

St John's RC Primary School

Newsletter September 2017



healthyschools
Edinburgh and Lothians
Stage one 2007-2010

School website: www.st-johns.edin.sch.uk



Dear Parents / Carers

We have had a very busy start to the month of September with lots of learning happening at St John's.

This session we are also going to be focusing on achieving our Rights Respecting School: Level 1 Award and working with our colleagues across the Cluster on developing the significant aspects of learning in Numeracy and Literacy and PE with a focus on progression. We will also be building on our French teaching from last session for our learners. As a Catholic School we will be planning to celebrate 100 years of Partnership under the banner of Catholic Schools- Good for Scotland, as we progress towards the centenary of the 1918 Education Act.

The icon of Jesus the Teacher has been developed to prayerfully mark this event. Our School Improvement Plan and Standards and Quality Report is available shortly on our website. You should also have received the SQIP summary of this. My team and I look forward to working with you, our learners and the wider school community to improve the outcomes for all of our learners.



Goodbye

This month we say goodbye to Mrs Gill Buckley, who has accepted a seconded post for 12 months as a Nurture Teacher at St Francis RC Primary, a post she will be eminently suited for.

She is very much looking forward to this new challenge. We wish her all the very best and know she will thrive in this new and exciting environment. She has promised to keep in touch and let us know how she is getting on. Mrs Buckley has also been instrumental in helping develop the relationship with St John's and Legho Village in Tanzania and she has also supported the Twende Pajoma Reps in our school. We will miss her knowledge, skills and expertise in many areas.

Mr Greg Sansom will take up post on Tuesday 19th September with Mrs Buckley's current class.

On 22nd September we also bid farewell to Mrs Veronica Foley, who has taught in St John's for a period of 5 years, teaching in P2/3 most recently and latterly P6. She has always had a lovely relationship with staff, pupils and parents /carers and has shared many of her skills with us, one of which is being highly organised. She has been instrumental in supporting our JRSO pupils in P6 and we will miss her help with this. Recently Mrs Foley has been part of the Support for Learning Team as a Pupil Equity Fund Teacher and she will be replaced by Mrs Lisa Williams who will take up post on 25th September, working in the mornings. Mrs Foley will take up a full time post as a P7 class teacher in Lasswade Primary, which is closer to home.

I would like to thank Mrs Buckley and Mrs Foley for all of their hard work and enthusiasm in creating a stimulating learning environment for the classes they have taught in St John's and wish them all the very best for the future.

I hope you all have a lovely long holiday weekend... September Holiday:

Monday 18th Sept - School Closed



ASSEMBLIES

This year again, every class or year group will do their own class assembly, during which they will share with you their learning. We would like to invite parents and carers of the children performing to attend these assemblies on Friday mornings at 11am. Further information is available on our website.

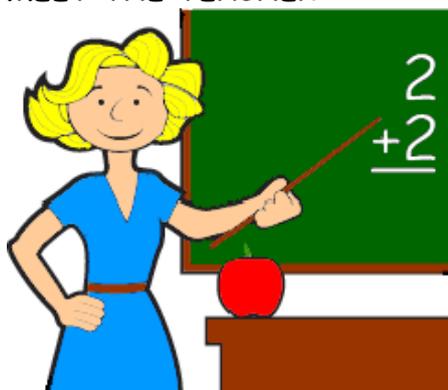
Dates coming soon!

They will also be published on our website/ twitter account.

Parish Ceilidh

The joint parish ceilidh is fast approaching on Friday 3rd November @ the Jewel miners club., music by the fantastic Flaming Nora band. Tickets are now on sale at £10 per ticket & this includes supper. Tickets can be bought from the Parish House Tues-Fri, 10am- 3pm. They will also be sold after all Sunday masses by Madge Moyes at St Mary Magdalene & Catherine McAnenny at St Johns. You can also contact Catherine on 07968970159. Numbers are limited to 200 & the tickets are already selling fast so get your ticket early so as not to be disappointed!!

MEET THE TEACHER



Many thanks to everyone who attended this very successful event. The feedback from the many parents I have spoken to about it has been very positive. Parents appreciated finding out more about the year ahead for their child and hearing about our Learning journeys. We hope you all managed to stop and look at our Displays in the classrooms and corridors. This highlights all the fantastic learning which has been taking place at our school.

Our teachers enjoyed meeting parents from their classes too, and having the opportunity to share their plans for the year with you.

There will be an opportunity for 1-1 consultations at our Parent Consultations on 29th September from 1-3pm and 4 the October 4-7pm. Letters and Parent mail will be issued shortly.



