

Mary Russell School
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Head Teacher: Mr Liam Coyle



April 2024

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

Dear Parents, Carers and Families

I would like to take the opportunity to welcome back all our pupils for the Summer term.

This term is extremely important for all our pupils as we near the end of year. It is a great opportunity to work hard and to achieve the best we can before the end of term, whether that be completing SQA work in the senior phase or working hard to achieve a target or a level in primary or S1-3.

All of our pupils are encouraged to achieve and I would encourage you to work together with us to make sure all our pupils give their best this term and achieve to the best of their potential.

Family Bingo Night – A Great Success

Many thanks to our PTA who ran our most successful ever family bingo night in March, we managed to raise over £900 for our pupils. There was a great turnout with all ages represented and past and present pupils and families in attendance. Well done to all involved.

Successes from Last term!

We have had a very busy and successful term in the run up to Easter and I would like to share a few of the highlights with you:

A number of our pupils received awards for their achievements at both Bronze and Silver levels at the Duke of Edinburgh Award Ceremony in Paisley Town Hall.

Our annual Mary Russell's Got Talent competition was a huge success with one of our S1 pupils winning the competition! Well done Oliver!

A group of our senior phase pupils were successful in winning an award from the Institute Francais for their entry in their annual competition. Well done to our French students and Mrs Muir for achieving the award.

Our Calm Base Russell Record team were successful at the Renfrewshire Dragons Den event and secured funding for our school newspaper. Well done to all pupils and Mr McLeod who led the team.

Our school football team have been taking part in the John Sutton ASN school league programme for the first time and managed to go undefeated in their first round of games – winning 6 and drawing 1, well done to all the boys and the coaches.

Working together - Annual Review Meetings

Our Annual Review Meetings for the session have now been completed and I would like to thank all our parents and carers who engaged in such good numbers. This is a unique system to Mary Russell and is hugely valuable in allowing home, school and our young people to really focus on their learning and development. Through working together we are able to maximise the achievements of our young people.

Parental Engagement – Parental engagement is crucial to the progress of our young people at Mary Russell School, and we will be seeking the views of our parents and carers via an online survey on a termly basis. You will be receiving a text message with a link to our parental survey for the Summer term in the next few weeks and I would encourage all our parents and carers to complete this. Your feedback is very important to us and allows us to continue to work in partnership.

Staffing Changes

Our Step Unit Home Economics teacher Mrs Alison Robertson retired towards the end of term and I would like to thank Mrs Robertson for her commitment and hard work over her years of service. We have welcomed Miss Amy Brain to our Step Unit/Home Economics team and it is great to see how well she is settling in as part of our staff.

Clothing Grants

Free school meals are now available for all pupils in Mary Russell school. You can use the link below to access the clothing grants application. Applications for this session end on 31st May. Applications for next session will be open in June.

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

Parent Pay

You can set up an account at the following link: <https://myaccount.renfrewshire.gov.uk>
If you have lost your Parent Pay details letter and need a note of your parent pay details, please contact our school office who will be happy to help.

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 child's 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.
Details, information and links can also be found on our School website -
<https://blogs.glowscotland.org.uk/re/maryrussell/>

As we move through our Summer term, there will be lots of fun events taking place for our pupils including the return of our Senior Phase residential, Summer trips, Sports Day, the Awards Ceremony, Primary Well Done day and our Leavers Prom to name a few.

We will issue a calendar of June events towards the end of May to keep you informed as events approach.

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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