

STMARY'S RC PRIMARY SCHOOL

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EDUCATION

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13th June 2017

Dear Parents and Carers

CHANGES FOR SESSION 2017 – 2018

SCHOOL START AND FINISHING TIMES

Thank you for your prompt return of the school times slips. I can confirm that by far the most popular option was option 2 and that from August 2017 the school day for all pupils P1-P7 will be:

Mon- Thursday – 9am – 3.30pm

Friday – 9am – 12.15pm

Our new P1 pupils will be in school 9am – 12 noon from Tuesday 22nd August to Friday 1st September.
P1 will begin full time on Monday 4th September.

CLASS ORGANISATION

Due to our small intake into P1 this year and last, I have been asked to create Composite Classes for next session. The class organisation will be as follows for August 2017:

Primary 1/2 – Mrs MacKerron

Primary 2/3 – Mrs Bringmans

Primary 3/4 – Mrs Brolly

Primary 4/5 – Mr Collins and Mrs Atkinson

Primary 6 – Mrs Stewart

Primary 7 – Miss Todman

We will be using our Pupil Equity Fund to address the attainment gaps in literacy and numeracy. Mrs Macaulay (PT) will be providing additional support for pupils in core Literacy, Numeracy and Health and Well Being as well as teaching some blocks of music. She will be team teaching in P3/4, P4/5 and P6 as well as supporting maths setting between P6 and P7.

Please see the attached leaflet with additional information about the creation of composite classes. The composition of the classes has not yet been finalised. You will be notified of the class your child is in when you receive their end of year progress report on Monday 26th June.

Next session we also welcome Miss Gilhooley from Edinburgh University, who will be working in the school throughout the year.

NURSERY CHANGES

Sadly, Mrs Wheater will be resigning from her post as Senior CCDW and moving to work in Cuiken Nursery in Penicuik. Our loss is surely Cuiken's gain and we will be very sad to see her go. Mrs Wheater has been at St Mary's for 8 years, and worked in all classes in the school as a Learning Assistant before taking up the post of CCDW then Senior CCDW in our Nursery. She has been leading the changes and improvements in the Nursery with the Team and our families since February last session and has done a terrific job. She will be greatly missed.

Our Nursery will continue to be mornings only next session and Mrs Henderson and Miss Kibble will continue to support our youngest learners, with Mrs Henderson acting up into the role of Senior CCDW, a position she held before joining us at St Mary's last year.

OTHER STAFFING NEWS

At the end of June we will say “au revoir” to Miss Dolan who has been working as a Learning Assistant in the school this year. She is leaving to complete a Post Graduate Course in Primary Teaching at Moray House next session. She has been an asset to the team this year and we know she will do brilliantly as a teacher in the future.

We also say thank you and goodbye to Mr Harris who has provided blocks of lessons in Music, Outdoor Learning and Problem Solving this year, as well as Management Time for Mrs Macaulay. Mr Harris will be taking up a teaching post a bit closer to home.

I am sure you will join me in wishing them all the best for the future.

NEW SCHOOL

The consultation period about the change of location for St Mary’s RCPS will be concluding soon and a final decision will be made at Midlothian Council Cabinet in September 2017. As you know we anticipate moving to a school with an increased roll and 8 classes in addition to a 40 place Nursery.

I look forward to working closely with you over the next two years as final decisions are made over the design and finish of our new building. Thank you to the Parent Council who have campaigned so hard to secure this new building for the future of our school.

Thank you for your continued support of the school.

Liz Laird
Headteacher