SICKNESS

At this time of year, children are off with sickness bugs which can spread easily if we do not take a proactive approach to containing the germs. We do what we can in school by encouraging children to wash their hands at appropriate times, and by sending sick children home as soon as they are unwell.

I would urge you not to send your child to school if they have sickness or diarrhoea or if they are showing symptoms of these. They should not come to school for 48 hours afterwards so it is completely out of their system. This way we can avoid it spreading. We appreciate your support with this important issue.

COATS AND LABELLING OF CLOTHES



As autumn has arrived could you please make sure your child comes to school with a **waterproof jacket or coat**. They will be outside playing during most break and lunch times. We are hoping to further encourage – Health & Fitness by having pupils outside, even during drizzly days. Wellies, waterproof shoes and clothing all help with this. Even if your child arrives by car please ensure they have their waterproof items with them. Your support with this is appreciated. Please make sure all clothes are clearly labelled and if your child comes home with clothing that doesn't belong to him/her then please return it to school the next day.

PARENT COUNCIL



Our Parent Council will hold its' AGM this evening (21st September) in the staffroom at 6:30pm. Please come along to find out about all the different ways in which our Parent Council helps to support the school and how it raises lots of money to help us buy equipment and resources which benefits all of our learners. New P1 parents are very welcome.

HOUSE CAPTAINS



Our House Captains play an important role throughout the school session. Every Friday morning, they have the very important job of collecting, counting and recording all of the house points gained by our children throughout the week. They then announce the points collected at assembly. Our House Captains are:

Abercorn HC Freya Auchincloss
VC Aaron Kubasik/Alessandro Pacitti

Brighton HC Niamh Hannan Hill
VC Anna Campbell

Figgate HC Danny Lewis/Sean Bannen
VC Finlay McWilliam

Quarry HC Tara Divito
VC Thomas Lake

Rosefield HC Grant Daly
VC Callie Dooner

Message from Blaitnaid Quinn – Parent Council Fundraising Team

The Community Council Grant Application has been successful and has awarded St John's £2k for the Imagination Playground suggested by Laura Tweedie. Wonderful news!

RRS STEERING GROUP

Our Rights Respecting School Steering Group has a very important role to play every session, but especially this session. This group of children will be leading our school towards gaining our Level 1 award. They will be working closely with Mrs Kelly and Mrs Williamson (P7) to ensure everyone knows about their rights.



JRSOs

This stands for Junior Road Safety Officers and we have newly elected ones from P6. They will help us to make sure everyone takes a safe route to school, cycles safely and will support with our Parksmart Campaigns, ensuring that our parents and carers use all of the correct designated places for picking up and dropping off.

Our JRSOs are: Lorcan – 6B Onny – 6B
Sophie – 6A Ryan – 6A

Twende Pajoma Reps and Tanzanian Links

Four of our pupils recently attended a very special afternoon with Arun Gandhi at Holy Rood High School.

The pupils, James Gribben, Jack Biagi, Beth Adams and Maisie De Jonge are full of enthusiasm for the session that was hosted there.

A big thank you to Mr Mike Knox for hosting our assembly last Friday. He was accompanied by Wilfred, from Tanzania It was wonderful to be reminded of our special relationship with Legho Primary, through film and music.

Wilfred will return next week to talk to classes on Wednesday, about his terrific climb and share photographs of his twins.

Mrs Linda Mc Gee, former DHT will take over as Link person for the Holy Rood Cluster. We are delighted to welcome her back.

Peace Week

We will be focusing on the Theme of Peace, w/b 18th September which ties in Beautifully with World Peace Day on Thursday and our New

Beginnings Mass at 10am on Friday 22nd September at St John's Parish. As always we would be grateful of offers of help to walk with the younger pupils, to and from Church. Departure would be around 9.35am.

CELEBRATING ACHIEVEMENTS

We are always keen to share and celebrate our children's achievements outside of school. We do this on a daily basis through our Twitter feed If your child has celebrated an achievement, no matter how big or small, then please e-mail the school at STJN_admin@st-johns.edin.sch.uk or let the teacher know teacher. forward to hearing about all of their successes.

Scouts Club Recruiting

The Edinburgh North East 11th Portobello Scout group, are recruiting for 10.5 to 14 year old children keen to join the scouts, Monday evenings at 7:30pm - 9pm.

Cubs recruiting for 8 to 10.5 year olds, Tuesday 6:30pm - 8pm

Beavers recruiting for 6 to 8 year olds, Monday 6pm - 7pm

All will be held in the gym at St John's RC primary school.

Please forward your name and number to Theresa 07833097727 if you are interested and she will pass your details to the scout leaders.



News of our new Eco Reps/ Pupil Councillors to follow...

Many thanks for your continued support and co-operation.

*Ms Barbara A Service
Head Teacher*