

Mary Russell School
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Head Teacher: Mr Liam Coyle



13th October 2022

Be all we can be! Be proud of who we are!

Dear Parents, Carers and Families

It is a great pleasure to write to you as we approach our October break, it has been a great start to the new academic session and a special welcome to all our new families who are joining us for the first time.

Last week we had our Renfrewshire Council Quality Improvement visit with our link Education Manager Susan Bell which went very well. We were commended on the range of experiences our pupils engage with from P1-S6 and especially on the commitment of our staff in providing quality experiences for our young people.

Many thanks to all parents and staff who contributed to our Harvest Service food collection, we will be making a large donation to the Renfrewshire foodbank thanks to your generosity. It was great to be able to welcome our primary parents to our Harvest Service this week and to be able to enjoy a whole school event together prior to the holiday.

Parents Evenings

It is great to be able to move back to face to face Parents evenings this session and I would encourage as many of our parents and carers to attend as possible. It is a great opportunity to meet the pupil's teachers and build an understanding of the curriculum and experiences our young people are engaging with on a daily basis.

Dates:

Primary, Step Unit Parents Evening – Wednesday 9th November – 6-8pm
Secondary Parents Evening – Wednesday 16th November 6-8pm

As always our Pastoral Care staff are available both before and on the night to answer any questions you may have.

Parent Council

We have an active Parent Council in the school and are always looking for new members. Meetings are usually on the first Tuesday of the month at 6pm in the school. If you are interested or would like more details please get in touch with the school.

Parent Council Christmas Fayre – Saturday 26th November – 10-12noon

I am delighted to say our annual Christmas Fayre will be going ahead this year, if you are able to donate raffle prizes, offer help on the day or even take a stall please contact Lorna Barr our DHT primary.

I hope as many of our parents and carers will be able to make it along on the day to support the school for what is always a fun morning!!

Welcome to New Staff

Our new staff are settling in well to their roles within the Mary Russell team and we are delighted to welcome our new PT Behaviour Support – Mr Barry O'Donnell to the secondary department and Mrs Morven Lurie as our new primary teacher in P2/3. We have also appointed a number of new ASNA colleagues across the school who are very welcome and are making a real difference in supporting our pupils.

School Catering/Clothing Grants

If you think you might be eligible, please make sure you apply for free school meals and for the clothing grant for young people. There are additional payments available this Autumn from those in receipt of either grant, for details see our Facebook, twitter or school website. The application process has moved online, and forms can be accessed via the following link:

<http://renfrewshire.gov.uk/Freeschoolmealsandclothinggrants>

Pupils over 16 – Educational Maintenance Allowance (EMA)

EMA is a means tested weekly benefit of £30 which is paid to any young person over 16 who qualifies. Applications and further information can be found via the following link:

<http://www.renfrewshire.gov.uk/article/3366/Education-Maintenance-Allowance>

If any of our Parents or Carers require support with any of the above applications, please contact your pupils Pastoral Care teacher/year head who will contact our Homelink Colleagues for support.

Social Media

Moving forward we intend to continue to utilise our Social Media as effectively as possible for communication and I would encourage you to follow us on Twitter and Facebook and to download our App.

Details, information and links can also be found on our School website –

<https://blogs.glowscotland.org.uk/re/maryrussell/>

I would encourage you to use the link below for information on the **Paisley Wee Spree Festival** which runs over the October Break and is packed with activities across Paisley, there is something for every age range and interest.

<https://www.thespree.co.uk/the-wee-spree/>

I hope everyone in our school community has an enjoyable, peaceful and restful break over the October holiday and that everyone returns refreshed and ready to continue the good work which has taken place in term 1.

With all best wishes.
Kind regards.

Liam Coyle

Liam Coyle
Head Teacher

**Our Values:
Respect, Achievement, Care, Trust, Responsibility, Co-operation**

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