

Update from Mrs Gray

Staffing

As we move into the summer term, a few staffing changes will take effect. We are pleased to welcome Mr. Winning back following his time as Acting Depute Head at St. Patrick's in Troon. With his return, Miss Mack, who has been Acting PT will return to her class teacher post. Miss Mack has been a tremendous support to the school during this time, and we thank her for all her support. We also say goodbye to Miss Pryce, who has been teaching P6 during this period. We thank her for her contribution and wish her every success in her new school. Mr. Winning and Miss Casey will now resume their roles as class teachers for P6, alongside their responsibilities as Principal Teachers.

Report Cards

I have thoroughly enjoyed reading the first drafts of all of the children's report cards. It has been a pleasure to see the progress they have made across the year and to hear about the many ways they have contributed to our school community.

Information about Parents' Night will be shared with families during the week beginning Monday 30th March. Parents' night is on Wednesday 29th April.



School News

Lights, Camera, Action! What a Show!

Our whole school community is still buzzing after this year's spectacular performance of **Lights, Camera, Action!**

Every single child shone on stage, showcasing their confidence, creativity and teamwork. Their enthusiasm and talent made the show truly unforgettable. We are incredibly proud of every one of them. The children were rewarded with a fun pyjama party on Thursday, which they absolutely loved! A huge thank you to all our parents and carers for your continued support, not only on the night of the show, but throughout the weeks of rehearsals and preparations. Your encouragement makes a tremendous difference, and we are so grateful to share these special moments with you. A video of the highlights will be sent out soon.



P5 Swimming Lessons

Our Primary 5 pupils have been thoroughly enjoying their 10-week block of swimming lessons at the Citadel in Ayr. Their confidence in the water has grown week by week, and they've shown fantastic effort throughout. Each pupil will receive a certificate to celebrate their hard work and progress. Well done Primary 5!

Canon Keegans 80th Birthday

It was an absolute delight to welcome Canon Keegans back to the school, to celebrate his very special 80th birthday with us! Canon Keegans enjoyed a lovely lunch with the staff before attending his birthday party in the hall where he was treated to poems, singing and some beautiful cards made by all the classes. It was a wonderful afternoon and Canon Keegans was thrilled with the efforts of everyone!



Euro Quiz Team

We are incredibly proud of our P6 pupils who recently took part in the South Ayrshire Euro Quiz heats. Their dedication has been outstanding, they gave up lunch times and stayed after school to research, revise, and deepen their knowledge. Their commitment, teamwork, and positive attitude were evident throughout the competition, and they represented our school brilliantly. Well done, P6 Euro Team!



Allan's Magic Roadshow

Our P1-4 pupils enjoyed a fantastic visit from Allan's Magic Roadshow, who delivered an engaging and memorable *Road Safety Magic Show*. Our minds were blown by the fun tricks, lively storytelling, and plenty of laughter, through which the children learned the important message of **Stop, Look, Listen and Think**. They even sang a catchy song to help them remember these key steps, making road safety both meaningful and magical for everyone.



Reconciliation

On Monday 23rd March, a number of our pupils took an important step in their sacramental journey as they celebrated the Sacrament of Reconciliation at St Margaret's Cathedral. It was a reflective and meaningful service, and we are grateful to all who joined us in supporting the children at this special moment. To our wonderful pupils, you were a credit to the school.



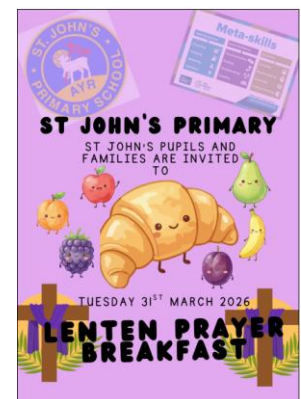
Youth Group visit Fr. Kevin Rennie

We recently welcomed Fr. Kevin Rennie and Margaret from RC Diocese of Galloway, Youth Office to share information about their upcoming Youth Group events and Advent Youth Retreat. Several of our pupils have already taken part in recent Youth Group events and highly recommend the experience, praising the welcoming atmosphere and the chance to meet young people from across the Diocese. It's been wonderful to hear such positive feedback. To find out more information on upcoming events, you can visit [School Visits - March 2026 - RCDG Youth](#).



Invite to Lenten Prayer breakfast

Following on from the success of last year, we are delighted to invite you to our school's Lenten Prayer breakfast next Tuesday, 31st March 2026 at 8.30am. We would love to have you join us for a morning of prayer and reflection led by our Faith in Action Pupil Voice group and of course- some breakfast treats, made by our fantastic kitchen staff.



P6 Author Visit

Primary 6 had a fantastic visit from author Victoria Williamson, who came in to share the inspiration behind her novel *Hagstorm*, inspired by Robert Burns's famous poem, *Tam O'Shanter*. Pupils were fascinated as she revealed a collection of old-fashioned tools from the past, helping bring the story's historical setting to life. It was an engaging, imaginative session that left everyone buzzing with ideas and curiosity.



Thank You

A heartfelt 'Thank you' to Fr David who kindly gave the school a generous donation on behalf of St Margaret's and St Paul's parishes. This will be used to assist us in striving to meet the ongoing challenges of ensuring 'no cost to the school day' for all of our pupils. We also received a donation from Saint Vincent de Paul to assist with our P7 residential trip to Dolphin House for which we are very grateful. Additionally, our Parent Council have supported us again with the purchase of more playground toys for what we hope will be better weather in the summer term. Another thanks to our Parent Council for their help and support at our Show selling raffle tickets, lucky programs and taking tickets at the door - we really couldn't do any of this without you so much appreciated as always. Many of our Parent Council have children in P7 and will be leaving us this year. We are keen to have new members join and support our events and the school.



