



Nurture · Inspire · Flourish · Pray

Bulletin 30.11.20

HAPPY ST ANDREW'S DAY



With just over three full weeks to go until the end of term I cannot believe how quickly the time has passed from August to December. We are aware of speculated changes to the Christmas holidays, currently the City of Edinburgh Council end of term date remains, Tuesday 22nd Dec with the following finish times, from the usual gates:

P1 & P2: 11.45am, P3, P4: 11.50am, P5: 11.55am P6&7: 12.00pm

Advent and Christmas won't be the same for us this year but we are determined to make it memorable. The children were asked for ideas of activities we could complete in school, the list was longer than the Water of Leith!! Each class then voted for their favourite twelve and I am delighted to share the "Twelve Days of 'John'Mas" with you below.

- Class Parties – dates to be shared by end of this week
- Classroom Decoration Day – each class to set own day for this.
- Week beginning, 7th December: Mr D's Christmas Dance Off
- Tues, 8th December: Christmas Art Galleries
- Wed, 9th December: Christmas Lunch & Christmas Jumper Day
- Thurs, 10th December: Gingerbread Theme Day

- Fri, 11th December: Santa 'Marathon' Figgy Park
- Wed, 16th December: Christmas Treasure Hunt
- Thurs, 17th December: Teach the Teacher Day
- Fri, 18th December: Candy Cane Hot Chocolate Friday
- Mon, 21st December: Christmas PJ & Movie Day
- Tues, 22nd December: Christmas Rap Battle & Carol Service

In addition, we also have **Winter Wanderland**. We heard that some community groups were planning to galvanise local support for 'decorated' windows, the idea being the 'lit' up windows bring some after-dark festive cheer. Our theme is Christmas songs – each class stage has been provided with a well known tune and will transform their window into a visual representation of the song. Work will begin on these this week, look out for them, from, week commencing 7th December.

Class Parties were also voted for and will take place across two weeks, each class must remain within their own bubble and will have an allocated time in the hall. We also hope to have a special visitor attend nursery – P3 parties, just checking he is fully aware of Covid protocols, we know he won't mind being outdoors though!

P1 are busy working on a virtual nativity, a video link to P1 parents will be shared on Friday 18th December – hopefully we can have a live link up to introduce this...further plans to be shared.

Classes are also continuing work on Anti-Bullying and Friendships and have developed a Kindness Advent Calendar which commits to acts of kindness each day of Advent.

Advent Foodbank Update: Our changing room has been transformed into a temporary foodbank with lots of tins, bags of rice and pasta already handed in. P5 collect donations each day from classes and these are then quarantined for three days before being reorganised into parcels. If a food parcel is something that would help your family, please contact the school office and we will arrange to deliver some essential items to help you through the weeks leading up to Christmas. Thank you to all our families for your generosity, as always, the community of St John's comes together to support one another during these challenging times.

Health & Safety Update: Thank you for adhering to social distancing and for wearing face coverings at drop off and pick-up times. A reminder that we have increased ventilation in school, so a warm sweatshirt & extra layers are recommended – also, pupils do have longer spells outdoors so coats, hats, gloves and scarves are essential, even if they do become discarded in the fun of the many chase games we have seen this term! We were caught out today with an unexpected downpour and it was evident that many senior pupils were without coats, a great many of which were still in the cloakrooms!

Parent Council

The next meeting takes place, tomorrow, Tues, 1st Dec from 7pm on TEAMS, if you would like to be invited please call the office or email admin@st-johns.edin.sch.uk

Book Week Scotland – I hope you received the SWAY with book week highlights, our thanks to Mrs Kinsella for her organisation and preparation and thanks to those who dressed up on the Friday, we had a wonderfully eclectic array of characters.

School Renewal Planning: the school improvement planning document which sets out our priorities for the remainder of the year is now on the website. We hope to host an 'open' evening to discuss and share our priorities very early in the new year, this session is likely to be via TEAMS.

