

St-John's RC Primary School

17th January 2025



Email :- admin@st-johns.edin.sch.uk
Tel :- 0131 669 1363

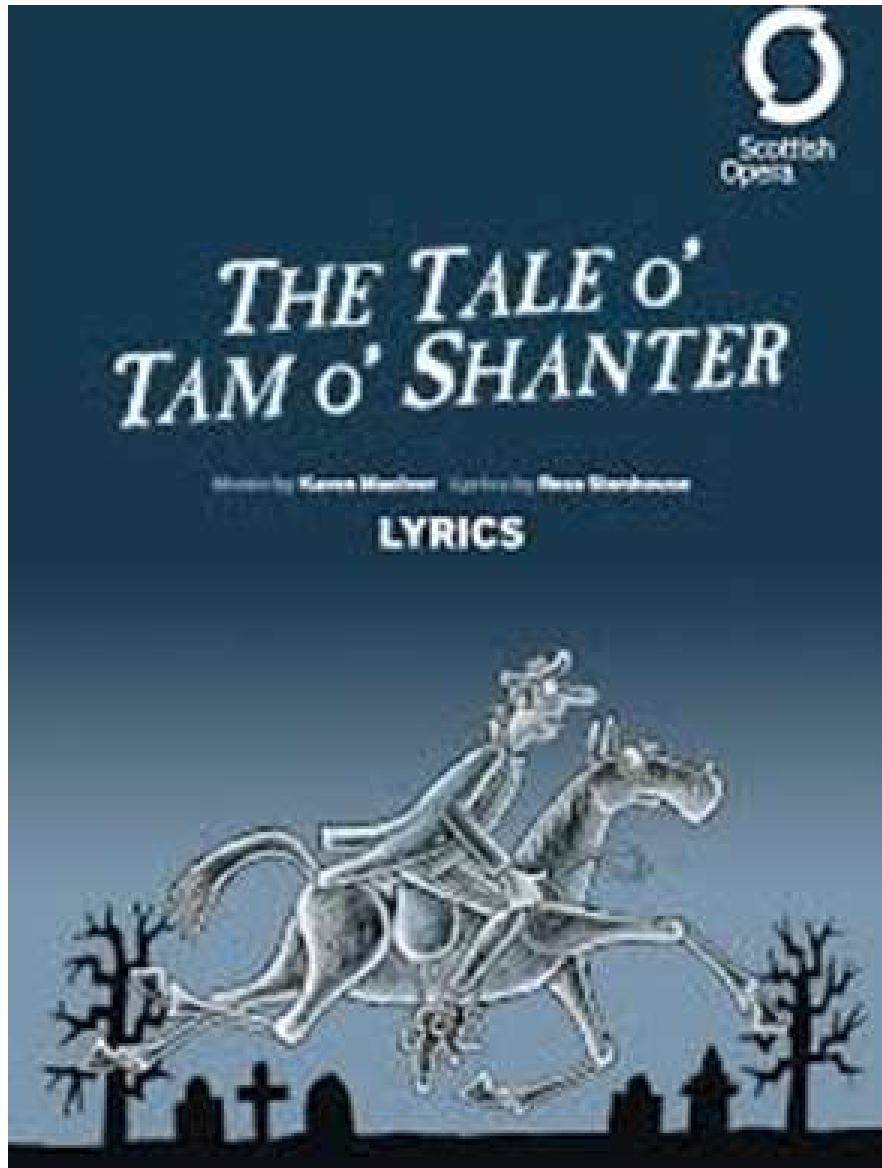
Nurture · Inspire · Flourish · Pray

Message from Mrs Kelly

This week and next the children across the school are participating in a variety of activities related to our Scottish bard, Robert Burns. Poem recitals and a mini-Burns supper are two of the things I've heard about. Mr D has been teaching Scottish Country Dance and we hope to have a huge, whole school ceilidh dance on the astro next **Friday, from 11.30am** – if you are passing and hear the whirl of Scottish dance music give us a wee wave or come and join in! The children can wear traditional dress, tartan etc next **Friday, 24th January.**



P6&7 have also been preparing for their production with Scottish Opera, this will take place on the afternoon of **Thursday, 27th February**, exact time tbc. Excitement is mounting as the children have been learning about the tale of Tam O' Shanter and the songs and dances to accompany the performance. Our work with Scottish Opera takes part on a bi-annual basis and is fully funded by our wonderful parent council.



