



Rite of Presentation

Over the weekend of the 11th and 12th November, all children in P4 preparing for the Sacrament of First Holy Communion, took part in the Rite of Presentation at both St Margaret's and St Paul's parishes. All children represented themselves and their families really well. Please continue to pray for them as they continue on their Sacramental journey.



Catholic Education Week

The theme of Catholic Education Week 2023 is 'Pilgrims of Faith'. Between the 16th of November (Feast day of St Margaret) and the 30th of November (Feast day of St Andrew) our learners have, and will continue to engage in activities to help them reflect on their ongoing faith journeys. As a denominational school, we continually embark on 'pilgrimages' with pupils each day, as we deepen our faith by exploring Christ's message in the Gospels.

The Catholic Education Week activities have encouraged children to reflect on their roles as followers of Christ at home, in school and in the wider community. They have discussed and considered how their positive actions can benefit not just themselves, but the wider world. Some great examples of the work they completed in school was then displayed at St Margaret's Cathedral, and also at St Paul's. Father Borland was also delighted to have some of the children at church to celebrate Catholic Education Week.



Remembrance

This November, we celebrated All Saints Day, All Souls Day and Remembrance Day. Our Primary 7 year group are continuing to be fantastic role models as senior pupils this year. They planned and organised a Remembrance Service online and invited the whole school community to join. They created a presentation, wrote prayers and picked a song to perform during the service. They also timetabled the Reflection Room and it was such a lovely moment to pray together remembering people we have lost.



Diversity in our school

We asked you to let us know the cultures and traditions that you celebrate in your house. We got lots of responses and have been learning about how other cultures live. We look forward to learning more about a Polish Tradition of St. Nicholas' Name Day, 'Mikolajki', next month and the Italian traditions that take place on the Feast of the Immaculate Conception on the 8th December.

Our Global Citizenship Pupil Voice Group will be bringing out a calendar of all upcoming events very soon.



Electives

This term the P4-7 pupils chose a Christmas Craft activity as their elective. The electives are being led by six teachers in the upper department. The pupils are making a variety of exciting and fun crafts to sell at the Christmas Fair - festive bath bombs, personalised t-shirts and a variety of decorations and festive wreaths.



Day of Dance Festival

Some of our P6 and P7 pupils have been working hard on learning a total of 8 Scottish Country dances over the past 6 weeks. They represented our school fantastically at the festival and we were so proud of them. They danced beautifully and lots of volunteers commented on how well they had performed. Well done everyone!



After School Clubs

Throughout October and November, a group of pupils from Primary 5 to Primary 7 have been participating in an after-school dance club. The pupils have been developing their movement understanding, building on fluidity to contemporary music and aiming to captivate the audience through a variety of emotions. Throughout the dance, the pupils express different thoughts and feelings through movement and spoken word. As the routine progresses the pupils work together to express positive emotions within each dance step. The pupils are working towards competing in South Ayrshires Dance Competition on December 6th and they are extremely excited.

Let's go St John's!

Christmas Craft

This year, as the excitement of the Christmas Fair looms, the children are extremely busy making their crafts in class ready to sell to you on Friday 8th December, straight after school. We are working very hard to have 'no cost to the school day' and this is one of the only times we are trying to raise some money to help us to provide additional things for the children. Please support if you can.

Party Plans

Our Christmas party days were a huge success last year and we will be continuing this format again this year with the dates in the calendar below.

- Everyone to arrive in party clothes.
- One class party at a time throughout the day.
- Film and Christmas craft before or after the party.
- Children will all get a drink/snack.
- Prizes for party games etc.

We will be looking to organise a party dress/outfit swap in school so please hand in any clothes that are now too small for your child. If anyone needs any additional help for Christmas then please contact the school.

Christmas Lunches

- This year the school will pay for **all children** to have a Christmas lunch and we are encouraging all children to give it a try. On the day of the class Christmas lunch, all children will eat in the hall together, even if they are having a packed lunch.
- Lunches will be over 2 days. On the day that children **are not having** their Christmas lunch, they will have a snack lunch in their classroom or may bring in a packed lunch from home. A snack lunch costs £2.50.

Christmas Jumper/T-Shirt/Boppers/Bobbles/Tinsel Day

We will be continuing with our annual Christmas Jumper day, on **Friday 8th December**. Children can wear a jumper, t-shirt, tie, hair band, bobble, bit of tinsel etc to avoid any additional costs to parents. Christmas Jumpers should not be worn on other days - school uniform only.

Breakfast Club

With the cold weather now upon us you may like to consider using the breakfast club. This starts at 8.20 each morning. Children must be registered in advance. Please complete the online form or contact the school for further information. There is **NO COST** to the breakfast club.

Infant Electives

P2 and P3 took part in their new electives this week. They got to choose between Messy Science, Lego Challenges and Creative Constructions. In Messy Science pupils were learning about chemical reactions by making some foaming monsters. It was definitely messy but a lot of fun! In Lego, pupils were challenged to communicate their names to others through a physical solution and in Creative Constructions, pupils worked in groups to select materials to make a boat which would allow the Gingerbread Man to cross the river safely.



Festive Timetable

Friday 1 st December	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> P4 Assembly (9.10am In School)
Monday 4 th December	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> P7 Christmas Play at The Cutty Sark Centre (During school hours)
Tuesday 5 th December	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cluster Christmas Carol Service- St. Margaret's Cathedral (6.30pm) All Welcome
Wednesday 6 th December	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> P5-7 Dance Competition in Troon (During school hours)
Thursday 7 th December	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> P6-7 Choir at The Grain Exchange, Ayr (1pm)
Friday 8 th December	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> P2-3 Assembly (9.10am In School)
Friday 8 th December	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Christmas Jumper / Christmas Accessory Day - please do not buy anything. Children can wear anything festive including a bobble, hairband, t-shirt, jumper with school trousers/skirt.
Friday 8 th December	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Christmas Fair in school (3.15 - 5pm) All Welcome
Monday 11 th December	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Advent Penitential Service at St Margaret's Cathedral (7pm) All Welcome
Wednesday 13 th December	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> P1 Nativity 'A Twinkly Nativity' at St Margaret's Cathedral (10am)
Wednesday 13 th December	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> P5-7 Christmas Lunches
Thursday 14 th December	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> P1-4 Christmas Lunches
Friday 15 th December	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Whole school Christmas Panto 'Cinderella' at The Gaiety (During school hours)
Monday 18 th December	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> P1, P2 & P3 Christmas Parties (Come in party clothes, children will have a Christmas craft, film, and party in the hall)
Tuesday 19 th December	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> P4 Christmas Party (Come in party clothes, children will have a Christmas craft, film, and party in the hall)
Tuesday 19 th December	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> P7 Christmas Ceilidh at QMA (During school hours)
Wednesday 20 th December	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> P5 Christmas Parties (Come in party clothes, children will have a Christmas craft, film, and party in the hall)
Wednesday 20 th December	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Christmas Choir at Ayr Central (10:40am) All Welcome
Thursday 21 st December	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> P6 & 7 Christmas Parties (Come in party clothes, children will have a Christmas craft, film, and party in the hall)
Friday 22 nd December	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Christmas Karaoke
Friday 22 nd December	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> School closes for Christmas Holidays P5-7 at 2:25pm P1-4 at 2:30pm
JANUARY 2024	
Monday 8 th January	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> PUPILS RETURN TO SCHOOL

