



St Mary's RC Primary

Newsletter 1

August 2023



On behalf of all the staff I would like to extend a warm welcome back to our children and families and a warm welcome to our new pupils, not just in P1 but across all classes. It has been lovely to see how quickly everyone has settled back into school. We also welcome our new members of staff – Mrs Rebecca Choat as Principal Teacher and Ms Justyna Dziedzic to P6.

This newsletter is just a short one to provide you with some key dates for this term and a few key messages. Please add dates to your own calendars and look out for further information coming home via the school bookbags. A fuller calendar of dates will be issued in the next few weeks. All letters and communications are also posted on the school website, and from time to time we will contact you via groupcall text to your mobile phones.

Please note **ANNUAL UPDATES** have already been sent home – these **MUST be returned by 31st August** including flu vaccination consent. Please check that you have signed all the relevant forms as we have had to return several forms unsigned. **P4 swimming starts this Friday – your child will not be able to go if you have not returned the signed consent form.** Thank you to parents who have volunteered to help.

PLEASE! PLEASE! PLEASE! Write your child's name/initials/class on their jumpers. Our lost property rack is now full again!!

Mrs Liz Laird - Headteacher

DROP OFF AND PICK UP FROM SCHOOL

Please ensure your child has everything they need for school each day – this includes a **waterproof jacket** as they will be outside in light rain. Drop off will continue to be at the school gate with children lining up in their classes. Please be on time for going in with the class at 9am. Learning Assistants are there to supervise in the playground from 8.45am – younger children should not be left in the playground before this time.

Mon – Thurs 9am – 3.30pm (P1 & P2 pick up at 3.25pm)

Friday 9am – 12.15pm (P1 & P2 pick up at 12.10pm)

P1 & P2 will continue to be let out 5 minutes ahead of the rest of the school to ensure a safe handover to parents in the playground. Could parents of children in other classes stand back until P1 & P2 are collected safely. You can then come forward to collect your child as they are dismissed. Pupils are advised to wait with a member of staff if they don't see their adult or to go to the school office if uncollected. I am usually in the playground until all pupils are collected.

A FEW KEY MESSAGES

*****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 from you, 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 have to inform the Children and Families Team.

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.



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SOME REMINDERS

<p>Please provide your child with a water bottle for school. This should only have water in it and not juice. One small, healthy snack is all that is required for playtime. We have seen several family bags of crisps this week already!!!</p>	<p>Packed lunches should not include nuts or products containing nuts as we have a number of children in school with severe nut allergies. No fizzy drinks please.</p> <p>Please do not send in sweets/cakes/etc for your child's birthday. We have too many pupils with dietary requirements and cannot share these in class.</p>
<p>Please provide a PE kit in a suitable named bag to be kept in school – a plain tee shirt (no football colours), shorts or joggers and plimsolls or soft trainers for use in the hall. Pupils will get changed for PE and P3-P7 will use the changing rooms upstairs.</p>	<p>Pupils should not wear jewellery to school and certainly not on PE days. Earrings that can't be removed will be taped over. All pupils are expected to participate in 2 hours of quality PE each week unless there is a medical reason.</p>
<p>The school will provide all resources needed in class. Please keep pen and pencil sets at home.</p>	<p>Pupils are not permitted to use their phones during the school day and they should be handed in to the teacher in class in the morning. The school does not accept any liability for lost or damaged phones.</p>
<p>Please note dogs are not permitted on school grounds. Please keep dogs away from the gates and leave space for people to walk around them – some people are very nervous around dogs and some dogs are very nervous in crowds of people.</p>	<p>Please only use the car park if there is space to do so – don't double park or use the disabled spaces as a turning point. We have a number of children, parents and carers who need to use these spaces. We have several cars parking behind the EV and disabled spaces preventing cars from turning into or reversing out of the space. Parking is at your own risk and the School and Midlothian Council will not be liable for any damage to your vehicle.</p>
<p>Please use the pelican crossing to cross over Rosewell Road. We have had a few near misses and we don't want any more of our children to be hurt on the road.</p>	<p>DROP OFF AND POP OFF is the message for the Drop Off Point on Rosewell Road. Please allow other parents to use the space once you have dropped your child off.</p>

Some sad news. Due to Father Allan's ill health he will be leaving our Parish and moving to North Berwick and Dunbar. This weekend will be his last weekend with us at Mass. I am sure you will join us in wishing him a safe and healthy administration in his new Parish. We will welcome Father Michael from Falkirk in the school next week.

Also very sadly, our dear friend to the school and Chaplain for many years, Sister Rose died yesterday. Please pray for the repose of her soul.

KEY DATES	
FRIDAY 25 TH AUGUST	P4 SWIMMING STARTS FOR 12 WEEKS
SUNDAY 3 RD AUGUST	PARISH FETE – please return stubs, money and unsold tickets to school by 29 th August
FRIDAY 15 TH SEPTEMBER	School closed – September weekend
MONDAY 18 TH SEPTEMBER	School closed – September weekend
MONDAY 16 TH OCTOBER – FRIDAY 20 TH OCTOBER	School closed – October Holiday
MONDAY 23 RD OCTOBER	School closed to pupils – In Service Day
FRIDAY 22 ND DECEMBER	SCHOOL CLOSSES AT 12.15PM FOR CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY