



# St John's RC Primary School Portobello

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**Mrs Jacqueline Kelly**  
**Head Teacher**

15<sup>th</sup> June 2023

Dear Parents and Carers,

## **Staffing and Organisation: August 2023**

I am delighted to inform you of the arrangements for classes and staffing, from August 2023. We welcome some new teachers to our staff team and look forward to working with them in the new session.

### **Class: Teacher (s):**

P1a Mrs Angela Mackay  
P1b Mrs Mary Rennie/Ms Melissa McLaren  
P2a Mrs Laura Spear/Mrs Lisa Williams  
P2b Miss Hannah Mulvihill (Teacher new to St John's)  
P3a Miss Stephanie Sinclair  
P3b Mrs Rebecca Williamson  
P4a Miss Adele Redman  
P4b Miss Jacqueline Flynn (Teacher new to St John's)/Ms Melissa McLaren  
P5a Ms Shona Mitchell  
P5b Mrs Janet Morrison  
P6a Mrs Laura Birdsell  
P6b Mr James Diffley (Teacher new to St John's)  
P7a Mrs Erin Gargaro/Mrs Sandra Gillespie  
P7b Ms Elisha Bourke

**Support for Learning Teacher:** Mrs Rebecca Crovetti

**Pupil Equity Teacher (supporting attainment):** Miss Claire Miller

**Specialist Teachers:** Mr Stephen Devine (PE) / Miss Claire Miller (Music)

Sadly, we say cheerio for now & thank you to Mrs McIntyre who has supported across the school for several years, digital skills and writing being only two of her many, special talents; we hope Mrs McIntyre won't be a stranger and we will see her back soon.

We also say a fond farewell and thank you to Miss Katrina Black who has successfully completed her probationary year, the children of P5 will remember her kindness and patience and we as a staff, her musical support for school Masses. We wish her good luck for the new teaching year.

Our thanks to Ms Paula Maguire who has supported this year, firstly in P6, then across the school and laterally as a teacher of art – we wish her well with her new class and school next year.

Mrs MacFarlane is also leaving after a number of years supporting across many year groups. Specialised in pupil one to one support we will miss her kindness and flexibility in working with a wide variety of pupils.

## **Retiring Staff**

This has certainly been the year of saying farewell to some of our longest established and most experienced pupil support staff and we sadly say goodbye to Mrs Margaret Mason and Mrs Gina McGroarty, both of whom will be very sadly missed.

Mrs Mason (Harvey, as she was back then) was both a parent and now grandmother of children attending our school, Margaret is renowned for her can do attitude – always busy, creative and with a kind heart – she has supported too many pupils to mention but has provided this year's P1's with a great start to their St John's journey. Margaret has a long association with the school and parish, and I know families will want to wish her a long and happy retirement.

Mrs McGroarty started life off in the old school nursery, a kind, compassionate and committed 'nursery nurse' she then brought her skills into the school and has been a PSA who has supported many of our pupils with additional and complex needs. Gina's never-ending patience and kindness has meant that pupils in her care have benefitted from her calming ways to enable them to succeed. P2 have certainly been supported well this year.

Good luck to them both as they take their leave of St John's and enjoy time with family, friends, and dogs.

We also welcome some new Pupil Support Assistants to join our team next session:

Ms Pamela Anderson

Ms Therese Zulenka and

Ms Julie Cocker who are all joining us as full-time members of staff.

We also offer hearty congratulations to Ms Bourke and her fiancé Jamie who will celebrate their wedding in Ireland during the summer.

Please direct any questions regarding any of the above to the school office team, 0131 669 1363 or [admin@st-johns.edin.sch.uk](mailto:admin@st-johns.edin.sch.uk)