Wednesday Word Trust

Please see the link for this week's Wednesday Word below.

<https://www.paperturn-view.com/wednesday-word/joy?pid=MTA101634&v=160.3>

Blessings and best wishes,

Susan Firth (Mission Office Manager)
The Wednesday Word Trust
www.wednesdayword.org

Message from Mr Burgess

A reminder: The school car park is for **staff** and **blue badge** holders only. Parking is not permitted on double yellow lines, in cycle lanes, across the entrance to the staff car park, residents drive ways and in bus lanes. Please do not park or block entrance to car park during our school day as this is extremely dangerous whilst children commute to and from school.

I would encourage all parents and carers to park and stride in the morning, there is parking available in the neighbouring streets including Baileyfield Road.



Homework Club P5-P7

P5-7 After school Homework club
1520-1400 each Wednesday



Uniforms

It has been great to see so many children in uniforms since we returned after Christmas. We would like to encourage everyone to wear a dark blue or green jumper, dark trousers and shoes to school. We have a fully stocked rail of Pre - Loved clothing which will remain in the foyer next to office and weather permitting, the back playground on a Friday. P7's should continue to wear their leaver's hoodies each day.



Feast of St John Mass

Very well done to our P3 pupils to led our Mass this week so beautifully. Parishoners commented on the behaviour of the entire school as well as the excellent singing. Thank you to everyone who helped to prepare for this lovely celebration and helped walk the classes to and from church.

YOUNG CARER COORDINATOR

**JANUARY
 2025**

What's in This Issue...

- New Schools Coordinator!
- Dates for your diary
- EYC updates
- UNCRC integration
- UCAS applications - support for young carers
- Carers Census results
- Carers' Trust Young People's Board
- We Care Award - successful schools!

HELLO!

New Schools Coordinator



Hi all! I'm Eva Labeledz and I am the new Schools Coordinator here at EYC!

I started my role in September 2024 and have really enjoyed meeting some of you already through delivering student workshops and assemblies. Some of the things I can offer are:

**Bespoke staff
 training/CPD**

**We Care Award
 guidance**

**Student
 workshops/assemblies**

**Consultation on
 policy/plans**

**Resources and
 information**

Please do get in touch if you would like to chat about how we can support your school!

**eva.labeledz@youngcarers.org.uk
 or 07938 962349**

Dates For Your Diary!

JAN:

- 28th - Network CPD on **setting up support groups** for young carers

MAR:

- 7th - We Care Award deadline
- 12th - Young Carer Action Day
- 12th - Young Carer Coordinator Network Meeting

Theme for Young Carers
 Action Day 2025:
GIVE ME A BREAK

SAVE THE DATE

Weds 12th March

EYC Updates

Next YCC Training

Magical Edinburgh Exhibition

A group of our under 12s young carers took part in a project with Edinburgh International Magic Festival to create incredible optical illusion photos. The project involved dressing up as different well-loved characters (including Peter Pan and Harry Potter) and posing in various locations around Edinburgh to create the magical photographs. The children loved taking part in the project and the photographs are currently on show in a FREE exhibition at the Scottish Storytelling Centre on the Royal Mile until 26th January!



magicfest.co.uk/whats-on/magical-edinburgh-with-edinburgh-young-carers-an-exhibition-of-photographic-illusions/



Winter Wonderland Family Festival

We had a wonderful time at our festive and joyful Winter Wonderland. This is an event we put on every year for all our young carers and their families to enjoy. It was well-attended by many of our families and all enjoyed the hot choc, buffet, arts and crafts activities, flash dance workshop, magician, photobooth facepainting, raffle, DJ workshop, and silent disco! What more could you want from a festive day out!? It was truly a beautiful day and many of the parents fed back how well organised it was for all ages and needs.

