

St. Mary's Primary School
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Head Teacher: Ms L Mitchell
Director of Children's Services: Mr Steven Quinn



Date: 22nd August 2022



Dear Parent/ Carer,

August Newsletter

Welcome Back!

A very warm welcome back to all in our St Mary's family – we are delighted to have our wonderful children and staff team back in school! Thank you for your continued support in ensuring that our children have returned ready to embrace another school year. We are delighted to see the very high standards of school uniform and are keen to continue this. Everyone appears to have settled very well back into life here in St Mary's, particularly our new primary ones who have really enjoyed their start to primary one. We have also welcomed several new teaching staff this year, Miss Scott who is in P2, Miss Miller in P2/3, Miss Carty in P4, and Miss Bean in P7. In addition to this we are delighted to welcome Mrs Francis and Mrs Schneider to our support staff.



Homework



Homework will begin across the school from Monday 29th August. Your child will receive a variety of tasks on a weekly basis including literacy, numeracy and at times for other curricular areas. We are introducing new homework diaries from P4-7 where you will find all information relating to your child's homework. Children in P1-3 will receive this information in their homework folders along with any resources they need. We ask that you check your child's homework folder/diary on a regular basis please. If you have any further questions regarding your child's homework, then please do not hesitate to ask your child's teacher or contact the school office.

Photographs



We are delighted to be welcoming back Graeme Hewitson from Monument Photos to take our school photos this session. This will take place on **Monday 29th and Tuesday 30th August**. Graeme will take both individual/family and class photographs of the children which

you will be given the option to purchase should you wish to do so. We will send out a text reminder to ensure that everyone is 'photo-ready' on these days!

Meet the Teacher

We are delighted to be in a position to invite our parents/carers back into the school this session! The first event will be 'Meet the Teacher' which will take place on **Monday 12th September from 3.15-4.15pm**. This will be an opportunity for you to come into the school, meet your child's/children's teacher(s) and see their learning environment.



Parent Partnership

AGM

Our Parent Partnership will have their first meeting of the session on Monday 29th August at 7pm via Teams. We would like to extend a very warm welcome to any new parents/carers who would like to join us for this meeting and find out more about the fantastic work they do. If you would like to receive an invite then please contact our Parent Council Chair Lorraine Hanlon and she will arrange your access to the meeting.

Welcome Back Disco

As a celebration of the resume of normal school activities following the COVID restrictions, the Parent Partnership are going to hold a 'Welcome Back' disco for our children on Tuesday 20th September. Further information will be shared separately nearer the time.

Annual Data Checks

We are returning back to paper copies for our Annual Data Check forms will be issued and sent home with the children this week. Can we ask that these are completed and returned to school with your children as soon as possible to allow the update of records.

Beat the Street Programme

We are very excited to announce that the highly successful 'Beat the Street' initiative is coming to Renfrewshire! This a free, fun, walking, wheeling, and cycling game which we will be encouraging all of our children and families to participate in. The programme will run over a six-week period from 31st August until 12th October during which we will be competing with schools from across Paisley. We will be sending home all information required to get you and your family registered in preparation for the official launch on 31st August. Please check out our Twitter page for further information!



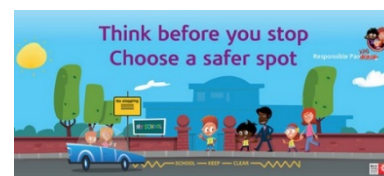
Breakfast Club

Our Breakfast Club will resume week commencing **Monday 29th August at 8.15am**. The club will be supervised by a member of our support staff team, Mrs Walker. Letters with further details and information on how to register your child for a place have been issued separately and applications should be returned before the end of this week.



