

Staff Changes



I would like to congratulate Mrs Gabriella Welsh on her recent retirement from Saint Mark's Primary, after 30 years' service at the school. I am sure you will all miss her friendly face from our School Office. We also bid a very fond farewell to Mrs Lockhart, Principal Teacher, who has moved on to new adventures after 28 years teaching in the school. We thank them both for all their commitment, hard work and achievements and wish them all the very best for the future.

Mrs Livingston has joined the Senior Leadership Team and will now be working as Principal Teacher on a Thursday and Friday. We look forward to working with her on her new remit.

Mrs Louise McPhee will join our staff from Monday 21st February as our new Support Staff Team Leader. I am sure everyone will join me in welcoming her to our St Mark's family.

We are delighted to welcome Mr Preston into Primary 3 and I am sure he will make great contributions to the class. The pupils already know him really well from their Technology lessons and so this will be an easy transition for them to spend more time with him.

As you know, we said farewell to Father Dougan last term as he moves to his new Parish, Our Lady of Lourdes in East Kilbride. We thank him very much and wish him every success in his new post. We welcomed Fr Charles Coyle as the new Parish Priest and School Chaplain. He is already a regular visitor and has settled in well to our School Community.

School Entry and Exit Times



Finally, I am delighted to announce that the latest Government Guidance will allow us to move away from the staggered entry and exit times. All pupils, School and Nursery, will now **start their school day at 9am and finish at 3pm from Monday 28th February.**

This will also mean that P1-7 break times will be the same across the school with playtime being at 10:40-10:55 and lunchtime being 12:35-1:20pm. Nursery lunch will be 11:50-12:20.

We will continue to follow the same procedures for parent drop off and pick up for now. This means that **only Primary 1 parents should collect children from the playground** and Nursery parents should line up to drop off children from 9am. **The car park will continue to be for staff and blue badge holders only.**



Saint Mark's Primary and Nursery Class
Term 2 Newsletter

Dear Parents/Carers,

I would like to welcome you back after the February weekend, I hope you had a well-deserved rest and feel ready to take on the rest of Term 2 with Saint Mark's Primary and Nursery Class. We have lots of exciting things to update you on and many things to look forward to over the coming weeks.

The Saint Mark's Way

Firstly, our staff and pupils have been working together to review our Saint Mark's Way Behaviour Policy. Mrs Livingston has also started a Saint Mark's Way group, which will meet once a month to discuss what's going well and what needs to be improved. We have drafted a new Parent Leaflet and we look forward to sharing this with you.

School Website

We are delighted to show off our new school website which Mr Preston has been working hard on. Here you can see updates and blogs from your child's class and find out a little bit more about our school community. Don't forget about Twitter and the Parent App as well! We have lots of ways of communicating with you and want you to feel included in school life!

<https://blogs.glowscotland.org.uk/sl/stmarksrutherglen/>

<https://twitter.com/stmarksrutherg2>



Parent Appointments



Unfortunately, we are still unable to invite parents into school for a consultation with your child's teacher. We will therefore follow the same procedure as last term and continue with the telephone consultations. This is a great way to catch up with your child's teacher and find out what they have been working on. The appointments will take place on **the w/b 14th March**. The school office will be in touch in due course to arrange a suitable time with you.

Clubs

We also have our **Saint Mark's p5-p7 choir** starting back up in preparation for the Sacraments this year. This club will be running on a **Friday from 3-4pm** with Mrs Livingston. Please encourage your child to come along if they have a love for singing.

We would like to welcome back Melanie and Leigh who will be running the Dance club for primary 5, 6 and 7. This will take place during school hours and if there is significant enthusiasm, we may be able to move this to an additional afterschool club.

As well as this, Mr Deans continues to deliver drumming lessons for Primary 5. They are making fantastic progress and I think we have a few musicians in the making!

Mr Brady has kindly offered to coach football after school. We are awaiting a date for this to commence.



We are also hoping to offer other after school clubs as soon as possible.

Primary 7

Many of our pupils have been asking about the annual Primary 7 End of Year Activities. We are still working closely with South Lanarkshire Council and hope to update you soon on the arrangements.

Primary 7 will attend a half day visit to Trinity High School on 7th March. Pupils can look forward to meeting some of their new teachers and getting a feel for the High School vibes!

Late Coming

Since returning to school, we have noticed an increased number of children who are arriving late. This is hugely disruptive to lessons and often means pupils are beginning the day trying to catch up. It is vitally important that you get your child to school on time every day. If you are experiencing difficulties with this particular issue and feel you need advice, please don't hesitate to contact the school for support.



Snacks

We have noticed that some children have been sharing their snacks in the playground. Although this is a lovely gesture, we would encourage children not to share their snacks due to allergies and intolerances.



Saint Mark's is a Health Promoting School and we encourage children to bring a healthy snack to school. Please avoid sending 'Toxic Waste' sweets and sprays into school with your child. Some children have been spraying their snack into other children's mouths and I am sure you will agree, this is not hygienic or healthy! We are also a Nut Free Zone and so children should not bring any snacks which contain traces of nuts.

In accordance with the NHS guidance, we would also ask that if you are sending in grapes for younger children, as a snack, they are halved to prevent choking.

Sacramental Update

I would like to say a huge well done to the Primary 3 children for their contributions to the Mass of Enrolment for their Reconciliation. The singing was magnificent and behaviour; excellent! We have a few more dates for the diary so please keep these in mind if they affect your child:

P4 Mass of Enrolment for First Communion: **30th March at 6pm**

P3 Sacrament of Reconciliation: **Tuesday 22nd March at 6pm**

P4 Sacrament of First Communion: **Saturday 7th May at 12pm**

These will all take place in Saint Mark's Parish Church.



Please remember we have beautiful First Communion dresses and veils in the school, which pupils are more than welcome to come and try on for their special day. Please contact the school office if you would like to arrange a time to try on.