

Newsletter—Nov 2016

St Mary's Primary School
Parent Council

Thank you!

I would like to thank all the Parent Council members for their support and hard work over the previous year. I would also like to thank all the parents for supporting the parent council. Through your continued support of the council and the school, we purchased a new Smartboard for the library, along with a large amount of soft furnishings and other items that have made the library a much more pleasant and engaging environment for the children. We were also able to contribute over £1000 towards the whole school attending a Christmas Show last year, something which we have managed to repeat this year.

New School

The topic of replacing St Mary's with a new school has been an ongoing issue for the Parent Council over the last year, and unfortunately despite our best efforts, there is little in the way of good news. We have had many meetings with various interested partners from Midlothian Council, the Church and Education Authority. The summary of our points are as follows: -

- Standard of education at St Mary's is second to none, but unfortunately this is not backed up by the standard of accommodation
- Midlothian Council supports this, and stated in recent report that St Mary's was NOT suitable for a modern primary school
- Council have agreed 'in principle' to replace St Mary's, and recommended a further report to look at this
- Parent Council told by Councillors that this report would be available Autumn 2016 – now passed
- In truth, there is no report planned into feasibility of replacing St Mary's, and certainly no agreed timeline for replacing the building
- Instead a wider report into Catholic primary school provision across the whole of Midlothian will be produced sometime in 2017. This report is to examine the future of all denominational schools in Midlothian
- We believe that HS12 site (located to south of Bonnyrigg, past Lasswade Rugby Club on opposite side of the road) is NOT suitable for replacement site for a school that has a catchment of Bonnyrigg and Lasswade

We are seeking your help to petition your local councillor to: -

- Stress that the standard of the school building is not acceptable and by the Council's own standards, needs replacing
- Express your disappointment that the promised report in to the future of St Mary's is no longer planned
- Ask them how they will help to ensure a suitable replacement for St Mary's is built within the next three years
- State that a school on the outskirts of Bonnyrigg and Lasswade catchment is not suitable.

In May 2017 there are local elections. There has never been a better time to make our case.

Your local Councillors are Bob Constable (SNP), Derek Milligan (Labour) and Ian Baxter (Greens) and can be contacted at: -

bob.constable@midlothian.gov.uk ian.baxter@midlothian.gov.uk derek.milligan@midlothian.gov.uk

You can also contact the head of the council at Catherine.johnstone@midlothian.gov.uk Your MSP Colin Beattie can be reached at Colin.Beattie.msp@parliament.scot

We will continue to work on your behalf to fight for a safe, comfortable and modern environment for your children to learn and develop in. Please assist us by getting in touch with your Councillors, MSP and Council

