

# St Mary's RC Primary

## Newsletter 4

### November 2016



#### THANK YOU! THANK YOU! THANK YOU!

A huge thank you to everyone for the fantastic turnout for both parents' evenings last week – 95% - a new record! I am sure you will join me in thanking Mrs Atchison and Mrs Gibson for running the crèche again! Thank you also for completing your “homework” on the night – I will collate your comments and feed this information back to you in the next newsletter. We have taken over £700 in book sales at the book fair and we get most of this in commission – thank you so much. Look out for some new books coming home as part of the First Minister's Reading Challenge!

Thank you to everyone who has informed me that they have returned their pre inspection questionnaire and also volunteered to be part of the Parental Focus Groups for the week of the **Inspection which begins on 7<sup>th</sup> November**. Your support is greatly appreciated.

#### STAFFING NEWS

This term we welcome Mr Niall Harris to the school on a Wednesday and Thursday. On Wednesdays he will work with P3-P7 on Learning Outdoors – at the moment he is focussing on getting to know the children and working on team building and problem solving exercises with the children. Please ensure that your child always has warm clothes and a waterproof jacket on a Wednesday especially. On Thursdays he will be teaching P6 to give Mrs Macaulay Management Time in school.

We also welcome Ms Amy Dolan to the team as Learning Assistant ASN on Mon-Thurs mornings. Ms Dolan is hoping to pursue a career in teaching and this opportunity provides her with invaluable experience to support her application to University.

We have also welcomed back Mrs Atkinson to P2 following her Maternity Leave. She will teach the class on Mondays and Tuesdays and Mr Collins will teach P2 on Wed, Thursday and Friday.

I am delighted to inform you that Miss Calvert, now Mrs Stewart, will be staying with us at St Mary's until June 2018 to cover Miss Arkley's secondment to the Digital Learning Team. She will continue to teach P5 for the remainder of this session.

Liz Laird - Headteacher

On **Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> November**, we will join with the Parish for **All Saints Day Mass at 10.30am**. We will leave school at approximately **10.15am to walk up to the Church of Our Lady**. If you can help accompany the children to and from the Church, please arrive at the school at around **10am** so that you can be allocated a class to walk with. Your support is greatly appreciated.

**NURSERY NEWS** As of today, Monday 31<sup>st</sup> October the Nursery will run morning sessions only. The Nursery provision at St Mary's will be reviewed in January 2017 as we are part of a pilot within Midlothian to explore different options around providing the 600 hours for our preschool children. More information will follow as we receive it. The afternoon children will join the morning children today with a Hallowe'en Party.

There are Uniform order slips and Pantomime payment slips due to be returned to school. Could I urge parents to send all money coming in to the school with their child in a clearly labelled envelope: **CHILD'S NAME, CLASS, REASON FOR PAYMENT** and not directly to the School Office – we have a cash recording system in each class so that teachers can double check that trips etc have been paid for, and this avoids congestion at the school office at the start and finish of each day. It also allows Office staff to double check payments and have all money ready for banking each morning.

**HEAD LICE** We have had significant numbers of children with head lice in school so far this year. Please check your child's hair regularly and treat when you see evidence of lice or eggs. Thank you to those parents who have informed the school when their child has Head Lice.

Thank you to everyone who supported the Parent Council Hallowe'en Disco last Thursday. The costumes were fantastic and a great turnout. Thank you once again to Wendy Bell for donating the fruit for the goody bags. All money raised from the disco goes toward the Poltonhall Gala Day Fund.



**Remember, remember the 5<sup>th</sup> of  
November!!  
Be safe! Remember what the Fire Brigade  
told you!**