



Friday 15 November 2019

Dear Parents/Carers & Friends

Key Dates:

Week Beginning: **Book Week Scotland**

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| Mon 18 th | Library Visit: P3A 10am |
| Tues 19 th | Author Visit – P1-4 (Badger the Mystical Mutt)
Parent Council AGM 6.45pm - Staffroom |
| Wed 20 th | Library Visit: P3B 1.30pm |
| Thurs 21 st | Book Bug Launch 9.00-10.15am – families welcome
Library Visit: P2A 10am |
| Fri 22 nd | Book Character Themed Assembly |
| Tuesday 26 November | Library Visit: P2B 10am |
| Friday 28 November | 11am P5 Assembly |

*Key **December Dates** for Diaries*

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| Sunday 1 December | Christmas Fair 2-4pm |
| Tuesday 10 December | Christmas Lunch |
| Wednesday 11 December | P1 Nativity (pm) |
| Monday 16 December | P7 Party (pm) |
| Tuesday 17 December | P6 Party (am) P3 (pm) |
| Wednesday 18 December | P5 Party (am) P2 (pm) |
| Thursday 19 December | P4 Party (am) P1 (pm) |

The week began in school with some extremely sad news about the loss to one of our families of a much loved husband and dad. We have kept the whole family in our thoughts and prayers all week and I know they have welcomed the warm wishes and offers of support from across our school community.

Week beginning 11th Nov was Anti-Bullying Week with a theme of 'Change Starts with Us'. Whether it is verbal, physical, online or in-person, bullying has a significant impact on a child's life. By making small, simple changes, we can break this cycle and create a safe environment for everyone - together, we can challenge bullying. Any support that you can give in reinforcing the message of 'Change starts with Us' with your children will be much appreciated, opening the conversations are extremely helpful. Across the week, teachers in P4-7 discussed with children in their classes issues around bullying and shared strategies to prevent and respond to bullying and to encourage kindness. In P1-3 our focus is very much around Friendships and how to be a kind and trusted friend. It is important that we equip our younger pupils with the toolkit to know what is bullying and how to report it but also the difference between that and 'falling out' with their pals/friends.

Hats, Scarves, Gloves (&Coats!)

Now the weather is turning colder I would like to remind you of the importance of sending your child to school with suitable clothes, including a jumper and a warm coat. Even if it seems mild in the morning, or you travel to school by car, the weather can change significantly during the day and the children will be outside during all break-time and lunch time, weather permitting, and need to keep warm.

Parent Council AGM

This takes place on Tues, from 6.45pm and will begin with the appointing of office bearers for this session and to hear current news and how to help at The Christmas Fair. We'll be ready to thank the PC for their most recent donation, the payment of the author who will be entertaining P1-4 on Tuesday. We are keen as many parents as possible come along, if you haven't attended before but would like to it would be great to see you there.

Weekly Round-Up:

Pudsey: Children in Need Day. Thank you from the pupil council and Miss Miller to everyone who wore their PJ's & guessed who those tricky babies were – that was difficult!! We will put the answers up on the website. Mrs Thomas has checked her sums and the total raised was **£391.99** which will be sent off to Pudsey to help Children in Need.

I missed all the fun on Friday morning as I attended a Leadership Academy day in Stirling – a frosty 8.30am start – I met with twenty other colleagues from across Scotland to explore what kind of leaders we are and perhaps would want to be. It was a very interesting and thought-provoking day. The follow up is a 4 day residential experience (from Mon, 25th Nov) to look in more depth at some of these issues. This throws up its own challenge for me as I very much like to be in school and it will be a steep learning curve for me to be away for the best part of a week. I

know Mr Burgess, assisted by Mrs Kinsella and Miss Miller will look after everyone and the school beautifully and I will check in with them across the week.

Book Week Scotland

This will be launched on Monday morning by Mrs Kinsella who is delivering the gift of a book to every class to send our enjoyment of reading off to a flying start.

Last week's newsletter provided info for events taking place across the week. We look forward to seeing your pictures of extreme reading taking place across the week: From Mrs Kinsella • Extreme Reading! We can enjoy reading anywhere – tweet us pictures of your family reading in unusual spots. E.g. on a climbing frame, on a wintry beach, at the swimming pool, on the penalty spot at football training... See

<http://davyhulme.primaryblogger.co.uk/literacy/extreme-reading-competition-for-world-book-day/>

for more ideas! Tweet @porty_stjs #extremereading

More info here <https://www.scottishbooktrust.com/book-week-scotland/>

P1 are looking forward to hearing some stories and to receiving their book bug packs on Thursday, they'd love to see you there, from 9am on Thurs.

Book Donation day is Wednesday – do you have duplicate Harry Potter's at home, a large pile of comics, or some loved but outgrown story books? It is the perfect Christmas clear out time. Please send in any nearly new books and we'll add them to the library stockpile.

On Friday our assembly will have a Book Character theme – pupils can dress up as a favourite character from any book, comic, story...we'd love to see repurposed, homemade & recycled costumes – please don't go to extra expense, we've been talking to the children about how us oldies had to be inventive with our costumes back in the olden days!

There are lots of other events in school this week associated with the enjoyment and pleasure of reading and our library is available to visit if you haven't been in yet...P6 will be happy to show you around.

Achievements:

Tea with SLT

Mr Burgess and I were delighted to welcome the first 14 achievers of the new term to the meeting room on Thursday afternoon for juice, a biscuit and a chat about why they had been nominated for a certificate. This term we are focusing on best work and we had a range of curricular areas on display. Congratulations to the following: Mia-Rose & Ellis (P1), Oliver and Natalie (P2), Max & Amy (P3), Jessica & Amelia (P4), Noah & Sandy (P5), Michael & Sophie (P6) and Dawid & Matthew (P7)

AND FINALLY...Above and Beyond Postcards

As part of our new relationships policy, all members of staff have a supply of 'above and beyond' postcards which will be sent home to any pupil who is deemed to have gone that extra mile, increased their effort, shown resilience, been a kind friend. The list is endless. Look out for them dropping through letterboxes!

I would be grateful to have items for next week's round-up – if your child has an achievement, sporting or otherwise, please do let us know and we will endeavour to include.

Email admin@st-johns.edin.sch.uk

Jacqueline Kelly

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