimage Trust (HPCT)

Scottish Catholic International Aid Fund (SCIAF)

Missio

We will be raising money for St. Andrew's Hospice in the Summer term. I am aware that the whole community is grateful for the work that the hospice does and we are meeting them to take part in a

new fun raising venture involving Hospice Ambassadors selected from our pupil body in the near future with news coming out in due course.

Kilbowie

Our annual trip to Kilbowie for P7 is only a few weeks away. I hope the parents are as excited about the trip as the children are; the atmosphere in P7 is building slowly. From previous experience they will have a fantastic time. If you have any questions regarding Kilbowie please come in and ask.

Paris 2015

We are at present taking deposits for our flights and accommodation for Paris 2015. If you are intending your child to go to Paris we will need your permission letters and deposits by 28th March 2014.

Euro Quiz

Our P6 pupils supported by Mrs. McAdams took part in the annual Euro Quiz in Cumbernauld New Town Hall. There were over 50 schools taking part and our children did exceptionally well in representing St. Gerard's. We are very proud of them.

School Uniform

This year we have tried to move to an all shirt and tie school uniform with the exception of PE days. This has been a fantastic success and it is to your credit that the children are presented so well for school. After meeting with the parent council earlier this week we wish to continue this after the summer holidays with all children presented in shirt and tie on all five days, bringing their school polo shirt and sweatshirt for PE to change into. I recently met with the uniform supplier to inform them of our changes so they can meet that need for parents come preparation for August 2014. Below is a summary of uniform requirements from August 2014

Uniform (Monday – Friday)

Grey skirt/trouser

Lilac shirt & tradition purple and yellow school tie for P1 – P6.

P7 will wear the new all purple tie with school badge and will be presented with this as a gift at the first school assembly in August 2015.

V- neck school jumpers and cardigans.

School purple outdoor jacket.

Black outdoor/indoor shoes

PE Kit (Monday – Friday)

To be brought to school and changed into

Lilac school polo shirt/sweatshirt if outdoor PE

Shorts

PE shoes/ Trainers

NB As always school uniform does not include makeup or nail varnish.

