

St Mary's RC Primary

Newsletter 1

August 2017



Welcome back everyone and a special welcome to our 15 new P1 pupils and to new pupils in P2, P3, P4, P5 and P6. I hope everyone had a good summer break and is ready for a busy term. On behalf of the staff can I thank you for the many gifts, cakes and cards you handed in at the end of term – your kind words and generosity is greatly appreciated.

The children all look smart in their school uniforms and SEEM happy to be back at school. A wee reminder that long hair should be tied back for school – there is always a lot of head lice on returning from a school break – and that jewellery should not be worn to school. Mrs Tait will now teach PE on Wednesdays and it is essential that everyone has a change of clothes for PE – tee shirt, shorts or joggers and gym shoes. If not spare kit will be issued!! Mobile phones MUST be handed in to the School Office each day.

We welcome Mrs Sandra Henderson to the post of Senior Childcare and Development Worker this session. Mrs Henderson and Miss Kibble will continue to lead the Nursery sessions each morning. We also welcome Ms Linda Gordon to the school on a Tuesday to teach blocks of lessons in RME.

PLEASE NOTE – NEW SCHOOL TIMES

Mon – Thurs 9am – 3.30pm for all pupils P1-P7

Friday 9am – 12.15pm

P1 pupils finish at 12 pm - full time from 4th September

I hope to have a full calendar of dates for you as soon as possible, so look out for it coming home in book bags. There is a list of term dates included in your envelope. In the meantime if you have any questions please don't hesitate to contact the school.

Mrs Liz Laird – Head Teacher

*** IMPORTANT DATE FOR DIARY ***

Wednesday 6th September at 7pm

ST MARY'S PARENT COUNCIL AGM

If you would like to become part of a forward thinking Parent Council, who will be actively involved in taking St Mary's forward and being involved in the decision making process about a new school, then come along to the meeting to find out more.

We need to elect new Office Bearers and Parent representatives for each class in the school. Please think about putting yourself forward – the school needs you!

PLEASE NOTE Any money to be handed in to school should be given to your child to be recorded against the class cash sheet at registration time. All money should be in an envelope with your child's name, class and reason for payment clearly labelled. Please avoid handing money into the School Office.

ALL MEDICATION MUST be handed in to the school office and the appropriate medical form completed. Please do not ever give your child medication to bring to school in their bag. Pupils requiring inhalers need to have two in school – one in class and one at the school office. Please check expiry dates on medication such as epi pens and inhalers.

SCHOOL MEALS are now £1.90. Cash can be sent in each day in a named envelope or purse – change is given. Or you can send in the amount for the week and we will hold this in school for use each day.

*****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. Please also collect your children promptly and telephone the school if you are running late.

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 Children and Families Team 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.

On a very wet morning I will open the door to the gym hall for children to gather from 8.50am.

KEY DATES FOR THE DIARY

Tuesday 29 th August	P4 Swimming begins – let the School Office know if you can help
Monday 4 th September	P1 begin full days in school
Wed 6 th September	Parent Council AGM 7pm
Wed 13 th September	Tempest Photographer – individual and family group photographs
Friday 15 th September	School Closed - Holiday
Mon 18 th September	School Closed - Holiday

