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| **St Aidan’s Primary, Language and Communication Support Centre and Nursery Class**  **Newsletter**  **March/April 2019** | | |
| **Twitter: @St\_Aidan’s\_PS** | **www.st-aidans-pri.n-lanark.sch.uk** | **Tel: 01698 522702** |
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Welcome to our March/April Newsletter!

We are now officially into spring and we are all very busy as we head towards Easter.

It has been lovely to have recently visited every class in our school, L.C.S.C and Nursery. I have had the opportunity to see some of our new school initiatives in action- such as Number Talks, SEAL, VCOP and Active Literacy. Furthermore it has been wonderful to talk to the children about their learning.

Over the last couple of weeks, the Principal Teachers and I have been meeting with groups of children from every class in what we call Pupil Voice Groups. I have provided more information on this within the Newsletter. I have also provided an update on our School Improvement Plan and the progress made with our four priorities.

[](https://www.google.co.uk/url?sa=i&rct=j&q=&esrc=s&source=images&cd=&cad=rja&uact=8&ved=2ahUKEwjBpMCCou3gAhVLD2MBHfLBBR0QjRx6BAgBEAU&url=https://saltlangs.org.uk/education-scotland-3/&psig=AOvVaw2ue-IK70M8R3SHk89rv4AO&ust=1551953095667205)

**Education Scotland – Thematic Inspection**

I am delighted to announce that during this term we will have a visit from Education Scotland inspection team. St Aidan’s will be part of a national thematic inspection focusing on school empowerment. This will be a one day inspection with a focus on aspects of parent and pupil participation. This is a fantastic opportunity for us to be involved in this type of self-evaluation and I look forward to their visit. I will send out more details/updates when I receive more information.

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**Read to Succeed Week – 4th March - 7th March**

This is now our second year of hosting a Read to Succeed Week. This planned event helps support your children’s reading and writing in a fun way.

**Our literacy events including:-**

**Paired Reading**

**Communication Friendly Book Bug Session**

**Library Visits**

**Movie Night – based on novels the children have been reading**

**P5 Clyde in the Classroom**

The children in Primary 5 continue to look after and monitor the growth of their Brown Trout, which have now hatched from their eggs. The Clyde River Foundation have been in touch to say the children will be releasing the fish on **Wednesday 6th March**, there will be no charge for this trip.

**Glasgow Music Festival**

On **11th March 2019**, the school choir will attend the Glasgow Music Festival at the Royal Concert Hall, Glasgow. It is worth noting that Parents/Carers/Family members are welcome to attend the event, although we will not know an exact time for our performance. **Please note that there is a fee upon entry.**

**Sacrament of Reconciliation**

Our Primary 3 children will receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation on **Tuesday 12th March at 6.30pm in**

**St** **Aidan’s Church.** Please keep the children and their families in your prayers.

**Parents’ Evening**

Our Parents’ Evening will be held on Thursday 14th March. The closing date for booking your appointment is Wednesday 13th March at 9am. Logoxpres School Wear will be available on this evening to explain their online uniform ordering system and they will also have samples of our new school pinafore and skirt.

**Class Assembly**

Pupils in Room 8 & 9 will present their assembly on **Wednesday 20th March at 2pm.** We would like to invite all family members to join us on this day.

**NL Dance Competition**

Some of our children from P5-7 will be taking part in a Wishaw - Shotts Dance Competition on **Friday 22nd** **March.** If you child is involved in this event then more information will follow nearer the time. Good luck everyone!

**Primary Reading Quiz**

Four pupils from Primary Six and Seven will represent our school in the first round of this event on **Tuesday** **26th March at Wishaw Library.**

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**SPORTea**

Thank you to SVDP from St Ignatius Parish and St Aidan’s Parish for their kind contributions to the school. The money donated has allowed us to run our Friday SPORTea club. This club encourages the children to take part in active sports and then have a warm dinner in school.

**Lenten Fundraising**

As we approach the Season of Lent, I would like to give you some information regarding our annual fundraising activities. Each class will plan and organise their own fundraising activity which will run throughout the Season of Lent. This year we will once again be raising money for **Missio Scotland, SCIAF, St Andrew’s Hospice** and **Mary’s Meals**. Below is an outline of whole school events and class activities.

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| **Date** | **Event** |
| Friday 15th March | School uniform and  odd socks/shoes day |
| Friday 22nd March | Crazy Hair Day |
| Friday 29th March | Non Uniform Day |

All these events are **‘Pay what you can’ i.e**. children can donate less or more than **£1.** It’s up to families to decide what they can afford to contribute.

**Lent Mass**

Please join us at St Aidan’s Church each **Monday, Wednesday and Friday at 8.20am** where Fr O’Connor will lead us in Mass.

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**Easter Activities**

**Primary 1 – 3**

Primaries 1-3 will take part in an Easter Bonnet Parade on **Friday 29th March**. Thank you parents in advance for making these at home with your child.

**Primary 4 – 7**

P4 – P7 will take part in the Easter Egg Competition – decorate a boiled egg. These should be brought to school on the morning of **Friday 29th March**. The children will vote for the winning egg in each class.

**Internet Safety**

In St Aidan’s we place great value on the use of new technologies in enhancing learning. The education of pupils in online safety is therefore an essential part of our school’s eSafeguarding provision. Children need the help and support of the school and their parents/carers to recognise and avoid online safety risks and to build their resilience.

Recently in school, there has been quite a lot of chat around one particular online phenomenon called MOMO which is causing distress to children and parents alike. Please find below a few links to some advice and support which you may choose to make use of.

<https://www.saferinternet.org.uk/advice-centre>

****<https://parentzone.org.uk/article/three-minute-briefing-momo-challenge>

**Once a week take a peek**

Can I ask you to check your child’s hair and be extra vigilant when brushing, combing or washing your child’s hair?

**Pupil Voice Groups**

Over the past few weeks, our Senior Leadership Team have been meeting with groups of children from every class in the school, LCSC and Nursery. This is always an excellent opportunity to speak to the children about their learning, the curriculum, their experiences at school, how they have a say in improving our school and to listen to their suggestions. I have to say that there is a resounding positivity coming from the children about our school, the staff and the experiences children have. They have given us some interesting ideas and these will be discussed and we will plan how best to take these ideas forward.

**St Aidan’s Shining Stars**

A huge thank you to everyone who has purchased tickets for our **Race Night on Friday March 29th.** We still have some tickets left which are available from **Miss Donnelly for £4 per adult with one free child per ticket.**

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**Easter Holiday**

Our school will close on **Friday 29th March** for the Easter Break. School will reopen on **Monday 15th April** at 9:00am. Breakfast Club and Playzone will be available from 8.20am on this day. Please note that school then closes on **Thursday 18th April and will reopen at 8.30am on Tuesday 23rd April.** We would all like to wish you a very happy Easter.

**IMPORTANT DATES**

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| Read to Succeed Week | 4th March – 7th March |
| Clyde in the Classroom | 6th March – release of brown trout |
| Movie Night | Thursday 7th March 3.15pm – 4.30pm |
| Sacrament of Reconciliation | 12th March @ 6.30pm in St Aidan’s Church |
| Parents’ Evening | Thursday 14th March |
| Class Assembly Rooms 8 & 9 | Wednesday 20th March @ 2.00pm |
| NL Dance Competition | Friday 22nd March |
| Primary Reading Quiz (4 Primary 7 pupils) | Tuesday 26th March – Wishaw Library |

***Mrs McLean***

Head Teacher St Aidan Pray for us

**SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT 2018-19**

We continue to work hard at taking forward our School Improvement Priorities for 2018-19. You may remember that we have 4 priorities this year. Here is a short summary of some of the progress we have been making:

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| **Progress Made:** | |
| **Priority 1:** To improve attainment in literacy with a particular focus on phonological awareness, spelling and in speaking, listening and writing. Pupil attainment will be supported by appropriately targeted interventions to close any gaps identified**.** | * We have identified a Literacy Coach who has undertaken training in all areas of literacy- this is then fed back to staff. HT is part of an excellence in Literacy Focus Group. * We have fully embeded 3Read/Nursery Rhymes into Nursery weekly routine and this will also be implemented in the LCSC. We have identified a Literacy Champion within Nursery to drive forward early literacy developments-Phonological awareness. * We have Implement interventions such as Language Land, Book Bug, IDL Spelling Colourful Semantics, Sunnybank, Wave 3, and Rainbow Reading in school. * Multi-sensory approach to teaching of initial sounds and phonemes supported by purchase of additional resources. * Use of technology to support development e.g. apps/SAM group resources- Digital Learning * New Infant and Senior Library- Support Staff leading weekly library visits for the senior pupils * Big Writing Training for all staff- focus on phonological awareness, spelling and in speaking, listening and writing. |
| **Priority 2:** To improve attainment in numeracy & maths for all learners by developing effective learning and teaching approaches. We will implement Math Recovery Programme- such as SEAL and use assessment such as MALT as an intervention process for targeting pupils who are having difficulties with numeracy and maths | * Teaching staff have been trained on how to effectively use the ‘Number Talks’ resources to increase competency in mental agility. Data has shown that this is working and that pupil confidence and attitude towards numeracy improved. * Class teachers have signed their class up to Sumdog and started to use it to improve mental agility within the class. * All staff have undertaken SEAL (Stages of Early Arithmetical Learning) training and resources have been purchased. SEAL is an evidence based intensive assessment and intervention process for targeting pupils who are having difficulties with numeracy and maths. * We have purchased MALT assessment resources including MALT CD-ROM. MALT (Mathematics Assessment for Learning and Teaching) is a tried and tested approach to mathematics assessment for ages 5-14. We use MALT for screening, monitoring and tracking progress, as well as for individual diagnostic profiling. * Targeted interventions have been used such as The Number Box is used to support children in the Early Years. * We have updated subscription to Heinemann Active online teacher planning and assessment tool . |
| **Priority 3:** Continue to support the social and emotional health of children by developing teacher capacity in nurturing practices, by achieving Nurturing School status. We will target interventions for pupils where appropriate to ensure equity at every stage.  **Priority 4:** To improve parental and community engagement by working together to improve our outdoor learning and provision. Targeting interventions with a particular focus on the use of outdoor learning to develop resilience and social & emotional wellbeing | * Nurture self-evaluation carried out by staff, parents and partners * Mrs McGeough to attend Nurture UK courses to achieve accreditation and work towards our Nurturing Schools Award * Nurture class established- Children/staff involved with Tree of Knowledge * We are leading parental engagement within the Nurture Class and LCSC classes through the use of the Seesaw app. We have organised parental workshops and family engagement clubs such as STEM * Staff and HT have attend ACEs training and Solihull Training * Interventions running throughout school such as drawing and talking/ seasons for growth/ SPORTea * Pupil wellbeing committee running monthly * Makaton club to begin term 4 * Communication Friendly award on track for Bronze award * Staff trained in Emotion Works and it is currently being piloted in 2 classes * Rights Respecting School * We continue the work of our Intergeneration Project with our partners from Alzheimer Scotland- Green Hands Together committee meeting monthly. * Pupils have benefited from many Sport experiences through the PEF. Children have taken part in Sports hall athletics, Swimming, Sports day Camp and Cross Country events- we are very proud of their achievements. Many children have joined fitness clubs as a result of their experiences in school. * All children take part in the Daily Mile and we plan to run Forest Schools for the middle school in Term 4. * We have carried out an audit of our playground and have purchased items to promote Active Health. We submitted applications to secure funding to begin the developments of a new and improved playground. * Through the PEF many children have enjoyed and benefited from super Educational Excursions. Our P6 and P7 children went on a day trip to the Titanic Museum in Belfast – this was linked to their Novel study in class. Our Infant children enjoyed a trip to the Farm which linked with their IDL Learning topic. Children have attended the BBC studios and we are involved in Clyde in the classroom. |