

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



**Date:** 10<sup>th</sup> October 2022



Dear Parent/ Carer,

### **September/October Newsletter**



#### **Welcome!**

Welcome to our September/October Newsletter! It has been a very busy and fun-filled first term here in St Mary's. We had a great turn out for our 'Meet the Teacher' event, and it was lovely to be able to welcome you all back into the school again. Our Parent Partnership 'Welcome Back' discos were a huge success and safe to say that a great time was had by all! We are very much looking forward to another busy term ahead after our October week holiday.

#### **Standards and Quality Report/School Improvement Plan**

Our Standards and Quality Report for session 2021-2022 has now been published on our school website <https://blogs.glowscotland.org.uk/re/stmarys/>



**St Mary's Primary School**



This report will provide you with a summary of our key achievements/successes from last session, and our priorities for session 2022-2023. In addition to this, you will also find a copy of our School Improvement Plan, which will provide you with further detail in relation to our agreed improvement priorities for this session. Please do not hesitate to contact us if you would like to discuss any aspect of either of these further.

## **All things Health & Wellbeing! (School Improvement Priority 1)**

### **Review of Vision and Values**

A key improvement priority this session is the review of our school vision and values.



***“Our vision evolves through ongoing reflection and debate across the school and community. As a result of this active collaboration, the school and community have ownership of the vision, values and aims.”***

**(How good is our school, 4<sup>th</sup> Edition, 2015)**

It is important that everyone in our school community has ownership of this and to achieve this, we will be asking for your help! Following consultation with staff, we would now like gather the view of our pupils, parents/carers and wider school community. We will be asking you to complete a parent/carer survey in the coming weeks so please look out for this coming your way and support us by taking the time to complete it. **Your views really matter to us!**

### **P1 Registration**

The Primary 1 registration will be live online from Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> November to Friday 4<sup>th</sup> November, please ensure you apply via the Renfrewshire Council website. Please have any documentation at hand to upload when applying for your child’s place to ensure a smooth process.

### **Active Schools**

We now have a variety of Active School after school clubs running including Gymnastics, Dodgeball, Netball and Basketball. These will continue until the Christmas holidays.



**O N E  
R E N**

### **Girls and Boys Football Tournaments**

We were delighted to be invited to take part in a P7 girls football tournament which took place on Friday 7<sup>th</sup> October. Well done who all the girls who represented St Mary’s at this event!

Some of our P7 boys and girls will take part in a tournament on Friday 28<sup>th</sup> October. Good luck!

### **Clubs**

We are offering a variety of lunch time clubs including Lego and Gardening which are being well attended by our children. There will be a wider variety clubs offered across the remainder of the session, including the Musical Theatre Club which was a huge hit last year!

### **Beat the Street**

A huge thank you to everyone who took part in the Beat the Street walking initiative. We know that many of you hit the streets of Paisley and represented us very well – go team St Mary’s!



## **Non-Uniform Day**

A reminder that we have a non-uniform day on 14<sup>th</sup> October to help raise funds for Mary's Meals, the aim is to raise £15.90 to feed a child for a whole school year. £1 per child and £2 per family. Many Thanks

## **All things Literacy! (School Improvement Priority 2)**

### **Talk for Writing**

As part of our improvements in literacy this session, we are in the process of introducing a new approach to the delivery of writing called 'Talk for Writing' across the school.

*Talk for Writing has had an outstanding impact on schools. Typically, schools have found that children initially double their rate of progress and, where the approach has been applied systematically across a setting, many schools have moved from dire results to outstanding success. Schools already performing well have not only increased attainment, but also enjoyment and engagement.*



All teaching staff will complete the next part of training on our next In-Service day which takes place on Monday 24<sup>th</sup> October. Following this, we will begin delivery of the programme with a focus on non-fiction writing i.e., instructions, reports etc. across the school between October and the Christmas holidays. Please talk to your children to find out more about the work they are doing in writing at home! If you would like to find out further information on the Talk for Writing approach, then please refer to the Talk for Writing website:

<https://www.talk4writing.com/about/>.

### **Read, Write Count Bags**

We have received our delivery of 'Read, Write, Count Bags' from the Scottish Book Trust for primary 2 and 3. These aim to build parents/ confidence, and encourage families to include easy and fun reading, writing, and counting activities in their everyday lives. The children will be gifted these bags over the coming weeks so please look out for them coming home!



## **All things Maths! (School Improvement Priority 3)**

### **Maths Week Scotland – WINNERS!**

We recently celebrated Maths Week Scotland, during which the children took part in lots of fun maths activities. In addition to this, we invited the children to dress up and we were so impressed by the fantastic effort that was made across the school. We were delighted to have our efforts recognised by Renfrewshire Numeracy Team by winning the 'dress up' category! We have been awarded £50 which will be put to good use in purchasing some new maths resources for the school. We would like to say a special thank you to everyone who took part and for all your support at home. A big thank you also to our Numeracy Champion, Miss McPherson for all her hard work in organising such a fantastic Maths week!



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**National Numeracy Parental Engagement Project** We are delighted to have been selected from a high number of schools from across Scotland to participate in the National Numeracy Parental Engagement Project. The project aims to support schools in developing their parental engagement strategies, in order to improve the confidence of both children and parents/carers in maths. This session, we have chosen to focus on P5-7, with a view to it being rolled out further across the school next session. Mrs Mitchell and Miss McPherson are the Project Leads, and they will be hosting a **'Maths & Munchies' event for P5-7 on Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> October at 3 – 3.45pm**. All P5-7 parents/carers will now have received a separate invite to this event, and we look forward to welcoming as many of you as possible!

