

# St Mary's RC Primary

## Newsletter 1

### August 2019



Welcome back everyone and a special welcome to our new P1 pupils and to new pupils in classes across the school. 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.

Sadly Mrs Macaulay has not been able to join us for the start of the new term as her Father died suddenly last week. I am sure you will join with us in remembering her and her family in your prayers. She will hopefully return to school next week.

We welcome Miss Kydd to teach in P4/5 this session, and Ms Aird to teach Drama across all classes on a Thursday this year. Mrs Macaulay will be teaching music to all classes this term with an eye on a Christmas extravaganza to mark our last Christmas in this building.

The new school is really taking shape and we hope to have groups of children and parents up to visit this term. I will have a site visit this Friday and can update you on the progress made over the summer.

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 soon. In the meantime please find attached a revised list of holiday dates which includes the two additional In Service Days awarded as part of the Teacher's pay claim. Please add these into your diaries as the school will be closed to pupils. Please return your update forms to school ASAP and by Friday at the latest so that all emergency contact details can be updated.

Mrs Liz Laird – Head Teacher

#### \*\*\* IMPORTANT DATE FOR DIARY \*\*\*

Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> August 6.30pm

#### DENOMINATIONAL SCHOOL REVIEW CONSULTATION MEETING

This is an opportunity to get involved in the Consultation process as part of the Denominational Schools Review being undertaken by Midlothian Council. This is an important meeting about the future of our Catholic Schools in the authority and we need a good representation of parents. There is also a meeting at St David's HS on Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> August at 6.30pm if you cannot manage to attend the one at St Mary's.

#### \*\*\* IMPORTANT DATE FOR DIARY \*\*\*

Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> September 7.15pm

#### PARENT COUNCIL AGM

The next year is a very important one for the school as we will be moving into our new school building at Easter 2020. We need a parent representative for each class in the school as well as Office bearers who will take the lead in coordinating events. Please come along to find out more and to support the school.

**FREE SCHOOL MEAL ENTITLEMENT** Please check to see if you are entitled to **FME**. If you are this also enable your child to have free milk, discount on Active Schools activities, Skiing and School Camp. It also means that the school is given additional money to support learning via the **Pupil Equity Fund**. Remember if your child has moved into P4 they will no longer automatically receive a free school meal. Mrs Hogg or Mrs Phillips will happily help you complete forms if required.

**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. Only school meals and milk can be paid using Parent Pay. **SCHOOL MEALS are now £2.10** Please use Parent Pay to pay for school meals. If your account is in arrears you cannot continue to order meals without paying for them. Please provide a packed lunch for your child and contact the school to discuss any difficulties in making payments.  
**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.**

**\*\*\*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.

**REMINDERS**

- **PE KIT** Please provide a change of tee shirt, shorts/joggers/leggings and gym shoes for PE. Jewellery should not be worn in school and certainly not for PE.
- **WATERPROOF JACKET** Please ensure your child has a waterproof jacket for school every day – a number of pupils were caught out in the heavy showers yesterday with no jacket.
- **HEALTHY SNACKS** Please provide a small, healthy snack for your child for playtime – this is only 15 minutes so one item is really enough. Please also provide your child with a reusable water bottle to have in the class. This will come home each day to be washed. Please label the bottle with your child's name.
- **SCHOOL UNIFORM** Our uniform is a burgundy jumper with the school badge on it and white or pale blue shirt or polo shirt. This can be purchased via <http://www.schoolwearmadeeasy.com/Schools-and-Nurseries/S> **PLEASE ENSURE YOUR CHILD'S NAME IS ON ALL UNIFORM, LUNCH BAGS, WATER BOTTLES, PLIMSOLLS ETC**
- **PARENT HELPERS** We are always looking for parent helpers for trips and sports events. This year we will also be looking for parents to help with clearing the school prior to moving. If you can help in any way, please pass your details in to the School Office. **P4** have swimming beginning this Friday and we will need a rota of parent helpers to accompany the children. Please complete the slip sent home if you can help.

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