Staffing Updates

- **Schools and Statements Worker:** we said goodbye to the lovely Helen Guy, in October. Helen's role will be taken on by our very own **Gary Shaw** (currently 10-12s Development Worker) in February so I'm sure you will all be working more closely with him soon. **10-12s Development**
- **Worker:** As Gary is coming over to the dark side and joining the schools team, we have a current Development Worker vacancy, but we hope to have someone in post around March.

UNCRC Incorporation

July 2024 saw the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child be incorporated into Scots Law. This requires public bodies to uphold and protect children's rights. Young Carers are one group most at risk of not having their rights met (e.g. right to education, right to play and relax etc.). Therefore this is particularly relevant to think about when considering the support you are providing in schools for young carers. It also aligns nicely with the "Rights Respecting

Schools Award which children's rights is a key element of the award's thinking into school ethos.

Please do get in touch if you would like more information/training about UNCRC and Young Carers.



UCAS Applications

Just a reminder that young carers applying to university can now share about their caring responsibilities by ticking a box on their UCAS application.

Do you have any caring responsibilities?

Yes No

Often, universities ask for evidence from school, a young carers' organisation and/or a family doctor, so **please do refer any young adult carers** to us who are looking for support with this. For more info on the support available:

ucas.com/applying/applying-university/students-individual-needs/students-caring-responsibilities

Carers Census 2024

The Carers Census collects data about engaged with services in 2023-24. It is an underrepresentation of the total number of unpaid carers as many are not in contact with services. Here are some of the key findings:

- 52,000 unpaid carers (8320 under 18) in Scotland - 17% increase from previous year The gender split for young carers was 58% female, 42% male Young carers were
- more likely to live in the most deprived areas Most commonly
- reported impact of caring was on emotional wellbeing (reported by 91% of young carers)



Opportunities for Young Carers

Carers Trust Youth Advisory Panel:

- Young Carers aged 13-15 can join the panel to influence decision-making at the Carers' Trust. The panel will
- meet 6 times per year. This is a great
- opportunity for Young Carers to have their say and meet new people!

carers.org/carer-involvement/join-the-youth-advisory-panel



We Care Award Winners!

Big congratulations to the below schools who successfully achieved their We Care Award in December!



We Recognise

- South Morningside Primary School, Edinburgh
- Knox Academy, East Lothian

We Develop

- Camdean Primary School, Fife
- Balfron High School, Stirling



To find out more about the We Care Award please do get in touch with us via email or phone

Child Benefit Charge Increase

We want to make sure parents and carers are getting all the support they're entitled to, so we're getting in touch with some important information on Child Benefit.

In April 2024, the amount people can earn before they start paying the High Income Child Benefit Charge increased to **£60,000**.

For parents and carers who have not yet claimed Child Benefit, or who opted out of payments and have income between **£60,000** and **£80,000**, it can now be financially worth their while to claim. The easiest way to do this is on the HMRC app or online.

We'd really appreciate your help in sharing this information with families, so we've attached a handy toolkit with content ready to share on your channels.

We've also included some messages to help parents and carers access their proof of entitlement online or on the app, which may be useful when applying for school places.

HMRC



HM Revenue
& Customs

You can restart
them **online** or
in the **HMRC app**



HM Revenue
& Customs

Child Benefit HICBC changes resource pack - January 2025.pdf



Changes to the **High Income Child Benefit Charge**



HM Revenue
& Customs



Missing out on **Child Benefit** payments?