### **Modelling and Coaching Officer**

As part of our work to raise attainment in numeracy, we will be working with a Modelling and Coaching Officer for numeracy. We are delighted to welcome Mr Gallagher who will be working in a number of classes across the school this session.

### **Other News!**

#### **Howdens Engineering Project**

Primary 6 have been invited to take part in the National Leader's Award competition by the local business Howden's. The competition will ask pupils *"If you were an engineer, what would you do?"* They will then identify a problem in the world around them and come up with a creative solution for them. The pupils' designs are then graded by engineers with every pupil receiving a named certificate, as well as an invitation to a public exhibition where the shortlisted ideas from across the country are displayed. The project will begin with the pupils taking part in a site visit to Howden's on **Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> October**. Good luck primary 6!



#### **Paisley Art Show**

We were delighted to welcome local artist Lil Brookes to work with some of our infant classes earlier this term. During this visit, the children enjoyed seeing some of Lil's fantastic work, including her famous Paisley Pattern teardrop design which was used to the Paisley City of Culture Campaign. They were also given the opportunity to ask her questions about being an artist and to create some beautiful art of their own.



Following this visit, we have now been invited to take our children from primary 4-7 to visit the Paisley Art Show on Friday 4<sup>th</sup> and Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> November. During their visit, each class will take part in a workshop led by Lil and her colleague Steven Thomson. We will look forward to hearing all about these visits from the children!

#### **Parent Partnership**

##### **Panto**

A special thank you to our hard-working Parent Partnership for covering the cost of a whole school pantomime performance. The children from our 3-5 Room in the ELCC will also be invited to attend. We are all very excited to be welcoming M & M Productions on Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> October for their performance of Sleeping Beauty.



## **October Meeting**

Our Parent Partnership met on Friday 7<sup>th</sup> October to discuss and plan for our upcoming events, including our Halloween celebration in school on Monday 31<sup>st</sup> October and our Christmas activities in the lead up to and including our Christmas Fayre which will take place on Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> December from 3.30-6pm in the school.

There will be several fundraising activities in the lead up to the Christmas Fayre which include:

- **Monday 31<sup>st</sup> October – Halloween Dress up day (£1 per child/£2 per family)**
- **Friday 11<sup>th</sup> November – Non-Uniform Day (Bottle or chocolate donation for Christmas Fayre)**
- **Friday 18<sup>th</sup> November – Pyjama Day (£1 per child/£2 per family OR donation of Hamper item)**
- **Friday 25<sup>th</sup> November – Christmas Jumper Day (£1 per child/£2 per family)**
- **Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> December – Non-Uniform Day (home baking donations/entries for Christmas Bake Off)**

Please check the Parent Partnership Facebook page or contact our Parent Chair, Lorraine Hanlon for any further information.

## **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.



## **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:

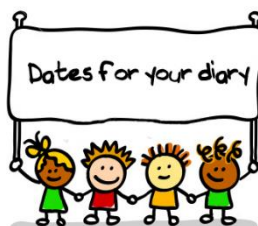
- Your child attends a Renfrewshire school or has been placed in an educational establishment outside Renfrewshire by Renfrewshire Council, or;
- You receive income support, any income-related element of employment and support allowance, maximum working tax credits (if you earn less than £6,420/year),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

#### ***Dates for your diary at the time of print***

Monday 17 <sup>th</sup> to Friday 21 <sup>st</sup> October	Holiday – October Week (school closed)
Monday 24 <sup>th</sup> October	In-Service day (School closed to pupils)
Tuesday 25 <sup>th</sup> October	School reopens to pupils
Wednesday 26 <sup>th</sup> October	Pantomime Performance to whole school
Thursday 27 <sup>th</sup> October	P6 visit to Howdens
Monday 31 <sup>st</sup> October	Halloween dress up day (donations to PP)
Tuesday 1 <sup>st</sup> November	All Saints Mass (P1-7)
Tuesday 1 <sup>st</sup> November – Friday 4 <sup>th</sup> November	P1 Registration live online for 2023/24
Friday 4 <sup>th</sup> November	Education Manager visit to school (all day)
Friday 11 <sup>th</sup> November	Non-uniform day (bottle or chocolate donations for Christmas Fayre)
Friday 18 <sup>th</sup> November	Pyjama day (£1 or hamper donation for Christmas Fayre)
Wednesday 23 <sup>rd</sup> and Thursday 24 <sup>th</sup> November	Parents/Teacher Meetings (further details to follow)
Friday 25 <sup>th</sup> November	Christmas Jumper day (£1 donation to PP)
Monday 14 <sup>th</sup> to Sunday 20 <sup>th</sup> November	Catholic Education Week (further details to follow)
Wednesday 30 <sup>th</sup> November	Holiday – St Andrew’s Day (school closed)
Thursday 1 <sup>st</sup> December	First Thursday Mass
Friday 2 <sup>nd</sup> December	PP Christmas Fayre 3.30-6pm in school
Monday 12 <sup>th</sup> December	Christmas Show Dress Rehearsal
Wednesday 14 <sup>h</sup> and Thursday 15 <sup>th</sup> December	Christmas Show 1.30-3pm (further details to follow)
Wednesday 21 <sup>st</sup> December	School finishes at 2.30pm for Christmas break
Thursday 22 <sup>nd</sup> December to Wednesday 3 <sup>rd</sup> January (inclusive)	Holiday – Christmas break (school closed)
Thursday 5 <sup>th</sup> January	School reopens to pupils

As always should you have any questions regarding this newsletter, 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

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