



END OF TERM ARRANGEMENTS

Wednesday 22 nd June	P7 Show and Graduation – 7pm Thank you to the Parent Council for volunteering to help with teas and coffees tomorrow night . Pupils should arrive at school from 6.30pm and the show will start at 7pm promptly – could parents please be seated in the hall on time.
Thursday 23 rd June	School Reports going home – please check pupil bookbags.
Friday 24 th June	Prize Giving Assembly – 9.15am Parents and carers are welcome to join us for the final prize giving assembly followed by teas and coffees in the music room.
Wednesday 29 th June	Gold Award Treat Day – Rio Olympics and Carnival theme Remember to bring in your £1 donation for Stephanie Inglis and Missio Scotland – see newsletter for details.
Friday 1 st July	Final Assembly 11am Parents and Carers are welcome to join us as we say farewell to staff and our P7 pupils. School finishes for all pupils at 12 noon
Monday 22 nd August	School reopens for all pupils at 9am. All P1 pupils will start on Monday 22 nd August 9am – 12pm until Monday 5 th September when they will stay for full days.

P7 CAMP 2017 – Deposits of £50 are now due for all pupils participating in P7 Cluster Camp next year. We have again booked Lockerbie Manor. Letters have been issued via bookbags to current P6 pupils. Deposits must be paid by Wednesday 29th June.

Happy Summer Holidays
from all at
St Mary's RC PS



You may be aware that Midlothian Council recently published a report about the planned new school at the old Hopefield Primary site. To read the full report access the following links:

http://www.midlothian.gov.uk/news/article/2028/new_school_for_former_hopefield_primary_site<https://mail.midlothian.gov.uk/owa/redir.aspx?REF=yFiRmSjeyPkeH575XBG5UAF-

<http://www.midlothian.gov.uk/consultation/download/11<https://mail.midlothian.gov.uk/owa/redir.aspx>

The key information from these papers is that a new two stream non-denominational school will be built on the Hopefield site to open in 2018, mainly to address the lack of space at the new Burnbrae Primary and that the Council has agreed in principle to build a new school for St Mary's. We are obviously very disappointed that this decision was taken especially as there had been a strong indication at a previous PC meeting that the Hopefield site was to be used for St Mary's. Also some of the information in the papers in relation to St Mary's is inaccurate – our current school roll is 141 NOT 118 as detailed in the report. At the moment there is no time scale or proposed site earmarked for a new St Mary's. The Parent Council has requested a response from the Council to the following four questions as a matter of urgency:

1. What is the latest date that a decision would need to be made on the design of the two stream replacement school (2 stream non-denominational, or 1 non-denominational, 1 denominational)?
2. What is the time line for agreeing the HS12 site plans with Taylor Wimpey?
3. When will the report into the feasibility of replacing St Mary's be finished?
4. What is the latest date that a catchment consultation would need to complete ahead of the start of the August 2018 school year?

Our preference would still be to have our own single campus Catholic School at the Hopefield site which would keep the school in the heart of the Community and close to our Parish Church. The Parent Council will endeavour to keep parents informed of every development and there will be a meeting with Vic Bourne the Catholic Church Rep on the Education Committee before the end of term.

Midlothian Council has already arranged for interim maintenance work to be carried out in the school over the summer to make the windows safe, wind and watertight. New water fountains will also be installed.

I would like to reassure parents that despite some ongoing maintenance problems the quality of education at St Mary's remains very high. We pride ourselves on meeting the needs of every learner in the school, and in ensuring that your child's pastoral needs are given a high priority. Visitors and supply teachers to the school, regularly comment on how well behaved the children are, how dedicated, warm and friendly the staff are and love the family feel in the school. This has nothing to do with the fabric of the building but rather the people within it and demonstrates our ongoing commitment to promoting the ethos of the school to treat everyone with respect and to learn and grow together.

As we approach the long summer holiday I am sure you will join me in thanking the staff for their hard work throughout the year. I would like to thank you for your continued support of the school and hope the children all enjoy a well deserved summer holiday.

