

Mary Russell School
Hawkhead Road, Paisley PA2 7BE
Tel: 0300 300 0171
Email:maryrussellenquiries@renfrewshire.gov.uk

Head Teacher: Mr Liam Coyle



30 October 2024

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 embark on our run up to Christmas, it has been a great start to the new academic session and a special welcome to all our new families, especially in P1 and S1 who are joining us for the first time.

Many thanks to all parents and staff who contributed to our Harvest Service food collection, we have made a large donation to the Renfrewshire foodbank thanks to your generosity. It was great to be able to welcome so many of our primary and secondary parents to our Harvest Service and to be able to enjoy a whole school event together prior to the holiday.

ASDA Rewards - Cashpot for Schools

If you shop in ASDA, please download the app, and sign up to the Mary Russell Cashpot. We have already raised over £300 through the promotion, and it runs until the end of November!

Citizens Advice

We are again fortunate this year to have Citizens Advice in school every 2nd Monday, the next date will be Monday 11th November. Advice can range over a number of areas including form filling and benefits advice. For more information follow the link to our website or contact our Pastoral Care team –

<https://blogs.glowscotland.org.uk/re/maryrussell/2023/09/01/citizens-advice-school-support-services/>

Appointments remain confidential and do not have to take place within the school.

Parents Evenings

Parents Evenings are 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. We are very keen to maximise engagement with parents, carers and families as our pupils progress on their Mary Russell educational journey and I would encourage you to make time to attend if at all possible.

Interim Reports

The reports are a snapshot of the excellent work being done by our pupils so far this term. The reports also provide an opportunity to have good conversations with staff on areas which can be improved on if necessary. Reports will be issued to parents prior to the Parents Evenings.

Parents Evening Dates and times:

Primary, S1, S3, S5 – Parents Evening - Wednesday 6th November – 5.30-8pm
S2, S4, S6 - Parents Evening – Wednesday 20th November 5.30-8pm

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

Parent Council/PTA

We have an active Parent Council/PTA in the school and are always looking for new members. Our next meeting is on Tuesday 12th November 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 16th November – 10-12noon

Everyone is very welcome to our annual Christmas Fayre which will be going ahead this year on Saturday 16th November. 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!!

Staff Changes

Our long time PE and Pupil Support teacher Miss Thomson took early retirement at the October break and I would like to wish Miss Thomson all the best for the future and to thank her for the 20 years of outstanding practice and service she gave to our school. We have also welcomed Mr Gordon Powrie to our staff this session, Mr Powrie has taken up a pupil support role in our Calm Base team.

Clothing Grants

All Mary Russell pupils now receive free school meals. However, if you think you might be eligible for a clothing grant, please make sure you apply for the clothing grant for young people. The application process has moved online, and forms can be accessed via the following link:

<https://www.renfrewshire.gov.uk/article/3338/Free-school-meals-and-clothing-grants>

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 be able to help.

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/>

With all best wishes.

Kind regards.

Liam Coyle

Liam Coyle
Head Teacher

Our Values:

Respect, Achievement, Care, Trust, Responsibility, Co-operation

Janie O'Neill Director of Children Services

Council Headquarters, Renfrewshire House, Cotton Street, Paisley PA1 1TZ

Website: www.renfrewshire.gov.uk