Wallacetown Community Energy Project

Our children have thoroughly enjoyed being part of the Wallacetown Community Energy Project. They were delighted to attend the official launch at Riverside Church and are eagerly awaiting the chance to share the project's video with the wider community. During interviews with the BBC, the University team, and SP Energy Networks, our pupils represented the school brilliantly speaking with confidence, enthusiasm and a clear understanding of the project. We are incredibly proud of the way they showcased their learning and community spirit.



Infant Outdoor Learning

As part of our outdoor learning initiative, the infant department have been embracing all different types of weather to explore our local environment. We have been collecting a range of natural resources such as sticks, stones, leaves, and flowers to complete different challenges. Using these materials, we have worked collaboratively to design and create wonderful minibeast transient art, build rafts to float across the stream, take part in scavenger hunts and learn about the ogham alphabet.




**OUTDOOR
LEARNING**
The Extended Classroom 

Parent Group

We were delighted to offer a 10-week Educational Psychologist parent programme for families who were interested in gaining support in understanding and managing challenging behaviours at home. This was a judgement-free space where parents could learn practical strategies, ask questions, and receive invaluable support from an Educational Psychologist. This was a new initiative that we were lucky to have piloted within St John's. Our parents who attended reported that it was extremely beneficial, worthwhile and were very grateful for all advice and strategies shared.

Attendance Strive for 95%

As we move into Term 4, we are launching our next attendance initiative: Strive for 95%. Our much-loved leaderboard videos will be returning, with each class competing weekly to achieve the highest attendance across the term.

Attendance isn't just about being here, it's about staying here. Recently, we've noticed a rise in late drop-offs and early pick-ups, which can have a real impact on learning time. We want to encourage all our parents and carers to support full days in school whenever possible. Every minute matters, and our aim is for every learner to **be here, stay here, and thrive here**. Our Attendance Pupil Voice Group have even created a special video to explain what the challenge is all about and why it matters. This will be sent out next week.

Invite to End of Term Mass

The whole school will come together at St Margaret's Cathedral for our end-of-term Easter Mass at 10am on Tuesday 31st March. This special celebration is a lovely way for us to gather as a community before the holiday, and we warmly invite all our families to join us in marking this important moment in our school's faith journey.



Advanced Diary Dates

March 2026		
Tuesday 31 st March	Lenten Family Prayer Breakfast	8.30am in School
Tuesday 31 st March	Lent / End of Term Mass	10am in St Margaret's
April 2026		
Thursday 2 nd April	School closes for Easter Holidays	
Monday 20 th April	PUPILS RETURN (No Ayr United Afterschool Club)	School Open
Wednesday 22 nd April	Ayr United Afterschool Club Restarts	
Wednesday 29 th April	Parents' Night	From 3pm in School
Thursday 30 th April	P7 ASD Transition Parents Session	3.30-4.30pm at QMA
May 2026		
Monday 4 th May	SCHOOL CLOSED	MAY DAY HOLIDAY
Tuesday 5 th May	PUPILS RETURN	School Open
Wednesday 6 th May	Technical KNEX Challenge	QMA
Thursday 7 th May	SCHOOL CLOSED	IN-SERVICE DAY
Friday 8 th May	PUPILS RETURN	School Open
Wednesday 13 th May	P4 Spring Festival of Farming @ Dumfries House	During the school day
Thursday 14 th May	P7 Careers Fayre	Ayr Town Hall
Thursday 14 th May	QMA Cluster Cup (Transition)	QMA
Monday 25 th May	SCHOOL CLOSED	LOCAL HOLIDAY
Tuesday 26 th May	PUPILS RETURN	School Open
Tuesday 26 th May	Dolphin House Instructor / Parent Information Visit	3-4pm in School
Saturday 30 th May	First Holy Communion	10am in St Margaret's

June 2026		
Wednesday 3rd June	P2/3 School Show	10am in St Margaret's
Thursday 4th June	Sports Day	Riverside Arena
Thursday 4th June	P6/7 Sports Transition Festival	QMA
Friday 5th June	Summer Fayre	3-5pm in School
Monday 8th June	P7 Retreat at QMA	During School Day
Tues 9th & Wed 10th June	P7 Bump Up Days	QMA
Wednesday 10th June	P7 Transition Disco & Parent Carer Info Evening	7pm at QMA
Thurs 11th & Fri 12th June	P7 Dolphin House Residential Trip (Group 1)	Culzean Castle Estate
Thurs 18th & Fri 19th June	P7 Dolphin House Residential Trip (Group 2)	Culzean Castle Estate
Tuesday 23rd June	Valedictory Mass	10am in St Margaret's
Wednesday 24 th June	P7B STEM/Farm Visit to Dumfries House	During School Day
Thursday 25 th June	P7A STEM/Farm Visit to Dumfries House	During School Day
Tuesday 30th June	School closes for Summer Holidays	
August 2026		
Tuesday 18th August	SCHOOL CLOSED	IN-SERVICE DAY
Wednesday 19th August	SCHOOL CLOSED	IN-SERVICE DAY
Thursday 20 th August	PUPILS RETURN	School Open