Parental Health & Wellbeing Survey: Many thanks to those who responded to the three questions issued. One of the main ideas from **Q1: Suggestions to rebuild a sense of community...** was to include news items which highlight pupil achievement. Each class has agreed to send out weekly tweets and fortnightly blog updates and I will endeavour to include more pictures in subsequent newsletters/SWAYS. We are aware that not all families use twitter, but you can view our tweets without having an account from here: https://twitter.com/Porty_StJs

The school blog can be accessed from here: <https://stjohnsportobello.com/> then click the tab 'class pages' to find the one/s you would like to access.

P6A have created their own VLOGS with Ms Mitchell – you will find the fruits of their labour on the P6 class page.

Some of the other comments from the survey included thanks to the staff for their efforts on return from August, I have passed these on and of the sense of relief that pupils were all back at school full-time. This is echoed by us, ever mindful of the restrictions which continue to be in place. Some respondents asked for family events to take place on line and we will discuss these suggestions at the parent council meeting tomorrow.

Parking/Places for People/Bike Lanes: Thank you to those who have managed to park away from school and walk, the neighbours are appreciative of your efforts. However, my inbox has been full of complaints and concerns and our twitter has also seen pictures posted of those drivers who continue to flout the rules. I have begun emailing individuals who are parking on the double yellows and you will have noticed increased police presence and traffic wardens. Work to segregate the cycle lane will begin next week – our hope is that this safe route will encourage more biking and scooting and less driving overall.

First Holy Communions

Mr Burgess and I attended the final of the 'catch-up' Communion Masses on Friday night. The children were wonderful and engaged so well in the parts of the mass, as directed by Fr Jock. A huge thanks to him and the parish team for leading the children through their sacramental journey this year, no mean feat to have them all completed by Advent.

Holy Rood High School Transition

Our P7 families have all received information from Mrs Daly and the staff team who did not let COVID restrictions hinder them from providing a virtual tour of the school and share introductions from key members of the HRHS team, including school captains (one of whom is a former pupil of ours) and pupils attending Holy Rood. This link takes you to the Tour: <https://bit.ly/2K9R2Rv>

House and Vice Captains: Congratulations to our new House and Vice Captains and a huge well done to all those who put themselves forward for election, a great deal of effort went into the videos they created and shared with all classes ahead of the vote. Results and picture of the new team below:

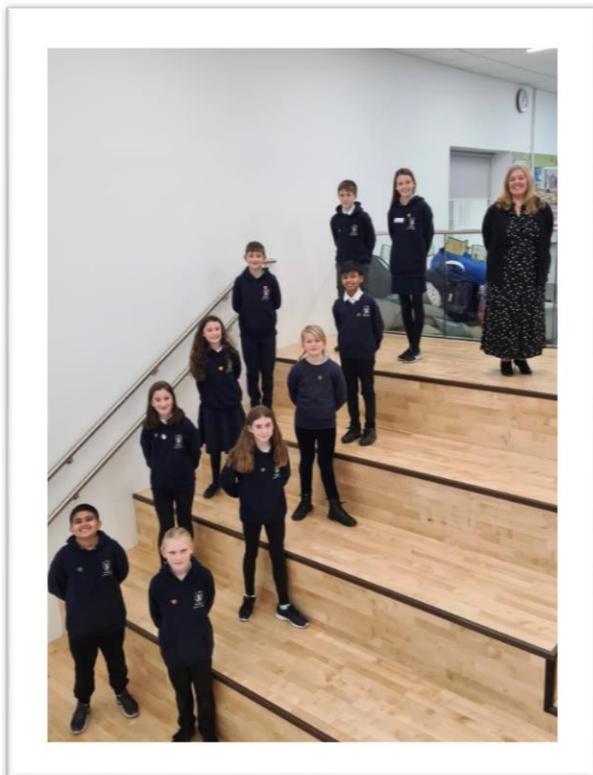
Abercorn: Filip and Ibrahim

Brighton: Olivia and Iona

Figgate: Louise and Amelia

Quarry: Dawid and Tyler

Rosefield: Lucy and Noel



And Finally... in case you missed it in the SWAY, we raised a grand total of £535.78 during the recent fundraising morning – what a fantastic amount. This has been shared with Children in Need and Edinburgh Cyrenians.

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