

St Mary's RC Primary

Newsletter 5

November 2017



HALLOWE'EN DISCO

Thank you to everyone who supported the Hallowe'en Disco. The money raised will be donated to the Poltonhall Gala Day Fund. Thanks especially to the Parent Council members who organised the event and to Wendy Bell who again donated the fruit for the goody bags.

PARENT COUNCIL - URGENT REQUEST FOR SUPPORT AND MEMBERSHIP

Sadly Kerry Ann and Paul Baker have decided to step down from the Parent Council – they have both been active members for over 8 years and their contribution will be greatly missed. We therefore need new class representatives for the following classes – **P4, P6, P7** and for someone to take on the **role of Secretary**. The Parent Council are meeting tonight (Wednesday 8th Nov) in the school at 7.15pm and ask that all members attend. If you are able to take on one of the vacant roles please come along to the meeting tonight where you will be warmly welcomed.

PUPIL VOICE GROUPS

The pupil committees met in school last week to plan a series of events for the year ahead. November is a busy month with many requests from charities. We have been supporting Poppy Scotland this week. We will celebrate **St Andrew's Day on 30th November** by joining with "Kilts for Kids" who support many local charities who work directly with children in schools. **The Charities Committee** will be selling tartan badges in the playground in the week leading up to St Andrew's Day and everyone is invited to come to school wearing something tartan.

The **JRSO group** will be organising events for **Road Safety Week which begins on 20th November** – "Be Safe Be Seen" is a theme they will be exploring. Please do your bit to keep the children safe around the school by using the car park safely – children should not be coming into the playground via the school car parks – please use the pupil entrance. A number of children are running into the car park after school when there are cars moving and turning and it is not safe.

The Eco Group will be collecting old toys that are still in good condition to be recycled for Christmas. This may be a stall at the Christmas Fair?! **Missio money** is collected in school every week so please continue to send in your 1p, 2p and 5p coins that get stuck in your purse or pocket!

Liz Laird - Headteacher

P1 REGISTRATION FOR AUGUST 2018

Enrolment week is week beginning 20th November. On Monday 20th November I will have two meetings at 9am and again at 1.30pm to share a short presentation and tour of the school with parents. Enrolment forms can be completed during these meetings or can be handed in to the school office throughout the week. I look forward to welcoming you on 20th November.

NEW SCHOOL

I have now met with the project team twice in relation to plans for the new school and Mrs Beveridge, HT Burnbrae, and I speak regularly about our vision and hopes for the new school. Once plans have been finalised I will share these with you. In the meantime please spread the word that St Mary's is not being demolished or closing (latest local rumours) and that we are relocating to a new school in 2019!

CONGRATULATIONS to our P7 pupils who have participated in a series of sporting events this term. 3rd place at the Hockey Festival and lots of goals scored and matches won at the football festivals too. They have represented the school really well and you should be very proud of them. Thanks to our parent helpers who made it possible to go!

ANTI BULLYING WEEK begins next week and pupils will be reminded about what bullying is and what to do if they feel bullied or witness bullying behaviour. Look out for leaflets and information coming home. Do you know what your child posts on Social Media? Is your child being bullied on social media? Check it out!

PUPIL ABSENCE

Please note that it is parents' responsibility to inform the school of pupil absence. If leaving a message please state child's name, class and most importantly reason for absence. At this time of year we have to monitor instances of sickness and diarrhoea. Office staff are spending as much as 1 hour each morning phoning parents to find out reasons for absence which takes time away from other office duties.

LATENESS

This has reached unacceptable levels in the school with as many as 16 children being late on one day last week – school begins at 9am. Please be in the playground on time so that your child can line up with their class. Again, office staff spend the first half hour each day answering the buzzer repeatedly to children who arrive late. Many children tell me and their teacher how embarrassed they feel coming into the class late. Please don't put your child in this position.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Wed 15 th November	P7 Basketball
Mon 20 th November	P1 Enrolment Week – Meetings at 9am and 1.30pm Road Safety Week
Tuesday 21 st November	Parents Meeting re: Reconciliation Our Lady Church Hall 7pm – 8pm
Thursday 23 rd November	Flu vaccinations P6 Trip to Stirling Castle
Thursday 30 th November	St Andrew's Day – Kilts for Kids
Saturday 2 nd December	Bonnyrigg Lights
Thursday 7 th December	Christmas Fair
Thursday 14 th December	School Christmas Lunch
Sunday 17 th December	Sacrament of Reconciliation for P3 and P4 pupils St Matthew's Church Rosewell 5pm
Wednesday 20 th December	Nativity 1.30pm and 7pm
Thursday 21 st December	Carol Service 2.30pm
Friday 22 nd December	Whole school to Brunton Theatre for Pantomime End of Term



Lest We Forget.