Liz Laird – Headteacher

It is with mixed emotions that I have to tell you that Mr Billy Dickson – our beloved Janny – will be leaving us at the end of this term. Billy was successful at interview for the position of Facilities Manager (posh title for Janny) at the new Gore Glen Primary School in Gorebridge. We are obviously delighted for Billy but will be very sorry to see him go. He is very much part of the school team, and has built an excellent rapport with staff, pupils and parents. I am sure you will join us in wishing him well in his new post.

If you would like to contribute to a collection for a leaving gift for Billy please put a donation in an envelope marked Billy Dickson Collection and send it in to school with your child. This will be saved at the school office and there will be a presentation at the final assembly on Friday 1st July to which you are all welcome.

This term we say thank you to Mrs Jones for covering our PE sessions on Mondays while Mrs Tait was absent for work. The children have enjoyed very active PE lessons with her, developing a range of skills.

We also say thank you and farewell to Miss Calvert who has provided teaching cover for P4 and P5 this term. We wish her well for her forthcoming wedding in the summer in Canada.

I am delighted to inform you that our Nursery Class will return to morning and afternoon sessions in August and that the provision will increase to 30:20 morning and afternoon sessions. We have a new CCDW joining us in the mornings, Sandra Henderson, and I am sure you will all welcome her warmly when she starts in August.

Nursery parents are invited to take part in a survey regarding the future provision of Nursery hours. Please take part in the survey by accessing the following link:

<https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/EYjune2016?redir.aspx?REF=xmFePbzT5AtxVjs--WMgjH2CccfN7lOs5bfFJwHK6MGPKDmG-JjTCAFodHRwczoVL3d3dy5zdXJ2ZXl1tb25rZXkuY28udWsvci9FWWp1bmUyMDE2>

HEADLICE - there are significant numbers of children with headlice in school just now – we have seen live lice in hair! Please be vigilant and check your child's hair every week and treat when necessary. We will inform parents if we see live lice in hair. Please ensure that everyone in the family is treated in this event. Long hair **MUST** be tied back in school to prevent spreading head lice.

We will be having a Gold Award Treat Day on Wednesday 29th June to celebrate the children's achievements from throughout the year. This year the theme is the Rio Olympics and Carnival.

We will also use the day to celebrate our school charity – Missio Scotland - with a Day of Many Colours. The children are invited to come to school dressed in their brightest and most colourful clothes.

We would also like to show our support to Commonwealth Judo Athlete, Stephanie Inglis, who was badly injured whilst working in Vietnam. She is related to the Quinn family – Karis P1, Drew P2, Max P3 and Dion P4. The family have set up a charity to support her recovery and rehabilitation. We have arranged for Just Judo coaches to be in school on Treat day to provide Judo taster sessions.

To support these two charities we would like the children to make a donation of £1 next Wednesday with 50p going to each charity.

All other activities on the day will be paid for and provided by the school – look out for some Carnival items coming home next week.

SESSION DATES 2016 - 2017

TERM 1	Staff Resume	Thursday*	18	August	2016
	Pupils Resume	Monday	22	August	2016
	Autumn Holiday	Friday	16	September	2016
		Monday	19	September	2016
	All Resume	Tuesday	20	September	2016
Mid Term	All Break	Friday	14	October	2016
	All Resume	Monday	24	October	2016
	Term Ends	Friday	23	December	2016
TERM 2	All Resume	Monday	9	January	2017
Mid Term	Pupils Break	Friday	10	February	2017
	Staff Break	Tuesday*	14	February	2017
	All Resume	Monday	20	February	2017
	All Break	Friday	31	March	2017
	Good Friday		14	April	2017
	Easter Monday		17	April	2017
TERM 3	All Resume	Tuesday	18	April	2017
	May Day	Monday	1	May	2017
	All Resume	Tuesday	2	May	2017
	Victoria Day	Monday*	22	May	2017
	Pupils Resume	Tuesday	23	May	2017
	Term Ends	Friday	30	June	2017