



Dear Parent/Guardian,

I would like to thank everyone for their warm welcome to St. Mary's Primary School. As I said in my initial letter to you, I am very much looking forward to working in partnership with you to build a community of faith and learning. Please find below information which I hope you find useful. It has been a very quick start to the year and I'm sure with all the events coming up, this term will go very quickly.

### Pupil Attendance

If your child is absent due to illness we ask if you could do the following:

1. On the morning when the absence starts please telephone the school on 274955 to inform us.
2. When your child returns to school please send a signed letter explaining the reason for your child's absence.
3. If an absence is not reported we will send a text message to alert you to your child's absence. Please acknowledge this message by calling the school.
4. If no contact is made the office will call to establish the reason for the child's absence.
5. If we are unable to make contact to establish why the child is absent we will need to record the child as missing and contact the police.

It is also important that your child **arrives on time** for school at 9.00a.m. Again, this is monitored and we encourage parents to form good habits so that your child starts his/her day in a calm manner.

### Holy day of Obligation

The annual Holy day of obligation for the Solemnity of All Saints will take place in the church on Thursday the 1<sup>st</sup> November at 11 am. We would like to extend an invitation to anyone who can attend to join us in this celebration.



### Groupcall

We are now able to communicate more effectively by using a system called Groupcall Messenger.



This system allows us to simultaneously send text, voice and email messages to the landlines, mobile phones or computers of parents. It is used to monitor absence, enhance the safety of pupils, provide rapid contact with parents in the event of an emergency and generally improve communication with parents. To allow this system to work effectively we require all contact information to be up to date. If any of your details (home telephone number, mobile number, home address) have changed could you please let the office know immediately. To allow us to use the system to its full potential we will require an email address.

To allow us to obtain this you will receive a text message asking for email address.

Please reply to the text giving your name and email address. We will then update any details as required.

There is also a free App which you can download onto any device which will allow us to communicate with you. I hope you will see the benefits of this system when it is up and running but again it will only be effective if we have the correct contact information. Further details of the App and ways we can contact you will follow.





### **Parent Council**

An update from the Parent Council:

- We donated £400 to help with cost of the buses and ticket price for the pantomime in November.
- We started a Facebook page to provide information to the parents and carers of the children within our school.
- We held a Bag2school donation and collected 390kgs which provided us with £156 from the company.
- We continue to be one of the nominated projects in the Tesco Bags of Help until 31st October. Please encourage friends and family to put their wee blue tokens into our box! We could win up to £4000 to provide equipment and opportunities for the children with this money.
- We commenced the sale of our new 50/50 and have so far sold 47 numbers. We will continue to sell the 50/50 numbers on both parents' evenings and the week beginning Monday 22nd in the Nursery.

Thanks so much for your continued support. We'll keep in touch with what's going on in October on the facebook page and via the newsletter.

Thank you for your continued support.

Yours sincerely

*Francis McIntyre*  
Headteacher

### **Pantomime**



As you will be aware from the initial letter this year we will be attending the pantomime on 21<sup>st</sup> November. This year the children will attend the afternoon session beginning at 1:15 pm. As a result of this the children will not return to school until approximately 4.30 pm. This means there will be no transport for the children who would normally travel by bus. As such can I ask that you arrange for your child to be collected from their classes at 4:30 pm. All children will be brought into the school when they alight from the bus and the class teacher will dismiss the pupils individually to a parent/carer. I appreciate this may be an inconvenience but I hope you agree it is a worthwhile activity for the children to attend. Can I also ask if you have still to pay part or in full the balance of £6 you do so at your earliest convenience.

### **Kilbowie**

The P7 children will go on their residential visit to Kilbowie between Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> and Friday 26<sup>th</sup> April. More details will be communicated directly to the parents of the P7 children.

### **Free School Meal Entitlement**

Could I remind parents that if you are in receipt of any of the following you will be entitled to a free school meal and/or a clothing grant:

- Income support
  - Jobseeker's allowance (income based)
  - Employment & support allowance (income related)
  - Universal credit (maximum monthly income of £610)
  - Child tax credit with a gross annual income below £16,105 with no element of working tax credit
  - Maximum child tax credit and maximum working tax credit with annual income below £6,420
  - Support under part v1 of the immigration and asylum act 1999
  - Housing benefit
  - Council tax rebate
- Application forms are available from the school or on line  
<https://www.northlanarkshire.gov.uk/CHttpHandler.ashx?id=21806&p=0>  
and also at First stop Shops.

### **Dates for your Diary**

- 15<sup>th</sup> – 19<sup>th</sup> October Week Holiday
- 22<sup>nd</sup> October – Children return to school
- 22<sup>nd</sup> October – Parent Council Meeting
- 23<sup>rd</sup>/24<sup>th</sup> & 25<sup>th</sup> October Reporting to parents
- 30<sup>th</sup> October Parent Council Halloween Disco
- P1- P4 5:30 pm – 7 pm
- P5- P7 7:30 pm – 9 pm

