

St Mary's RC Primary

Newsletter 7

January 2017



Welcome back and on behalf of the staff a very Happy New Year. I hope you all enjoyed Christmas and had the chance to relax and have a break. On behalf of the staff I would like to thank you for the many cards and gifts you gave us at Christmas. This is of course not necessary but is very much appreciated. Thank you also to the many parents and extended family members who joined us on our last day at the Carol Concert – a terrific turn out and your support is appreciated by everyone in school.

We get straight in to the swing of things in January with sports events and visitors to the school. Please check the list of dates attached for key events this term.

Liz Laird - Headteacher

CHRISTMAS PRESENTS While it is great to see so many children using digital devices confidently, and many children are excited about their new tablet devices received over Christmas, 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/tablets that have not been handed in. At the moment personal tablet devices cannot be used in school – please do not allow your child to bring their tablet to school. The school will not accept responsibility for **ANY** lost, stolen or damaged electronic devices

It is great to see so many children cycling and scooting to school – please ensure your child wears a cycle helmet – I have some helmets in school I can issue to anyone who does not have one – first come first served.

HEAD LICE

As you know this is a recurring problem in schools, especially after a holiday period. Please check your child's hair on a regular basis. Prevention is better than cure, so please tie back long hair for school. If your child does have head lice the whole family need to complete a course of treatment – this includes follow up treatment a week later to ensure that all eggs have been killed and any new lice are killed too. We have a number of recurring cases in school – your support and cooperation is essential to prevent head lice spreading throughout the class.

Could you please ensure that **ALL** medicines brought to school especially inhalers are clearly labelled with your child's name and class. **ALL MEDICATION SHOULD BE HANDED IN TO THE SCHOOL OFFICE AND A SCHOOL MEDICAL FORM COMPLETED.** Any medication to be collected must be collected by an adult – it cannot be sent home with a child.

*****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. If your child is unwell please state what is wrong as we have to collate numbers with sickness and diarrhoea in each class in case of Norovirus outbreak. We also have to inform staff and parents of children who have compromised immune systems when there is an infectious disease in school.

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. There are a number of children arriving late for school almost every day and letters will be sent home this week alerting parents to their child's statistics. . Please also collect your children promptly and telephone the school if you are running late.

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.

DIARY DATES

Tuesday 17 th January 2017	Parent Council Meeting – 7.15pm
Wednesday 18 th January	P7 Sporsthall Athletics
Monday 23 rd January	IEP meetings
Tuesday 24 th January	IEP Meetings
Thursday 26 th January	P1 and P7 group Photograph
Wednesday 1 st February	Meeting for Parents P5/6/7 – Sex Education and Keeping Myself Safe
Monday 13 th February	In Service Day – School Closed
Tuesday 14 th February	In Service Day – School Closed
15 th – 17 th February	February Holiday – School closed
Monday 20 th February	All pupils resume
Tuesday 28 th February	Shrove Tuesday
Wednesday 1 st March	Ash Wednesday Mass 10.30am – Church of Our Lady Bonnyrigg
Wednesday 8 th March	Meeting for P7 pupils and parents re School Camp 7pm
Tuesday 14 th March	P7 basketball festival
Tuesday 21 st March	P7 Hockey Festival P4 Parents Meeting re Confirmation – 7.30pm – Our Lady Church Hall Bonnyrigg
Friday 24 th March	Red Nose Day
Monday 27 th March	Book Fair Arrives
Tuesday 28 th March	Parents' Evening 5.30-8.30pm
Wednesday 29 th March	Parents' Evening 3.45- 5.45pm
Friday 31 st March	Easter Assembly – end of term
3 rd April – 17 th April	Easter Holiday – School closed