



Nurture · Inspire · Flourish · Pray



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Newsletter 30 April 2019

Dear Parents, Carers and Friends

I hope you have all enjoyed a peaceful Easter Break – it felt like a long time and with the May bank holidays, just around the corner, we will be well into the final term in our new home! It is hard to believe how quickly this year has gone, with lots of achievements and events already under our belts to be proud of! This term will be no different, with the calendar as full as ever. Please keep checking our Twitter & Website for all of our dates so that you do not miss anything. This newsletter is also packed with lots of information for you, so put your feet up, enjoy the spring sunshine and take some time out to find out what we have planned!

One of the children asked me in the last week of term, *how long have you been a teacher?* and it came as a shock to realise that 21 years have

passed since I stood in front of my first P7 class at St Ninian's hoping they wouldn't notice my knees knocking! Another shock, realising that one of those P7 pupils is now a parent in our own nursery here at St John's! Time flies...

Reflecting on this also had me thinking that in those 21 years I have always been involved in supporting parental engagement, firstly as a teacher rep on the PTA, then School Board and subsequently Parent Council. As their responsibility and roles has shifted so has my own and I feel very fortunate to be supported in St John's by such an active, energetic and dedicated parent body. Over the past few months **YOUR** parent council have worked tirelessly to endorse the work of the school and **some** of main ways they have done this during this session include:

- Hours of stamping, collating, barcoding, covering and sorting the books they have funded and ones donated by you, so that we almost have a fully functioning library – a first for St John's!
- Movie Night x2 films
- School Uniform Exchanges
- Funding of drama lunchtime classes
- Participation in joint St John's/Holy Rood events
- Funding for Tana and her gardening guru's
- Planning and coordinating World of Work Week
- Funding of mud kitchens for nursery and P1
- School Uniform Exchange
- Lego Donations and Brick Builders Club Organisation

These are their main achievements but I know that so much goes on in the background. However, their support to the school is greatly appreciated and not to be underestimated. Jo, our Chair and I are meeting Eleanor Coner from Connect who are the main body of support for Family Engagement and we look forward to sharing with you where we hope to go next.

As always, please do let us know if you would like to become involved in some way – I hope you'll see from above that attendance at meetings is only a very small part of what they do...



Live Lent Generously

40 days, 40 reflections, 40 challenges to make a difference.

Thanks to everyone who supported all of our Lenten events and activities which this year focused on how we could make Lent BIG and not narrow the focus – the main theme from Fr Jock's Ash Wednesday Mass. We also did do some fundraising and the total amount raised was £620.46 which is fantastic Our 40 Acts challenges were carried out across all classes, thanks to Jess Philbrick Smith who sent these on to us; there were some lovely moments across the past four weeks of term.

IMPORTANT DATES

Please see the list below for the main dates to end of term, please check group call and school website for any additions/changes to these.

Date	Event
w.b 29.4.19	World of Work Week
Mon 6 th May	Holiday
Tues 7 th May	Inservice – staff only
Wed 8 th May	Pupils Return/P3 @ Dynamic Earth
Thurs 9 th May	Choir Concert – @ St John's Church, 6.30pm
Sat 11 th May	School Board Cup – P6 Footballers – @ Wardie, 9.30am

Thurs 16 th May	P4 Cluster Cricket Festival @ Holy Rood High
Mon 20 th May	Holiday
Wed 22 nd May	P1 Teddy Bear's Picnic @ Botanic Gardens/ 30 x P6 Pupils @ Games at the Hub/ School Board Cup 2 nd Round @Gyle 6.30pm
Thurs 23 rd May	School Closed to Pupils: Polling Day
Mon 27 th May	Interscholastics @ George Watsons (P6&7 select)
Tues 28 th May	P5 @ Edinburgh Zoo/P6 STEM event @ Holy Rood High
Thurs 30 th May	MASS: Feast of Ascension, 10.00am @ St John's Church
Sat 1 st June	School Fair: 10am-1pm
Sun 2 nd June	First Holy Communion – 11.15am @ St Mary Magdalene
Wed 5 th June	P5 Beach Games, Party Prom
Thurs 4 th June	Nursery – pre school trip – East Links Farm
Mon 10 th June	9.30-10.30am New P1's: Stay and Play Session
Tues 11 th June	Sports Day: am P1-3; pm: P4-7 Figgate Park/Nursery ante pre school trip - Vogrie
Wed 12 th June	9.30-10.30am New P1's Stay and Play Session Sports Day Alternative
Fri 14 th June	11.00am P5 Assembly

