



Dear Parents/Carers,

I am writing to you from a school building which is surrounded by packing crates and can hardly believe that the time is almost upon us to leave this old building which has served this community well since 1926. I am assured that all associated with our school will look back with great fondness on the happy times spent here in a building which has now outgrown its purpose for 21st Century teaching.

We are all looking forward to opening the doors of our new home, 18 Duddingston Road, in August, excited at the prospect of a new build and the opportunities for transformational teaching and learning.

It remains for me to thank my dedicated and hardworking team of teaching and support staff who have provided a very valuable learning and nurturing experience for all of the pupils in our care. This year in particular, this experience has been enriched by the support of partner agencies, parents/carers, the Parent Council, Parishes and the local community. I would also like to convey my thanks to my Management Team: Mrs Jackie Kelly, DHT; Mr Mark Burgess, PT and Mrs Sylvia Hawthorne, BM who have been unstinting in their efforts to ensure that St John's pupils are given the best possible experiences and opportunities, as well as fully supporting me as Head Teacher.

Sadly, we are saying goodbye to our P7 pupils who will take the next step on their journey to High School. I know they will be a credit to St John's and always remember the values we have taught them in our Catholic School. We look forward to hearing about all they achieve going forward.



Fond Farewells

There are staff who are leaving us at the end of the session and I would like to thank them for their hard work and dedication over the course of the session. Mr Greg Sansom who has taught P3 and covered for Mrs Gill Buckley's secondment whilst she has been Nurture teacher at St Francis in Craigmillar. Mr Sansom has had a lovely warm and caring relationship with the pupils, staff and parents and we will be sad to see him go on to his next post. We wish him well.

Mrs Buckley informed me this week that she has been appointed permanently to the team at St Francis and will leave her post next week at St John's. Mrs Buckley has devoted many years of her teaching career to the families in St John's and I know that she will have many fond memories of the pupils, their parents and the staff over her long service. As a teacher, Mrs Buckley has been fully committed to teaching and to professional development, and nurture has always been key in the way she has taught and guided her classes. She has also shared her faith and spirituality with classes she has taught and helped them to deepen their own understanding of the Gospel Values. She has been a key link with our Partner Primary in Legho Village in Tanzania and supported our Twende Pajoma link and representatives well. She is also a member of the parish teams. I am sure she will be a welcome visitor in our new school.

We will miss her very much on our staff team and want to wish her all the very best in her new post. We will also mark Mrs Buckley's departure in the new term.

Mr Ruairaidh Taylor, one of our support staff will also be leaving to take up further study at Strathclyde University, to become a teacher. He will do a great job, I know!
Good luck, Mr Taylor

Ms Guilia Gregoria, our Italian Teacher, is returning to Italy to teach. A big thank you to Guilia for helping us all with our Italian.



Welcome to new and returning staff

When we return in August we welcome Ms Shona Mitchell, to our P5 stage



Calling all budding IRONKIDS

IRONKIDS Scotland is coming to Edinburgh and is open to kids of all abilities - aged 3 up to 14 years.

It's a series of three fun, family-focused running events being staged in and around Edinburgh on 29 and 30 June.

There are age group races of between 500m and 2km, spectator friendly courses, free live entertainment, activities, and sports taster sessions.

The IRONKIDS events are at:

- Dalkeith Country Park, from 4pm, Friday 29 June
- Preston Links, Prestonpans, from 11am, Saturday 30 June
- Holyrood Park, from 3pm, Saturday 30 June

Entry is only £4 per young person (plus a small booking fee). The cost includes an IRONKIDS T-shirt and a Finishers Medal.

Find out how to [sign up for IRONKIDS Scotland](#). You can also enter on the day.

IRONKIDS Scotland 2018 is an exciting addition to the IRONMAN 70.3 Edinburgh race weekend and part of the global IRONKIDS running series. They are also a key part of Scotland's Year of Young People 2018 celebrations.



TWITTER.....

Our school Twitter account is updated weekly. Please follow us for news and reports: [@porty_stjs](#)

Message from Mrs Lauder

- St John's Church

Please pass on my congratulations and those of the parish team to the wonderful First Communicants. The children were all a great credit to their parents, the school and most importantly themselves. I received so many lovely comments about how they conducted themselves with great confidence and reverence.

Thank you also to the staff who came along to support the children and a particular thank you to the class teachers for their co-operation- it is very much appreciated. Here's to next year...

End of Term Mass / SS Peter and Paul



Our end of term Mass takes place at 10am in St John's on Wednesday 27th June at 10am. We hope that many families will join us in celebration.



School finishes on Thursday 28th June at 12noon for all pupils in P1-P7. The staff will be packing up until Friday.

School starts on Monday 20th August at 8.50am in the new building on Duddingston Road.

We are all looking forward to seeing you then.

Have a wonderful summer holiday, Everyone!

***Ms Barbara A Service,
Headteacher***