St Mary's Primary School

Newsletter

January 2017

Welcome back after what I hope was a lovely, peaceful holiday.

Many thanks to those families who were able to complete a school questionnaire at Parent’s Night. We had 83 responses out of a possible 124. All responses were very positive and included comments like:

* *‘Good set of staff all presenting a friendly place to learn’,*
* *‘Good links with parents eg, apps and social media’*
* *‘Seeking parental involvement, caring for the children and nurturing them.’*
* *‘Providing a wide range of activities for children at school and within the wider community.’*

Many of you, in fact the vast majority, felt that communication was very good however some of you felt that we could improve. Hopefully all parents have now submitted their e mail addresses which we have added to your child’s records, we now require you to download the Xpression App to your phone this will allow us to send out information quickly and regularly at no cost to the school. If you are experiencing difficulty with this please contact the school office staff who will help you out.

Of those who replied, more than half (46) did not identify any improvements needed. Many thanks as it is lovely for staff to get such positive feedback. In other responses, although different issues were identified by different families, the recurring themes are:

* Homework
* Communication regarding events in school
* School meals

We will take on board all comments and work hard to improve areas identified. Many parents commented on the use of ‘Marvellous Me’ and ‘Class Dojo’. We currently have a staff working party looking at how we communicate learning with parents and there will be a consultation at some point this session. We welcome your thoughts as we hope to streamline this area and have all classes working in the same way next year.

We will pass on information regarding school meals to the Catering Department as the school does not have any control over this area.

We currently use our Facebook page to share information regarding events and activities within the school, and we are happy for parents to use this method of communication to clarify organisational information e.g. Time, cost etc. This page is however accessed by various members of staff both teaching and clerical and by some members of the Parent Council. It is therefore not an appropriate place to raise concerns/complaints particularly if children are being named. If you have an area of concern or wish to make a complaint and you cannot phone or pop into the school, please submit a letter either addressed to class teacher or myself.

We have many exciting things to look forward to this term, including a whole school show delivered by Hopscotch Theatre Group on Scottish Inventions. This will be a free event as it was gifted by ‘Santa’ to the children in school as a thank you for all their hard work.

Many thanks for your continued support.

Kind regards

P Brazill

Head Teacher

**P4 – 7 Dance Afterschool Club**

The dance afterschool club will start on Monday 23rd January, 3-4pm. £1.00 fee per week. To save time we are asking if you can pay the club upfront in full as payment can’t be taken at 3pm or 4pm when it is finished. We will reimburse you if your child does not attend.

The club will run until 27th March 2017.

**Credit Union**

The credit union has started up again. If you would like you child to start saving with them you can pick a form up from the school office. They collect on a Tuesday morning.

**P3 Reconciliation**

P3 parents meeting for Reconciliation will take place in school on Tuesday 31st January at 7pm for both parishes.

**Hopscotch Theatre – Scotland the Nation**

The theatre will be performing for us on Monday 6th February. This is our Christmas present to the pupils so no charge to be made.

**Parent Council Meeting**

The parent council will be meeting in school on Monday 6th February @ 5pm. Please feel free to come along and attend, we would like to see some new members, even if it is just to say hello and find out what’s going on and how you can help out in any future events.

**Handball Afterschool Club**

The afterschool club will start again on Wednesday 8th February. If your child still wishes to attend please complete the letter which will be sent out soon.

**Open Afternoon**

We will be holding an Open Day on Friday 10th February, details to follow.

**School Holiday**

The school will be closed on Monday 13th, Tuesday 14th February for school holiday and In Service day on Wednesday 15th February 2017.

**P3 Mass of Enrolment**

The primary 3 pupils Mass of enrolments will take place on Sunday 19th February.

St Joseph’s – 11.00am

Sacred Heart – 10.00am

**Online Payment and Text/Xpression App**

Can we ask all parents who have not already signed up for online payments to do so as soon as possible. The Xpression App is also up and running, if you have not already sent us in your email address please do so as soon as possible then download the app. This allows us to send quick notifications to you. Any problems please contact the school office.









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**PLEASE REMEMBER THAT WE**

**ARE A NUT FREE SCHOOL**

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**Quick Glance Ahead – March 2017**

P3 Reconciliation – St Joseph’s Parish Tuesday 7th March @ 7pm

P4 First Communion meeting – Both Parishes Tues 14th March @7pm

At St Marg. of Scotland PS.

P3 Reconciliation – Sacred Heart Parish Tues 21st March @ 7.30pm

Cfe Awards / Assembly – letter to follow Friday 24th March @ 2pm

Easter Disco Thurs 30th March

School Closes at 2.30pm Friday 31st March

Easter Holidays – Mon 3rd April – Mon 17th April 2017



**REMINDERS**

**Sickness** - Can we remind parents that if your child has a Sickness Bug / Tummy Bug they have to be **48hrs clear** before returning to school. This stops the infection spreading to other children.

**Belongings -** Can we remind parents/guardians to put their child’s name on their belongings.

Can you also check on a **daily** basis that your child is wearing their own Cardigan/Jumper/Jacket.

**No jewellery** to be worn on gym days, all earrings **must** be taped up at home or removed

prior to coming to school.

**Attendance** - Please call the school office if your child is unwell or unable to attend school followed with a letter to their class teacher. If no prior notice of an absence is received a text message will be sent.

**Bus Children** must wear their seatbelts and are **NOT** allowed to **STAND** until the bus has **STOPPED**. If your child is not returning home on the school bus please send in a letter to the class teacher or call the school office.

**Cafeteria** - Please ensure your child has sufficient money if buying a lunch from the cafeteria.

**PARKING AT SCHOOL** – Please be considerate of Local Residents when parking at the school. School Car Park **only** for Staff.

**Zig Zag**  - We still have a number of parents/guardians parking on the zig zag lines in the mornings and at 3pm. Please do not stop here for dropping off at any of these times. This is for the safety of all children in the school and nursery.



**\*\*\* NO PARKING ON THE ZIG ZAGS AT ANY TIME \*\*\***

Parent Council Corner

The Parent Council will meet in school on **Monday 16th February** at 6.00pm. If you are interested in joining or helping out at any future events please come along and join us.