Sun 16 th June	First Holy Communion, 9.30am @ St John's/ 12.00-3.00pm Community Event: Northfield Community Centre
Mon 17 th June	9.30am New P1 Induction Morning – Group 1
Tues 18 th – Thurs 20 th	Three day transition visits for P7 pupils
Tues 18 th June	9.30am New P1's stay and taste lunch
Wed 19 th	9.30am New P1 Induction Morning – Group 2/ Nursery Sports Day
Thurs 20 th	Nursery – alternative sports day
Fri 21 st June	11.00am P6 Assembly
Sun 23 rd June	11.15am P4 Celebration Mass @ St Mary Magdalene
Mon 24 th June	P7 Leavers Disco, 6.30-8.30pm
Wed 26 th June	PM: P7 Leavers Mass, Precise time- tbc
Thurs 27 th June	9.45am End of Year Mass @ St Mary Magdalene
Fri 28 th June	Nursery Pre School Gradutaion/End of Term: 12pm finish for all.

Info specific to trips and outings will be sent in addition to above dates which are for info only. Nursery/P1 Transition info will also be sent out next week.

Scottish National Standardised Assessments (SNSAs)

Our final term is very much focused on gathering evidence of attainment and achievement for all of our pupils as we begin to write final school reports and plan learning for next session. This includes the SNSAs, delivered by the Scottish Government, with P1, 4 and 7. More information can be found about these in the Documents, Reports and Newsletter Section of our website.

<https://stjohnsportobello.com/primary-5-year-group-page/nursery-learning/documents/>

All progress and results will be conveyed to you through our whole school reports, due to come home on Friday 14th June. Please contact the class teacher in the first instance if you have any queries.

Spotlight on Improvement Building Resilience



We continue our Get Active work, the main focus: building understanding of how keeping physically active can also help to contribute to our mental health.

Some of the key messages we want the children to learn in this Unit are:

1. **Being active** is not only good for the body but also for the mind In this section, pupils are encouraged to explore how our body and our mind are connected. That being active can help us feel better as well as being good for our physical health. We don't all need to run marathons - there are simple things we can all do to be more active each day. And we can also boost our well-being by unplugging from technology, getting outside and - importantly - making sure we get enough sleep! It is important to explore how sometimes when we lack the energy and do not feel like being active, this is the very thing that can increase our mood and motivation again.

2. **I have a range of hobbies and interests** that I enjoy doing In this section, pupils will explore what passions, hobbies and interests they have that they enjoy and give them a sense of achievement. Doing something you enjoy can improve your confidence and help you stay well so it is important to make time to do things you like, whether it's reading, singing, drama, music or playing with friends. These activities can help keep our batteries topped up and give us opportunities to have fun and deal with any difficult emotions in a positive way

3. **Doing anything new involves taking a risk** Finding something we enjoy will always involve taking a risk as we challenge ourselves to try new things. Encouraging pupils to take a risk by challenging themselves to try new activities, skills, hobbies or experiences will

help build their confidence to tackle future ones. It also is a platform for helping to demonstrate how our brains grow and change whenever we do different things (and this continues throughout life – so it's never too late to learn something new!)



Well done to P7 Footballers who recently took part in the Inspectors Cup, although not in the spirit of the on to high schools.  the outcome they hoped for they took part in the competition and we wish them well as they move footballing competitions new in their respective

Well done to Mackena, P7B, who recently completed her first 5km - The just 39 minutes.



who recently Meadows Marathon in



Reminder: Contacting the school, in the first instance please call the office **0131 669 1363** or email: admin@st-johns.sch.uk
Doing this allows the school admin team to best direct your query and get you the help you need.