HM Revenue
& Customs

Communication

If you are contacting the school with a non-urgent enquiry, then please email admin@st-johns.edin.sch.uk. This is a tracked mailbox and you will receive a response within 2 working days.

For urgent enquiries please phone the school office on **0131-669-1363** and leave message if unanswered to allow us to return your call.

Our office foyer is very busy first thing in the morning and ask if you have any questions or concerns for the class teacher please email admin@st-johns.edin.sch.uk
(Use FAO.....)
to help us direct your email to the correct person.

Absence and Request for absence

If your child is unwell and will not be able to attend school, you must phone the Office on **0131- 669-1363**, by **8:30am**, to let us know otherwise you will receive an absent text. The school has a rigorous policy of checking that all children are in school and will contact you directly should they fail to attend.

If your child is going to be absent for any medical appointments, please use the link to notify the school office giving at least **48hours notice** where possible.

[Pupil Appointment Notification \(office.com\)](#)

Holiday requests during term time should be put in writing to Mrs Kelly and sent to our admin address. admin@st-johns.edin.sch.uk

Lateness - Gates open at 0840 and close at 0850

Through our regular lateness and attendance monitoring we are sending out Late texts daily to any children who are not in class by **0850**.

School gates are opened from **0840** each morning for parents to drop their children and go. At **0850** children are brought into school, they get organised for their learning and look at the plan for the day ahead. This is also a good time for your child to build up relationships with staff and friends in class.

If there is a reason why your child cannot get to school on time, please contact the school office on **0131-669-1363**. Otherwise, we look forward to seeing all our children at **0850** each day. Mrs Kelly

Headteacher

Key Dates

J a n u a r y		F e b r u a r y	
7th	All pupils resume	3rd	P6/7 Cross Country
15th	Feast of St-John: P3-P7 lead by P3 @ St-John's	10th-16th	Mid – term break
23rd	P7 Art of Listening Trip	17th	All resume
24th	Robert Burns Celebration	17th-28th	God's Loving Plan Fortnight
29th	Lunar New Year	25th	P7A trip Parliament
30th	Parent Council meeting 7-8pm @St-John's School	26th	P7B trip Parliament
		27th	P6/P7 Scottish Opera Performance

M a r c h		A p r i l	
3rd	P4 Sacramental parent Meeting	1st	P7B Art of Listening
5th	Ash Wednesday	2nd	P7 Swimming Gala
6th	World Book Day	7th-21st	Easter holidays
10th	P3 Sacrament of Reconciliation @St-John's 7pm	22nd	All resume
19th- 21st	Parent Consultation's	23rd	P1 & P7 Vista Style Photographs
24th	P6/7 Cross Country Finals - Inverleith	28th	P4 Parent Sacramental Meeting
25th	P7 Transition Mass @ Cathedral		

M a y		J u n e	
5th	Monday holiday- All	3rd	P7A Trip - Pizza Express
6th	Inset Day -children off	4th	School Board Cup- Semis
7th	School Board Cup - Round 1	9th	Sports Day - further details to follow
12th	P6&P7 Interscholastics	11st	Football Finals Night - P1 Transition - class assembly
14th	Inspectors Cup - Round 2	13th	End of year reports - New P1 transition activity, all new P1 children
19th	Monday holiday- All	16th	P7 Confirmation @ St John's
20th	P7B Trip to Pizza Express	17th-19th	P7 Transition days at new High School
21st	New P1 Transition -St John's Nursery	18th	Meet the Teacher
21st	School Board Cup - Round 2	19th	New P1 Transition - Meet the Teacher/lunch
26th	P6/P7 Interscholastics : Meadowbank	23rd	P7 Leaver's Event
28th	New P1 Transition -Partnership Nurseries	25th	P7 Leavers Mass
28th	Insepctors Cup Semis	26th	Last Day of term
29th	Ascension Thursday Mass : Led by P2 with P6 support@ St MM		
29th	P4 Reconciliation service and St MM rehearsal		