

St Mary's RC Primary

Newsletter 2

October 2020



Thank you for your very positive feedback from our telephone consultations this week. It has really given the staff a boost, especially this week with horrible weather and dark mornings.

A few parents have asked why the children are no longer being allowed in to the school ahead of the bell on a wet morning. This is because we are not allowed to gather the children together as a whole school. Please ensure you send your child to school with a waterproof, warm jacket and suitable footwear. You are welcome to send a pair of wellies into school to be kept in the cloakroom, as we will be outside for playtimes whenever possible. The school gates don't open until 8.45am and you should be arriving as close to the bell as possible to "drop and go" and avoid gathering in the school playground.

Thank you to parents who are following Midlothian Council's advice to wear face coverings within the school playground. Please continue to respect the rules in place for the playground:

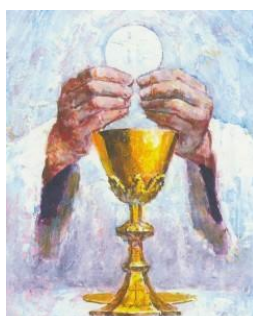
- Only Nursery, P1 and P2 parents should be in the playground to collect at the end of the day
- to drop and go where possible
- one adult dropping off and picking up per household
- maintain 2m distancing from other households.

Mrs Macaulay and I are in the playground to supervise at the start and the end of the day, and can pass on any messages to teachers for you.

School will finish on Friday at the usual time for the October holiday. Pupils will all return on Tuesday 27th October. I hope you all get the chance to relax and enjoy some family time together over the holiday.

Mrs Liz Laird – Head Teacher

I know many of you will be busy in the garden over the holiday. If anyone can spare some Spring flowering bulbs and compost we would love to have them to plant at the base of the trees in the playground. If you know a friendly garden centre maybe they could donate some to the school – use your charm.



CONGRATULATIONS to Julia, Samuel, Oliver, Vance, Luke, Joseph and Holly who made their First Holy Communion on Saturday 3rd October at St Matthew's in Rosewell. Despite not being able to celebrate with the wider Parish it was a lovely Mass and the children participated so well – we are very proud of you all.

Thank you to everyone who attended the Parent Council AGM meeting in September. I would like to thank, on behalf of all the staff and parents, Chris Shields who is stepping down as Chairperson this year. Chris was pivotal in securing the new school for St Mary's and expressing parental views as the project was delayed many times. Our new Office Bearers are:

Chairperson – Annette Egan (Sophie P4)
 Vice Chair – Suzanne Fegan (Harrison P1)
 Treasurer – Joanna Shields (Joseph P5)
 Secretary – Kelly Stewart (Grace P1 and Johnny P4)

I am delighted to welcome new members from a range of classes too.
 The next virtual meeting of the Parent Council is on **Tuesday 27th October at 7.15pm via Zoom**.
 Invitations to follow.

POLITE REMINDERS

- **PUPIL ABSENCE** – parents **MUST** contact the school either by phone or email to report pupil absence. Please give child's name, class and reason for absence when leaving a message. Tel: 0131 271 4690 email stmarys_ps@midlothian.gov.uk
- Please check that your child has everything before they leave for school in the morning. We are starting to have a lot of forgotten items such as lunch bags/glasses/water bottles being handed in to the School Office at a time when we should be having as few people in the building as possible.
- Please return information to the School Office or Nursery by the date indicated on the letters – paperwork needs to be quarantined at the office before being processed and delays are causing a back log of work at the Office
- **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. **WE ARE A NUT FREE SCHOOL – NO NUTS/NUTTY CEREAL BARS/ NUTTY BREAD ETC.**

DIARY DATES

| | |
|--|--|
| 19 TH – 23 RD OCTOBER | SCHOOL HOLIDAY |
| MONDAY 26 TH OCTOBER | IN SERVICE DAY – SCHOOL CLOSED TO PUPILS |
| TUESDAY 27 TH OCTOBER | ALL RESUME |
| FRIDAY 30 TH OCTOBER | HALLOWE'EN PARTIES |
| MONDAY 23 RD NOVEMBER | NEW P1 ENROLMENT FOR 2021 |
| MONDAY 30 TH NOVEMBER | FLU VACCINATIONS |
| TUESDAY 8 TH DECEMBER | FIRST CONFESSIONS 1.30PM |
| 23 RD DEC – 5 TH JANUARY | SCHOOL HOLIDAY |
| WEDNESDAY 6 TH JANUARY 2020 | ALL RESUME |

Happy October Holiday

PARKSMART

School gate congestion causes great frustration to all of us and can be a road safety danger for our pupils. If we work closely together we can make a difference.

Now that we have settled into our new school, over the next few weeks St Mary's Primary will be running **PARKSMART**, a school gate congestion initiative. **THIS CAMPAIGN WILL ONLY BE SUCCESSFUL WITH YOUR SUPPORT AND CO-OPERATION.**

Each week we will be building on our campaign to encourage you, if you drive to school, to **park away from the school zone** or even better allow your child to walk/cycle to school, even part of the way. If it is **absolutely necessary** to drive your child please park well out with the immediate school zone and Park Smartly. Remember there is parking availability at the pavilion/rugby club car park where pupils can cross over safely with the School Crossing Guide and walk to school. Please avoid parking near junctions and obey road markings/signage. If everyone that usually drives to/from school tries a little to ease the congestion this will make a significant difference to the safety and wellbeing of our pupils.

We would also like to ask you to choose a safe place to cross the busy main road. There is a pedestrian crossing and 2 School Crossing Guide facilities located to assist crossing of this road, please use one of these and don't cross in-between. We are keen that even younger accompanied pupils learn to use these safe crossing points as they will then continue to do so when they're old enough to travel on their own. Please also do not walk through the staff car park area behind the cars – use the pavement!

Please pass on this message to everyone who will be part of your child's journey to/from school i.e. child-minders or grandparents.

PARK SAFELY

WALK SAFELY

CROSS SAFELY

Thank you for your anticipated support.

Mr Collins and P5/6 Junior Road Safety Officers

