

St Mary's RC Primary

Newsletter 1

August 2015



Welcome back everyone and a special welcome to our 19 new P1 pupils and to new pupils in P3. I hope everyone had a good summer break and is ready for a busy term. On behalf of the staff can I thank you for the many gifts, cakes and cards you handed in at the end of term – your kind words and generosity is greatly appreciated.

The children all look smart in their school uniforms and have settled back into school with a really positive attitude. A wee reminder that long hair should be tied back for school – there is always a lot of head lice on returning from a school break – and that jewellery should not be worn to school. Mrs Tait will continue to teach PE on Mondays and it is essential that everyone has a change of clothes for PE – tee shirt, shorts or joggers and gym shoes. If not spare kit will be issued!!

Class teachers will be issuing new reading books next week for homework. Some general revision in vocabulary and number will be issued to each class to be practised between now and the September break. Anything you can do to help your child remember their number bonds, times tables facts, telling the time, counting in multiples of 10, 100, 1000 etc would be greatly appreciated as we gradually revise key areas of learning in class. Weekly homework will begin after the September holiday.

We welcome Ms Amanda Burnett to our Nursery team on a Thursday to assist with the training required to roll out the 600 hours initiative.

I hope to have a full calendar of dates for you as soon as possible, so look out for it coming home in book bags. In the meantime if you have any questions please don't hesitate to contact the school.

Mrs Liz Laird – Head Teacher

CHILDREN WHO ARE ABSENT FROM SCHOOL

0131 271 4690

If your child is absent from school – including Nursery - for whatever reason it is your responsibility to inform the school. The school answering service is available for early morning calls, and if possible please phone the school before 9am to report a pupil absence. Please state clearly the name of the child, which class, and the reason for absence. Please also collect your children promptly and telephone the school if you are running late.

If your child is not at school and we have not had a phone call our Child Protection Procedures are followed to ensure your child is safe. Please ensure that the school has up to date contact details especially if your mobile phone is the main mode of contact. The SMS Text service will be used in the first instance to make contact with you. Where parents cannot be contacted and fail to return calls I will inform the Education Welfare Officer of repeated absences.

Please remember that we only make a call like this because you have not phoned the school in the first instance, and to ensure that your child is safe. Please be courteous to staff when this happens as we are only doing our jobs and acting in the best interests of your child.

Please also try to ensure that your child is on time for school at 9am. Your child misses important information at the start of the day and it is disruptive to the class and embarrassing for them.

School photographs will be taken of all individuals and family groups of siblings in school on Wednesday 17th September – more details to follow.

Canon Hugh will be joining us for a final Assembly next Friday morning at 9.15am – you are welcome to join us to say our final farewells to him from the school.

There is an opportunity for pupils from P4-P7 to join the NYCOS choir – open rehearsal evening at Newbattle High School Wednesday 26th August at 6pm or contact julie-morrice@nycos.co.uk

*****VERY IMPORTANT NOTICE*****

SEEMIS UPDATES

Your child has been given an envelope of forms today which MUST be returned to school as soon as possible. These forms show the information we currently have on file for your child including contact telephone numbers. Please check the information over and update where necessary. Mrs Black and Mrs Phillips are offering 50 extra House Points to every child who returns the envelope of forms by Wednesday 26th August – thank you to the many who have already returned them!!

PLEASE NOTE Any money to be handed in to school should be given to your child to be recorded against the class cash sheet at registration time. All money should be in an envelope with your child's name, class and reason for payment clearly labelled.

ALL MEDICATION MUST be handed in to the school office and the appropriate medical form completed. Please do not ever give your child medication to bring to school in their bag. Pupils requiring inhalers need to have two in school – one in class and one at the school office. Please check expiry dates on medication such as epi pens and inhalers.

CAR PARKING Please do not park on the yellow zig zags outside the school or on the white hatched areas – this is to ensure visibility for pupils and cars leaving the car park and is ultimately for your child's safety. **PLEASE NOTE** the school car park is for staff parking only and should not be used by parents. Children should not access the playground via the car park gate as it is dangerous and small children are difficult to see when reversing a car. We have had a few near misses!

I have arranged for soft footballs to be in the playground before school. Please don't send your child with a leather football as it is too hard and causes injury when there are so many children (and adults) gathering in the playground in the morning. I have asked the children to play nearer the school building to avoid injury.

On a very wet morning I will open the door to the gym hall for children to gather from 8.50am. On wet days, Parents are also welcome to use the packed lunch area between 3 and 3.30pm if they are waiting to collect older siblings from school.

