

# Newsletter—March 2017

St Mary's Primary School  
Parent Council

As you will all no doubt be aware, Midlothian Council has now agreed to alter the decision made relating to the new school at the site of the former Hopefield Primary. There will now be a new school provided for St Mary's on this site. I'd like to take this opportunity to thank the Parent Council and all the parents and carers who have supported us through this period. I am sure you will all agree that this is a great achievement and that the children will soon have a much more comfortable and inspiring learning environment. This, combined with the first-class teaching staff St Mary's has, means that the future for all our children is very good indeed.

Before going into the plans for the build of the new school further, I would like to take this opportunity to comment on the recent inspection. I spoke with Susan Gow, the Lead Inspector and she was full of praise for the staff, and kids of St Mary's. The recent letter which was sent home reflects this. Mrs Laird and her staff are a credit to the school and I would like to say thank you and well done to them all.

On Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> February, we had a meeting of the Parent Council which was attended by members of the Council, Education and Project team for the new school, who gave us an update on activities to date and what will happen next.

The new school will be a joint campus, with Burnbrae Primary sharing with St Mary's. You may already be aware of this decision, and issues arising from the parent forum of Burnbrae. These are understandable concerns they have, but I can assure you that this will not affect St Mary's in any way. We will be working hard with all parties to provide the best school for the kids.

The budget for the new build is £9 million. A consultation process will start soon with drop in sessions organised for Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> and Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> at Lasswade Centre. I strongly encourage you all to attend one of these sessions (Letters have been sent home).

The next stage of the process is planning, tendering and then build. These processes should be swift and the Project team hope to be on site commencing work in August this year, with an aspirational completion date of Summer 2018.

During the planning process, Mrs Laird, her staff and the Parent Council will be working to ensure the new school will be an inspiring learning space for all the children. This is an exciting time for all and we have the opportunity to create something that will benefit our children for generations to come.

Thank you for reading this, if you have any specific questions please speak to any Parent Council member or email [stmarysrcpc@gmail.com](mailto:stmarysrcpc@gmail.com)

I will keep you up to date and hope to follow progress with photographs and updates via our Facebook page @stmaryspc

