St. Mary’s Newsletter

February ‘22

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**10th Anniversary**

It is the 10th anniversary of the opening of our school building in May this year and we have some plans to celebrate. All children will be involved in contributing to a mosaic which will be on display in the school foyer. Many thanks to our very talented Mrs Hoey who has created the design and will work with the children to co-ordinate the project. We will also have some artwork created by the children to commemorate the occasion on sale next term. Information on a celebratory mass to follow.

**Cross Country**

Our P6 & P7 children will participate in the annual cross country event at Lanark Racecourse on Friday 18th March. Thank you to Mrs Tait for putting the children (and the staff) through their paces and preparing them for the race.

**First Reconciliation**

****Our Primary 3 children will receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation on Thursday 31st March in St. Mary’s Church. They have been preparing well with Mrs Sharkey and we look forward to sharing in their special celebration.

**Choir – First Holy Communion**

We welcome back our children’s choir for First Holy Communion. Any child wishing to take part should come along on the day – Saturday 14th May at 10.45 am. You have the best seat in the house in the choir loft!

**Lenten Mass**

****Fr JP will celebrate mass every Tuesday and Thursday morning at 8.30 am in the gym hall for pupils. There’s even time for toast at the Toast ‘n’ Go club at 8.45 am.

**School App**

Please download our School App and re-download if you have problems accessing it. This is the easiest way to quickly reach a large number of our parents.

Username: skyewalk

Pin: 3480

**Lanimer Committee 2022**

Many thanks to our parents who have already volunteered and joined the new St. Mary’s Lanimer Committee. It is wonderful to have the support of so many of our parents. Thank you!

**Latecoming and Absence**

If your child is going to be late for any reason and would like a school lunch, we ask that you telephone the school by 9.30 am to place their order. Thank you.

This is a concern within the school and there has been a notable increase in latecoming and unauthorised absence. Our School Improvement Plan aims to improve and address these issues. If you receive a letter, please contact the school to find out how we can support you. Please note if you have not contacted the school to report absence, the following procedures are in place:

**9.30 am** – the main contact will receive a text message asking to call the school

**10 am** – the main contact will receive a phone call

**10.30** – next contact and emergency contacts will receive a phone call

If you have not contacted the school by **12 noon**, you may receive a visit to your house.

**Dates for your diary:**

Cross Country (P6/P7): Friday 18th Mar’

School Nurse (P1/P2) Tuesday 22nd Mar’

P7 to LGS (Enterprise Challenge) Wednesday/Thursday 23rd/24th Mar’

Parents’ Night (phone calls): Wednesday/Thursday 23rd/24th Mar’

Whole school mass (in church) Friday 25th Mar’

Dance Festival (P6): Wednesday 30th Mar’

Sacrament of Reconciliation: Thursday 31st Mar’ 7pm

School closure; Easter Holiday: Friday 1st Apr’

Re-open: Tuesday 19th Apr’

May Day Holiday: Monday 2nd May

In-Service Day: Thursday 5th May

Tinto Hill Sponsored Walk: Sunday 8th May

First Holy Communion: Saturday 14th May

P7 Residential Trip: Monday/Tuesday 23rd/24th May

Sports Day: Friday 27th May

Jubilee Holiday: Friday 3rd June

Lanimers: Thursday/Friday 9th/10th June

**Please note that pupil jotters will be sent home on Friday 18th March to allow you to look at your child’s work ahead of Parents Night. On the inside cover of the jotters, you will see a comment sheet for pupil, parent and SMT comment. If you haven’t already, please leave a comment for your child in the parent section. Pupils have visited myself and Miss Franchitti over the year allowing us to have learner conversations and to look at their wonderful work. Please also note that in lower stages, workbooks or folders may be sent home in place of a jotter and that comment sheet is not attached.**

**Please enjoy looking at your child’s work as we have. We ask that you return the jotters on Monday 21st March. Thank you.**

**Assembly**

****It was wonderful to welcome all our children together in the hall for our first indoor assembly in 2 years!

**Principal Teacher**

I am delighted to announce that Miss Claudia Franchitti has been permanently appointed Principal Teacher on a job share basis after her acting appointment since August.

**Welcome back**

For the past 2 years we have asked that parents drop their children at the outer gate to avoid crowding in the playground. As restrictions ease, we welcome our parents back to the inner gate in the morning. Please come along and say hello, we have missed you!

**Collection at 3 pm**

May I remind you that the red zone at the inner gate is for parents/carers of P1 children and that the green and blue zones are for parents/carers of children P4-7. This helps to avoid overcrowding and congestion at the gate.

**Change of shoes**

May I remind everyone that children must bring a change of shoes for indoors/P.E. Children cannot participate in indoor P.E. with mucky outdoor shoes. Thank you.

**Reminder Uniform**

Children should wear school uniform to school consisting of shirt, tie, trousers/skirt with P.E. kit underneath or bring kit to change into.

P.E. kit consists of black shorts/leggings/joggers, white T-shirt/polo shirt and appropriate footwear. Pupils should not wear bright coloured sportswear as uniform. We have a range of pre-loved uniforms and P.E. kit should you require. Please feel free to have a browse in ‘The Bubble’.

**Collection at 3pm**

If you are going to be late to collect your child at 3pm, please telephone the school office before this time to allow us to make arrangements. Please also ensure if you have after school care in place that they are able to collect at 3 pm. We understand that emergencies are unavoidable, however, we have a growing number of children remaining with us at home time. Please be advised that we cannot guarantee supervision after 3 pm.

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**Please refrain from parking in the disabled bays. Priority for**

**these spaces is given to PUPILS who require**

**this space and thereafter to Blue Badge Holders.**

**Parent Council News/Fundraising Events**

****Many thanks to our members of the Parent Council who have organised fundraising events and initiated work on the re-surfacing of the MUGA and secured funds to proceed. Work will hopefully commence later in Spring.

**Sponsored Walk**

The Parent Council have organised a sponsored walk up Tinto Hill on Sunday 8th May. All family members are welcome to join in. This is an opportunity for families to get together and re-connect with the St. Mary’s community after an uncertain couple of years. As we have sustained focus on Health and Wellbeing within the school, we encourage as many of you as possible to join in. Details to follow.

The next meeting takes place on **Wednesday 27th Apr’**. Meetings take place online. Please email the Parent Council and they will send you joining details - stmaryslanarkparentcouncil@gmail.com. It is important that the Parent Council is representative of the views of **ALL** of our parents/carers and I would urge you to join in. Attending a meeting does not mean that you have to take on a responsibility or job within the Parent Council but it is a valuable way for you to see how they support the work of the school and represent the views of the entire parent body.

If you have any queries or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me

Mrs D Allen

Head Teacher