One way system and Safe Parking

Please remember that the school asks those dropping off/collecting pupils at the start/end of the school day to follow a voluntary one-way system. Cars should enter Maxwellton Road from Maxwellton Street and leave in the direction of Newton Street. Please pass this reminder on to all relevant family members/friends. Those dropping off/collecting pupils are also asked to consider parking further along Maxwellton Road (**avoiding the zig-zags and yellow lines**) or on Newton Street to ease congestion immediately outside the school entrance.



P.E Class Timetable

All classes will have 2 timetabled slots in our gym hall each week. On these days your child should come to school with the following:

- Wearing a school polo shirt.
- A pair of trainers/plimsolls in their school bag. If your child is wearing a pair of trainers to school these can also be used at P.E time.
- A pair of shorts/tracksuit bottoms/leggings. Please note that these can be worn to school under school skirt/trousers.
- No jewellery should be worn to school on these days – earrings should be taken out where possible or taped over.

P.E Days

Primary 1A	Tuesday and Friday
Primary 1B	Monday and Wednesday
Primary 2	Tuesday and Friday
Primary 2/3	Monday and Friday
Primary 3	Tuesday and Friday
Primary 3/4	Wednesday and Thursday
Primary 4	Tuesday and Thursday
Primary 5	Thursday and Friday
Primary 6	Wednesday and Friday
Primary 6/7	Monday and Wednesday
Primary 7	Tuesday and Thursday



Nut Allergies

We would like to remind all parents/carers that we have children in our school with nut allergies. For that reason, we request that parents and carers observe a **nut-free policy** and therefore do not include nuts, or any traces of nuts, in packed lunches. All children are regularly reminded about the good hygiene practice of washing hands before and after eating which helps to reduce the risk of secondary contamination.

Are You Getting What You Are Entitled To?

Free School Meals

Your child may be entitled to free school meals if:

- Your child attends a Renfrewshire school or has been placed in an educational establishment outside Renfrewshire by Renfrewshire Council, or;
- You receive income support, any income-related element of employment and support allowance, maximum working tax credits (if you earn less than £6,420/year), child tax credit only (if you earn less than £16,190) or pension credit

Apply online at: <http://renfrewshire.gov.uk/Freeschoolmealsandclothinggrants>

Clothing Grants

Parents or carers of children attending Renfrewshire primary, secondary or additional support needs schools during the school session who satisfy the financial conditions are eligible to apply for free school meals and/or clothing grants. A clothing grant is a payment made by Renfrewshire Council to qualifying parents or carers to assist with the purchase of school uniforms. For session 2020-2021, the level of clothing grant is £100 per eligible pupil. A maximum of one grant will be paid for each child during any school year.

Apply online at: <http://renfrewshire.gov.uk/Freeschoolmealsandclothinggrants>

Dates for your diary at the time of print

Monday 29 th August	Parent Partnership AGM
Monday 29 th and Tuesday 30 th August	Monument Photos (Nursery-P7)
Friday 2 nd September	First Friday Mass (P3-7)
Monday 12 th September	Meet the Teacher
Tuesday 20 th September	Parent Partnership 'Welcome Back' disco
Friday 23 rd and Monday 26 ^h September	Holiday – September Weekend (school closed)
Friday 7 th October	First Friday Mass (P3-7)
Monday 17 th to Friday 21 st October	Holiday – October Week (school closed)
Monday 24 th October	In-Service day for staff (school closed to pupils)
Tuesday 25 th October	School reopens to pupils
Tuesday 1 st November	All Saints Mass (P1-7)
Wednesday 30 th November	Holiday – St Andrew's Day (school closed)
Friday 2 nd December	First Friday Mass
Wednesday 21 st December	School finishes at 2.30pm for Christmas break
Thursday 22 nd December to Wednesday 3 rd January (inclusive)	Holiday – Christmas break (school closed)
Thursday 5 th January	School reopens to pupils

As always should you have any questions regarding this letter or indeed any aspect of your child's education, please do not hesitate to contact me by telephoning the school office.

Yours sincerely,

Laura Mitchell

Head Teacher