



St Mary's RC Primary

Newsletter 1

August 2024



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 back Mrs Stewart who will be teaching P7 part time with Mrs Choat who is now our permanent DHT.

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. We will be trialling the use of a School App for communications this year and we will let you know when this is live.

Please note **ANNUAL UPDATES** have already been sent home – these **MUST be returned by 29th August** including flu vaccination consent. Please check that you have signed all the relevant forms as we have to return any forms that are unsigned. House points are awarded on a sliding scale for prompt return of these forms! We must have emergency contacts for every child in school and up to date contacts for parents.

PLEASE! PLEASE! PLEASE! Write your child's name/initials/class on their jumpers/jackets/PE kit/shoes/plimsolls. Our lost property rack is filling up rapidly!

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. Children (and adults) should not cycle or scoot in the playground as it is too busy and we have had collisions over the years!

HEAD LICE – we have a number of children in school with head lice following the school holidays – please be vigilant and check and treat hair promptly. All long hair should be tied back in school.

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 Groupcall 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 at Midlothian Council.

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. Please use the playground entrance in the first instance as the classes are still coming in at 9:05am. The Office should not be used for dropping off children unless especially late or without prior arrangement. Your child misses important information at the start of the day and it is disruptive to the class and embarrassing for them. Please also avoid raising non-urgent requests at the school office at this time as staff are busy receiving phone calls – completing registration etc.



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ESSENTIAL INFORMATION AND POLITE 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>Please note – we actively discourage the children from sharing snacks due to the prevalence of a range of food allergies and intolerances.</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. A small carton of juice is permitted.</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>As a minimum school uniform requirement, please provide a burgundy school or plain jumper. We have some in our uniform exchange if you need any. Jeans should not be worn to school.</p>	<p>The school will provide all resources needed in class. Please keep pen and pencil sets at home.</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. Please tell other family members too.</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 – pupils in P1-P5 are all eligible for a free school meal. P6 & P7 need to pay for a meal which is £2.10 per day and this should be made via Parent Pay. This is not a credit facility – please put money into the account to pay for a meal before ordering one. Contact the school office if you need any help. If you think you are eligible for free school meals an application form is available via Midlothian Council's website. Applications made during the summer are still being processed.</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 style="text-align: center;">GO SLOW – 5 MPH!!!</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>

KEY DATES TERM 1 – MORE DATES TO FOLLOW	
TUESDAY 10 TH SEPTEMBER	TEMPEST PHOTOGRAPHER IN SCHOOL – INDIVIDUAL AND FAMILY GROUPS NURSERY – P7 ONLY – NO TODDLERS OR BABIES
WEDNESDAY 11 TH SEPTEMBER	7PM CURRICULUM EVENING AND PARENT COUNCIL AGM
WEDNESDAY 30 TH OCTOBER	P5 SKIING BEGINS FOR 6 WEEKS – more info to follow
TUESDAY 26 TH NOVEMBER	P4 SWIMMING STARTS FOR 12 WEEKS – more info to follow
FRIDAY 13 TH SEPTEMBER	School closed – September weekend
MONDAY 16 TH SEPTEMBER	School closed – September weekend
MONDAY 14 TH OCTOBER – MONDAY 21 ST OCTOBER	School closed – October Holiday AND IN SERVICE DAY
THURSDAY 12 TH DECEMBER	P1 & P2 NATIVITY 7PM
FRIDAY 20 TH DECEMBER	SCHOOL CLOSES AT 12.15PM FOR CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY