

St John's RC Primary Newsletter

Nurture, Inspire, Flourish, Pray



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Dear Parents, Carers and Friends

- **Staffing Update**

Thank you to the many people who have congratulated me on my new role here in St John's. I have enjoyed a busy return after the holiday week and I am looking forward to developing the school and working on the priorities we have set for the year.

Mr Burgess will remain Acting Depute until we are able to advertise and secure a permanent DHT. He will spend an additional day out of class to support the Senior Leadership team. Mrs Gargaro will provide continuity by spending two days with P7B. This will also involve a change for P5A, with Mrs Linda Downie now covering Mrs Mitchell every Wednesday. Mrs Downie is an experienced teacher who knows P5 well, from working with them last year.

- **Newsletter**

I would like to refresh the newsletter, with more input from pupils and families, especially in sharing achievements both inside and outside of school. If you have any news and pictures to share please send them to the school admin account: admin@st-johns.edin.sch.uk

and we will include these in subsequent newsletters. I'm not yet sure if the format you receive today will be the final version but would welcome your comments in creating a new design and what items of news you would like to see featured.

The items contained today explain one of the Scottish Government's main priorities for schools and some information about Growth Mindset which is a priority for our school this year as part of our Building Resilience programme. I intend to invite parents to a Resilience workshop – please look out for details of this date soon.

I have also attached some key dates between now and the end of term – but shh – don't mention C'Mas quite yet!!

Kind Regards

Jacqueline Kelly

Head Teacher

Equity for All



Equity in education for all our pupils is a national priority. Just recently, the Scottish Government produced their report on “How to deliver excellence and equity in Scottish Education.” As a school, we will use ideas from this so we are ensuring equity for all of our pupils.

However, equity does not mean the same for all! Equity is often a phrase confused with ‘equal’ or ‘equality’.

Equity has a strong focus on fairness and giving each individual child an equal opportunity to do well. This often means making adaptations or giving a helping hand. At some point, nearly all of our children will need a stepping stool, a second chance, a guiding hand, and an ear to listen or just a quiet space.

As a school, we hope we understand the ‘bigger picture’ for each of our pupils. For many pupils, the reasons they need extra support are hidden or misunderstood. We ask all of our parents to trust the staff within the school and appreciate that we are doing our very best for all of our pupils, so that they can all access the education they are entitled to.

We are all part of this learning community, and proud to be so. I look forward to continuing our journey towards inclusion and equality for all with you this session.



SPOTLIGHT ON IMPROVEMENT



As part of our School Improvement Plan this session, we are continuing to focus on “Growth Mindset”. Simply put, having a growth mindset (instead of a “fixed mindset”) helps our pupils to believe that anything is possible, with a little hard work and effort!

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ABILITIES
—ARND BRONKHORST



The Challenge your Mindset unit forms part of our continuing work on Building Resilience, we are in our 2nd year of a three year programme which looks to promote mental health and wellbeing. It aims to engage pupils, families and staff in order to raise awareness and understanding of these issues. More info soon!

Special Achievements

As a school, we celebrate the achievements of pupils on a weekly basis, either in the classroom or at assembly. This could be a Certificate, curriculum award, swimming award, dance trophy, Scout badge or participation in a new club...the list is endless! Throughout the year we will ask them to bring these to a special assembly which links to skills for life, learning and work– this is not just about jobs and careers. We work hard to develop and celebrate a range of skills and knowledge that will equip your child for life beyond education, as do you when you encourage them to participate in these extra-curricular activities.

- **Creativity in the Curriculum: Artists at Work**

On Wednesday 24th October I accompanied Ms McWilliam to Art and Vintage, a gallery/café in town to celebrate the winners of the recent art competition based around the theme of Movement. The artists and their families had a special viewing of their work. The exhibition will be on display until 16th November. The gallery can be found at 3 Lyne Street, EH7 5DN and is owned by our former art teacher Ms Toni Gallagher. Daniel from P3 recommends you try the Chocolate Brownies!



Thank you to the Parent Council and all the volunteers who



made both Hallowe'en Discos such a 'spooktacular' success for our pupils last night. These events could not take place without teamwork and I am very grateful to those who gave up their Sunday afternoon and evening to help.

Important Dates: October – December 2018

DATE	EVENT
Sunday 28 th October	Halloween Discos P1-3 P4-7
Wednesday 31 st October	Schools Open Morning for new P1's – 10.00am-12.00pm P4 Trip – Edinburgh Castle
Thursday 1 st November	All Saints Mass, 9.45am St Mary Magdalene's – all welcome
Friday 2 nd November	Non Uniform Day – STEKA Charity event, bring a donation if you can
Week beginning 5 th November	**Enrolment Week** for P1 pupils beginning in August 2019
Wednesday 7 th November	P2 Trip to Cineworld
Week beginning 12 th November	Anti-Bullying (Friendship) week – classes will sign up to 'respect' pledge, more info to share
Friday 16 th November	Children in Need – wear spots – no donation required
Mon 19 th – Fri 23 rd November	Book Week Scotland – separate info to follow
Wednesday 21 st & 28 th November	10.30am Cluster Strings Rehearsal @ Duddingston Primary – if you can help walk pupils to/from Duddingston, please contact school office
Wednesday 28 th November	P7 Community Mass @ Cathedral
Friday 30 th November	St Andrew's Day Mass, 10am St John's – all welcome
Sunday 2 nd December	Parent Council Christmas Event
Monday 3 rd & Wednesday 5 th December	P4 Community Carol Singing – Baptist Church
Tuesday 4 th December	Cluster Strings Concert – Portobello High School, 5.00-6.00pm
Wednesday 12 th December	P1 Nativity, 1.45pm
Friday 14 th December	P7 Christmas Party
Monday 16 th December	am – P6 Party pm – P3 Party
Tuesday 17 th December	am – P5 Party pm – P2 Party
Tuesday 18 th December	am – P5 Party pm – P2 Party
Wednesday 19 th December	am – P4 Party pm – P1 Party
Thursday 20 th December	Whole school outing – Dominion (am)
Friday 21 st December	Last Day of Term, 12.00pm finish for all

There may be a few additional dates from classes, please keep an eye on letters/texts and emails.