

# St Mary's RC Primary

## Newsletter 5

### December 2021



#### CHRISTMAS ARRANGEMENTS

Thank you to everyone who has donated to the class hampers for the Christmas Raffle – they are already looking great. The last day for donations will be Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> December so that we can get the hampers all wrapped and looking fabulous!!!! The raffle will be drawn on Monday 20<sup>th</sup> December.

The last day to return unsold raffle tickets and money is also Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> December – thanks to those who have already returned these and taken some more to sell!!

The virtual Christmas Fair appears to be going well and thank you to everyone who has supported the school in this way. Here is the link to the Fair again. <https://www.facebook.com/groups/403854721200219>

The Christmas Show – Hosanna Rock - will be recorded on Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> December – if you have not returned a signed consent for your child to be recorded they will not appear in the video. The children can wear Christmas jumpers/hats etc that day.

The school Christmas Lunches are on Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> December for Nursery and on Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> December for the school. The meals need to be pre-ordered and this must be sent in to school by Friday 10<sup>th</sup> December at the very latest. The children are invited to wear their Christmas jumpers on this day too.

Please check the list of Diary Dates for the timings of school Christmas Parties. Children should come dressed for their party but appropriate for the weather – we are not changing classes of children into party dresses etc.!

Weather permitting on the last day of term from 2.30pm we will host an outdoors Carol Concert and would like to invite parents and carers to attend and join us in some Christmas Carols. If the weather is wet we will have this indoors but unfortunately we cannot invite the parents into the school for this - the children would gather (distanced ) in the dining room and staircase area for our Christingle service.

School will finish at the normal time of 3.30pm on Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> December. On behalf of all the staff at St Mary's we wish you a Happy Christmas and Best Wishes for 2022.

Mrs Liz Laird - Headteacher

**STAFFING UPDATE** Last week we said a fond farewell to our Learning Assistant Mrs Halliday who left us to take up a post as a Youth Worker at Burnbrae Primary. We will also be saying a fond farewell to Mrs Amanda Grigg who is leaving to join the team at Bonnyrigg Primary. Her last day with us will be Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> December. Amanda has worked at St Mary's for 2 years.

Mrs Macaulay, DHT, had returned to work earlier in November but has had to take more time off. She hopes to be back in the New Year.

We currently have vacancies advertised on My Job Scotland for Learning Assistants and EYP for the Nursery. Please spread the word if you know of someone who is qualified and looking for a post.

The school entrance system has now been repaired. Parents should not enter the building unless they really need to – if collecting a sick child they will be brought to you. If arriving late just after 9am, children will be sent round to the playground to join their lines as the teachers are still bringing the last line in at 9.05am.

### ABSENCES FROM SCHOOL AND LATE ARRIVAL TO SCHOOL

This is beginning to creep up and is becoming a problem to manage at the school office in the morning. School starts at 9am and either myself or a learning assistant is at the gates from 8.45am to supervise the children arriving to school. We are still there for a few minutes after the bell has rung at 9am. We have increasing numbers of children coming to the office entrance to the school a few minutes after 9am to be let into school. This is disruptive to the work being done in the Office and younger children have to be escorted through the school as they need to be fobbed in. This is continuing from 9am sometimes through to 9.40am. Please help your child to arrive at school on time and to be in the line for the bell at 9am. It is embarrassing for them and disruptive to the class to arrive late – some almost every day.

<b>Week beginning 6/12/21 (to Wed)</b>	<b>24 children late</b>
<b>Week beginning 29/11/21</b>	<b>29 children late</b>
<b>Week beginning 22/11/21</b>	<b>26 children late</b>
<b>Week beginning 15/11/21</b>	<b>14 children late</b>
<b>Week beginning 8/11/21</b>	<b>31 children late</b>

When reporting pupil absence please remember to give your child's name and class and most importantly the reason for absence. We have a number of children in the school who are immunosuppressed and need to know about communicable infectious diseases such as chickenpox etc. We also have a weekly Covid return to provide to Midlothian and the Health Protection Team.

### DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

<b>WEDNESDAY 8<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER</b>	<b>PARENT COUNCIL MEETING IN SCHOOL 7PM</b>
<b>FRIDAY 10<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER</b>	<b>SEASONS FOR GROWTH CELEBRATION</b>
<b>SUNDAY 12<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER</b>	<b>FIRST CONFESSIONS – PARISH RECONCILIATION SERVICE 5PM ST MATTHEW'S CHURCH ROSEWELL – PUPILS SHOULD ARRIVE FOR 4.45PM</b>
<b>TUESDAY 14<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER</b>	<b>HOSANNA ROCK BEING RECORDED – WEAR CHRISTMAS JUMPER/HAT ETC</b>
<b>WEDNESDAY 15<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER</b>	<b>ALL SOLD/ UNSOLD RAFFLE TICKETS RETURNED TO SCHOOL LAST DAY FOR HAMPER DONATIONS NURSERY CHRISTMAS LUNCH</b>
<b>THURSDAY 16<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER</b>	<b>SCHOOL CHRISTMAS LUNCH AND CHRISTMAS FILM – WEAR CHRISTMAS JUMPERS/ HATS ETC</b>
<b>MONDAY 20<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER</b>	<b>PARENT COUNCIL CHRISTMAS RAFFLE DRAW P4 CHRISTMAS PARTY AM      P5 CHRISTMAS PARTY AM P1 CHRISTMAS PARTY PM      P2 CHRISTMAS PARTY PM</b>
<b>TUESDAY 21<sup>ST</sup> DECEMBER</b>	<b>P3 CHRISTMAS PARTY AM P6 CHRISTMAS PARTY PM      P7 CHRISTMAS PARTY PM</b>
<b>WEDNESDAY 22<sup>ND</sup> DECEMBER</b>	<b>CHRISTMAS CAROLS OUTDOORS – WEATHER PERMITTING END OF TERM 2 AT 3.30PM</b>
<b>THURSDAY 23<sup>RD</sup> DECEMBER- MONDAY 10<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY</b>	<b>SCHOOL CLOSED TO PUPILS FOR CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY AND IN SERVICE DAY</b>
<b>TUESDAY 11<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY</b>	<b>ALL RESUME FOR TERM 3</b>

**We wish you a Merry Christmas  
and a Happy New Year!**

