



Nurture · Inspire · Flourish · Pray



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Newsletter 26 August 2019

Dear Parents, Carers and Friends

Welcome back to all our pupils, particularly to our new pupils in Primary 1 and those across the school who have recently joined us. Everyone seems to have settled in very well and are already getting down to the business of learning! This is great news as our first monthly mantra for building resilience is "everyone can make a difference"!

This newsletter is jam packed with (hopefully) all the info you need for a smooth start to the new term. We have a busy year ahead, so please take time to read through our newsletter for full details.

Contacting the School Leadership Team

If you have any issues, please contact the class teacher in the first instance, if these issues continue or you need to speak to a member of the school leadership team, see below who you should contact. If your child is in:

Nursery & P1:

Mrs Kelly: Headteacher

P2-4:

Mr Burgess: Depute Headteacher

P5&6

Mrs Kinsella: Principal Teacher

P7:

Miss Miller: Acting Principal Teacher

All appointments should be made via the school office: **0131 669 1363 or**

email: admin@st-johns.edin.sch.uk

School Improvement Plan

Each year, we identify key priorities in our school to develop teaching and learning, forming our "SIP" or School Improvement Plan. Our key priorities are strongly



aligned with the Scottish Government's **National Improvement Framework** (known as the NIF). For more information on this, please visit:

<http://www.gov.scot/Topics/Education/Schools/NationalImprovementFramework>

Our SIP priorities for this year include:

1. To raise attainment in Literacy & Numeracy by increasing the opportunities pupils have to talk about their learning and apply their learning across real-life contexts.
2. To continue to develop nurturing strategies across the school that will support pupils in proactively managing their wellbeing.
3. *Learning Community focus*: To develop opportunities that will increase skills for Life, Learning and Work
4. Nursery: To develop strong partnerships, ensure quality learning opportunities for staff and to continue to develop outdoor learning.
5. Nursery: To develop approaches to planning, assessment, self-evaluation, tracking and monitoring.

Further detailed information will be issued soon.



Staffing: Meet the Team

I am delighted to welcome back staff old and new to the St John's Community this session:

Class Teachers:

We have been fortunate to make a temporary appointment to provide Miss Miller with some leadership opportunities and welcome her to the Senior Leadership team.

Nursery Mrs McIntyre (Mon) Mrs Rennie

P1 Mrs Robinson (Mon-Thurs); Mrs Williamson (Tue-Fri) Mrs Williams (Mon, Thurs)

P2A Ms Coleman; Mrs McIntyre (Tue)

P2B Mrs Spear (Mon, Thurs, Fri) Mrs Gargaro (Tue, Wed)

P3A Mrs Morrison

P3B Mrs Newman

P4A Mrs Gillespie

P4B Mrs Moscrop

P5A Mrs Kinsella, Principal Teacher; Mrs McIntyre (Wed)

P5B Mrs Birdsell

P6A Ms Mitchell

P6B Miss Sinclair

P7A Miss McLaren (Mon,Tue) Mrs Pacitti (Wed-Fri)

P7B Miss Miller, Acting Principal Teacher

We are also very lucky to have such a dedicated team of **Pupil Support Assistants**, our very own superheroes:



Mrs Singh, Mrs McGroarty, Mrs Agate, Mrs Scoular

Ms Harley, Mrs Kane, Mrs Waite-Conroy, Mrs Khan, Mr Stewart, Mrs MacFarlane and Mrs Mason.



A Note from Nursery...

Dear Parents, carers and children!

Welcome back! We hope you all had a lovely summer holiday, and are looking forward to continuing your exciting learning journey at St John's Nursery! It is so lovely to see you all again. The children have settled back wonderfully and are enjoying their nursery routine.

Exciting news! We welcome our first two-year olds to the nursery this session.

Our nursery team are:

Mrs Rennie: Teacher

Mrs Roxburgh and Mrs McClure: Early Years Officers

Mrs McCracken, Mrs Dunn, Miss Miller, Mrs Orłowska, Miss Millar and Miss McGregor: Early Years Practitioners and Ms Sello: Trainee Early Years Practitioner

School Website + Group Call Messenger

Our website/school twitter is updated regularly with our news, important information and notices. Please check this on a regular basis, especially if you are unsure about anything coming up. We also make regular use of our text/email to send you messages, please ensure the school office has your current email address.

This is the only hard copy newsletter we will be issuing. If you do not have access to the internet you may pick up a hard copy at the office. Emails & texts are issued via Group Call

Web: www.stjohnsportobello.com Twitter: @porty_stjs



Baby News:

Mrs Mackay, husband Gary and big sister Emma welcomed baby David who was born on 20th July and is settling in beautifully. We look forward to a visit and a cuddle soon.

We say a temporary goodbye and wish Ms Sam Neilson, Office Administrator lots of love and luck as she embarks on maternity leave on Fri, 30th August. We look forward to seeing Sam and new baby in the very near future – we don't know what we will do without her but Mrs Thomas and Mr Mackie look forward to welcoming Mrs Angus, who is taking a break from supporting our youngest learners to step into the office admin role.



School Values

As a school, we work very hard to reinforce our school values of **nurture, inspire, flourish and pray** for all our pupils, staff and parents.

These values are for everyone and how our children can show kindness and care to others, demonstrate and be confident in their

As a staff, we will always parents and visitors to the the right to work without the in line with the City of policy.

While we understand that issues can arise throughout your child's time at school that can sometimes cause worry, upset or even anger, we are here to help. If you have any worries or concerns, please get in touch to share these with us.



respect for their friends and staff learning.
endeavour to show respect to our school. In return, our staff have threat of verbal or physical abuse Edinburgh condition of work

School Uniform

It is lovely to see so many of our children looking incredibly smart in their new school uniforms. We will continue to enforce our uniform policy over the session.

Can I also ask that all pieces of clothing are **labelled**

Even after our first full week we have quite a few left-over bits and pieces!

Lost Property is stored under the stairs at the P4/5 entrance door.



Diary Date:

-----Meet the Teacher-----

Parents/Carers of pupils in P2-7 are invited to meet their child/children's teacher on:

Wednesday 4th September from 4.00-5.00pm

Further information to follow

P1 will arrange their own session – look out for info in P1 bags.



PUPIL EQUITY FUNDING

The Pupil Equity Funding is additional funding allocated directly to schools and targeted at closing the poverty related attainment gap. The Scottish Government has committed to this funding as part of the Scottish Attainment Challenge programme.

St John's has been awarded £49,680 for 2019-2020. Details of our priorities this fund will be used to support can be found within our Improvement Plan.



Scottish Government
Riaghaltas na h-Alba
gov.scot



Absence Notification

Just a wee reminder that if you know your child is going to be absent from school, please let us know by telephoning the office as soon as you can. If we have not heard from you by 9.30am, we will send you a text to alert you to the fact that your child is not in school. This is a national procedure, in place to ensure the safety of all our pupils as they come to school, so please do not be upset if we call you to ask why your child is not in school. If your child has an appointment, let us know also so that we can mark this in our diary.

Late Procedure

This year we would like to address the number of children who arrive late to school each day. Late arrivals place extra pressure on an already busy office, and the pupils themselves can miss out on vital information at the start of a learning day. If we feel your child is late on many occasions, we will be in touch with you to discuss this.

If late, pupils should report to a member of staff on arrival at the 'dining hall' door – this ensures they are marked correctly in the register.

VERY IMPORTANT – ALLERGIES

In St John's, we have pupils and staff who are allergic to various nuts and seeds.

It is so much easier to manage if families avoid sending in nut products.

Please remember **coconut and Nutella** are



nut based too.

Class Photographs

The Evening News will be in to take P1 Class photos on **Wed 28th Aug at 1.15pm.** Please ensure permission has been provided



P.E Kit

All children will receive at least 2 sessions of PE each week.

Every child is expected to take part and to bring their full PE kit with them on these days. A PE kit includes:

- Shorts, leggings or jogging trousers (plain coloured only).
- House Coloured T-shirt
- Indoor Shoes



If your child cannot take part in PE for any reason, you should **send a letter** in for the class teacher.

No football strips or football studs are permitted. Thank you for your cooperation.

Parent Council Meeting

Our Parent Council is hugely important to us and the work that we carry out. New members are always welcome! Last year, our PC was part of vital work going on around fund-raising, marketing our school, working with our pupils, establishing the new library and providing funding for a variety of lunch time clubs.

The first meeting of the new session takes place on **Tuesday 17th September at 6.45pm in the staffroom.**

If you would like to be involved in the work of the school, get to know some of our parents or just want to know a wee bit more about the Parent Council, please consider attending- we would love to see you!