



### A VERY WARM WELCOME BACK

Our pupils have returned to our new school building ready to work hard and to enjoy learning in Duddingston Road. The team at Grahams have worked hard to deliver the building on time. Everyone at St John's would like to extend a very warm welcome to all our new families joining us this year and hope that all pupils, parents and staff have an exciting and successful year ahead. The pupils and parents who have visited have been fulsome in their praise for our new surroundings.

Inevitably there will be some teething problems whilst we get used to this amazing new home. Please remember to check group call, our website and twitter for up to date information on some of the practicalities. We would like to welcome Ms Shona Mitchell to P5 and I am sure she will feel very welcome in our St John's Community. We are very pleased and proud of our new Primary 1 children who have already settled into life at school very quickly. They have been exploring the school and learning about our new routines.

Our new Nursery children will be joining us gradually over the next few weeks and we look forward to welcoming them and their families to our school.

Welcome back to our P7 pupils after their trip to Benmore. They were stars! A big thank you to all of the adults who supported them 24/7.

Everyone at St John's is looking forward to working with you to ensure a happy and successful school year ahead.

### Some important dates for your diaries....

#### Friday 14<sup>th</sup> September at 9.30am is our Opening Mass in School.

Archbishop Leo Cushley is concelebrating with Fr Jock. The Mass will take place in the school halls and we welcome as many of our families as possible who wish to attend.

An Open afternoon for the community will be held on Friday 21<sup>st</sup> September from 1pm-4pm

Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> October is the Official Opening date for the new school building at 10am. This will be carried out by Deputy First Minister, John Swinney. We will, of course send you further information prior to this date

As you are aware from previous communication, I will be retiring from St John's on Friday 28<sup>th</sup> September. My Retirement Mass will take place in St John the Evangelist Church at 10 am on Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> September. You are warmly invited to attend.

### Family Ceilidh

Mr Ian Forrest will host a family Ceilidh in our school on Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> September from 6-8.30pm. More details to follow

**School Photographs for P1-P7** are scheduled for next week on Wed 5<sup>th</sup> September. Nursery photographs will be taken at a later date.



### PE

Children should come to school each week with their PE kit consisting of shorts, 'house' or white t-shirt and gym shoes. This should be kept in a gym bag in school. Earrings should be removed on PE days and no other jewellery should be worn. Long hair should be tied back for PE. It is also essential to have all items of clothing named, however old the children are!

### Active Schools

Lauren Miller will be holding a "drop in" session from 3pm-4pm in school on Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> September to support parents with signing up for clubs, especially if you are experiencing glitches with online registration.

## ABSENCE AND LATENESS



If your child is going to be absent from school for any reason, please use group call in the first instance or alternatively telephone to let us know as early as possible on the first day of absence. The school office has an answering machine so if your call is not answered please leave a message and our office staff will pick it up as soon as possible. If you do not contact the school, we will text or phone home to let you know that your child has not arrived. Please make sure that we have your up-to-date contact numbers in case we need to get in touch. If you wish your child to go home for lunch, please inform the class teacher in writing. It is really important that your child gets to school on time as they may miss important information shared by the teacher about the day ahead.

### SAFETY

We know that you share our concern for our children's safety. We would like to remind parents and visitors to enter the school via the main entrance and report to the school office. Here you will be asked to sign our visitor's book and will be issued with a visitor's badge. This ensures that we know at all times who is in our school building.

### SCHOOL OFFICE

All correspondence should be clearly labelled and given to your child and these letters will be sent to the school office. Remember how busy the office can be first thing in the morning. The hours of our school office are M-Th 8.30am-3.30pm and F 8.30am-12.30pm.



### Early Days

Every class establishes their Class Charter, learns about the routines and expectations within their classroom and learns about their roles and responsibilities in the first few weeks. This helps set the tone for the session.



## NUT AWARE SCHOOL

We would like to remind everyone that we are a nut aware school. We have several children who have severe nut allergies so we would ask all families to be vigilant about the food products they are sending to school.

### Healthy Eating

We would be very grateful if children could come to school with a **healthy** snack. Children can also bring a water bottle to school if they wish.



### Open Doors

At St John's Primary School, we offer an open door policy. Should you wish to meet or pass information onto the class teacher please contact the school office. The class teacher, if required, will then contact you and an appointment can be made if required.

Please remember class teachers often have meetings or training courses after school so they will endeavour to get back to you as soon as possible. Mrs Kelly and I are also available should you wish to speak to us, but I would ask that you contact the school office or email the school admin account to do so. email : [admin@st-johns.edin.sch.uk](mailto:admin@st-johns.edin.sch.uk)

## PARENT COUNCIL



We would like to invite you to be part of our active Parent Council. They will be holding their first meeting on Thursday 31<sup>st</sup> August at 6.45pm in the new staffroom.

There is no requirement to be an office holder, but your support would be gratefully received. Why not come along and see if you would like to be involved?

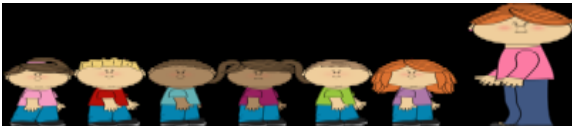
### Parent Council P1 Welcome Morning

P1 Welcome morning is 11am in the dining hall on Friday 31<sup>st</sup> August. All P1 Parents /carers are very welcome!

### Standards, Quality and Improvement Plan

You will also receive a summary leaflet of last session's strengths and successes and improvement priorities for next session. We are very proud of all our achievements. The full SQIP will be available on the school website.

## LINING UP



We are encouraging a high standard of behaviour in our lines each day. Please support us by ensuring your child is in the playground for 8.45am and lined up ready for the bell at 8.50am in the rear of the school. If it is drizzly rain, we would ask that children shelter under the canopies at the pupil entrances. Again, children will be out in most weathers and should come to school appropriately dressed.

It is really important that your child gets to school on time as they may miss important information shared by the teacher about the day ahead, if they are late.

If your child is late, please enter by the rear playground up until 9.15 am. After this time, the gates will be locked and pupils and parents should make their way around to the MAIN Entrance.

## SHOES

To keep our new building clean, it is important that children change their shoes for indoor use when inside. Gym shoes are stored in school already



## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Please look out for our Calendar of events. We will aim to give you as much notice as possible about events occurring in the school. Remember to check our twitter account, and the school website. We will also be sending messages via groupcall.

**Please remember that our school is closed on MONDAY 17th SEPTEMBER. School and Nursery will be open again on TUESDAY 18th SEPTEMBER.**

## CYCLING/SCOOTERS



We would really appreciate it if you could talk to your child about the importance of not riding their bikes or scooters in to the school playground at the start or the end of a day. All children should dismount from their bike or scooter at the school gate. This way we can continue to keep everyone safe. We would also like to encourage everyone to wear a helmet when travelling on their bike to and from school.



## Holidays during term time

Please be aware that it is Council Policy that all holidays during term time will be **unauthorised** unless there are exceptional circumstances e.g., supported by a medical certificate, solicitor's letter, bereavement circumstances or an employer's letter. Should the period of absence requested be over 3 weeks, the request will be sent on to the City of Edinburgh Council. Thank you for your support with this



We have most of our parents/carers registered for ParentPay and we are aiming to extend this to 100%. There will be opportunities to have support from the Office team. Similarly, the Parentmail, twitter, Seemis text and the website systems are the main way we update you. Please ensure you check these for info.



## Meet the Teacher

For P1 parents- A curricular workshop organised by Mrs Robinson and Mrs Mackay

### For adults only NO CHILDREN please

Date: Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> September  
Time: 4pm-5pm  
Location: P1 classrooms

For P2-P7 parents/carers meet the teacher takes place on Friday 7<sup>th</sup> September. More details to follow...

**The Newsletter will be Monthly Newsletter and we would encourage Parents/ carers to access online.**



## TWITTER.....

Our school Twitter account is updated regularly. Please follow us for news and reports: @Porty\_stjs

*Many thanks for your continued support and co-operation.*

*Ms Barbara A. Service  
Head Teacher*