

St Mary's RC Primary

Newsletter B

January 2016



Welcome back and Happy New Year everyone! On behalf of the staff can I thank you for the many cards and gifts you handed in for Christmas – there is no need but they were very much appreciated. Your generosity and thoughtfulness is outstanding. It's been great hearing about the gifts the children received from Santa!

Could I urge you to send your child suitably clothed for the cold and changeable weather even if it is dry in the morning – we have a number of pupils with no jackets or waterproofs and we do send the children out for playtimes in light rain!

This term we have Mrs Caroline Jones teaching PE on Mondays to cover for Mrs Tait who is recovering from an operation on her ankle. Please ensure your child has a PE kit in school as we are obliged to teach 2 hours of quality PE each week – change of tee shirt, shorts or joggers and suitable shoes. I notice an increasing amount of “bling” jewellery being worn in school – children should not wear jewellery to school as it can be easily broken or lost and certainly not for PE.

Mrs Laird - Headteacher

CAR PARKING You may be aware that Dundas buildings are empty now. I have asked School Staff to use the Dundas building car park which will free up the school car park for parents to park in alleviating some of the problems on the road outside. This is of course at your own risk and I would ask that you are vigilant about supervising your child from the Car Park into the playground especially if cars are moving in the car park. Please also ensure that you close the access gate to the playground.

There are a couple of cars that are regularly parked on the white lines beside the car park – please don't park here as it reduces visibility coming out of the car park. The yellow zig zags are there to provide a large clear space for pupil safety – please do not park here. Only use the disabled space if you are registered disabled and have a badge on your car. Please consider the needs of others and the safety of our children.

While it is great to see so many children using digital devices confidently, I would again urge all parents to be vigilant about the internet access children have on phones, computers and gaming. I have had to deal with several incidents of cyber bullying this session on sites such as Facebook Instagram and i-messaging and some of the language that has been reported is very offensive.

Some pupils are also talking about sexual images they have seen sometimes by accident whilst online. It is also clear that a large number of children are using games marketed for over 18 – these contain language and images of violence that are inappropriate for young children and some children are struggling to make sense of what they have seen.

It is your responsibility as parents in the first instance to ensure your child is safe and this includes whilst online. Our school website has links to cyber safety guides and has tips for helping you with parental controls if you need any help with this. We will of course continue to teach the children in school about cyber safety, but your child will need your help and guidance with this at home.

PLEASE NOTE All mobile phones are collected and taken to the School Office during the day for safety. The school will not be responsible for lost/broken phones that have not been handed in.

HOME/SCHOOL COMMUNICATION Please check your child's book bag regularly for letters from school and take note of dates for returning slips/money etc and return these on time. Please don't expect a text reminder as all letters are also posted on the school website stmarys@mgfl.net

Text reminders will be only used to communicate emergency information or when there has not been time to get a letter sent home before an event.

School Uniform order forms will be coming home this week to be returned by 29th January 2016. **PLEASE NOTE** Orders received after this date will not be processed by school.

Please also ensure that money coming into school is in a sealed, named envelope detailing what it is for and is given to your child to hand in to the teacher in the morning. This includes dinner money which can be in a named purse or wallet. Teachers and Learning Assistants complete a cash sheet in class each day which is then double checked at the office. Pupils should not have money in their bags or pockets in school and the school will not be responsible for money that is not handed in and is lost.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Mon 11 th January	Drop in Session Lasswade High School 6.30pm – catchment consultation – future use of Hopefield Site/St Mary's RCPS
Mon 18 th January	P7 Sportshall Athletics competition
Mon 25 th January	IEP Meetings
Tuesday 26 th January	IEP Meetings
Tuesday 26 th January	Parent Council Meeting 7.15pm
Thursday 28 th January	P1 and P7 Class Photograph
31 st January – 5 th February	Catholic Education Week
Friday 5 th February	P7 Mass at St David's RC HS
Tuesday 9 th February	Parents Meeting for Confirmation – Our Lady Church Hall 7.30pm
Wednesday 10 th February	Parent Council Meeting 7.15pm
Friday 12 th February	School closes at normal time for February Break

FEBRUARY HOLIDAY
SCHOOL CLOSED TO ALL PUPILS
Monday 15th Feb – Friday 19th Feb
RE-OPENS ON MONDAY 22ND FEBRUARY