

St-John's RC Primary School



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27th February 2026

Nurture · Inspire · Flourish · Pray

Message from Mrs Kelly

As you know, Learners in St John's investigated the question 'What makes Scotland, Scotland?' Timed to coincide with Robert Burns's birthday, each class explored Scots culture through a whole school interdisciplinary project. Learning focused on literacy and the arts.

The topic was linked to:

Article 13 Sharing our Ideas using Language,
Article 30 The right to Own Culture and Language
Article 29 Developing our Skills and Creativity.

Early Level learners focused on Geography Weather, Mapping and Features
First Level explored Scottish Language: stories, dance, songs, art and poetry
Second Level investigated What has Scotland contributed to the world?

As our topic concluded we invited parents into school for an open morning, over 150 families came in on a wet and windy Wednesday to tour the school and look at the work undertaken.

Our Expressive Arts Showcase was a joyful celebration of creativity, culture, and community. The school choir captivated the audience with Scottish songs exploring themes of cultural identity, while our talented string players brought energy and tradition to the hall with lively Scottish reels and jigs. We also celebrated the wider achievements of our learners, with impressive performances on piano and flute that highlighted their commitment and growing confidence.

A particularly moving moment came from learners of different cultural backgrounds who recited Scots poems, demonstrating both their linguistic skills and their appreciation of Scotland's rich tradition of storytelling and poetry. The open morning was a true reflection of our diverse school community and the power of the language and expressive arts to bring us together.

Some photos below of class work and a video of the braw poetry recitals will be uploaded on to the school website.



P7



P6

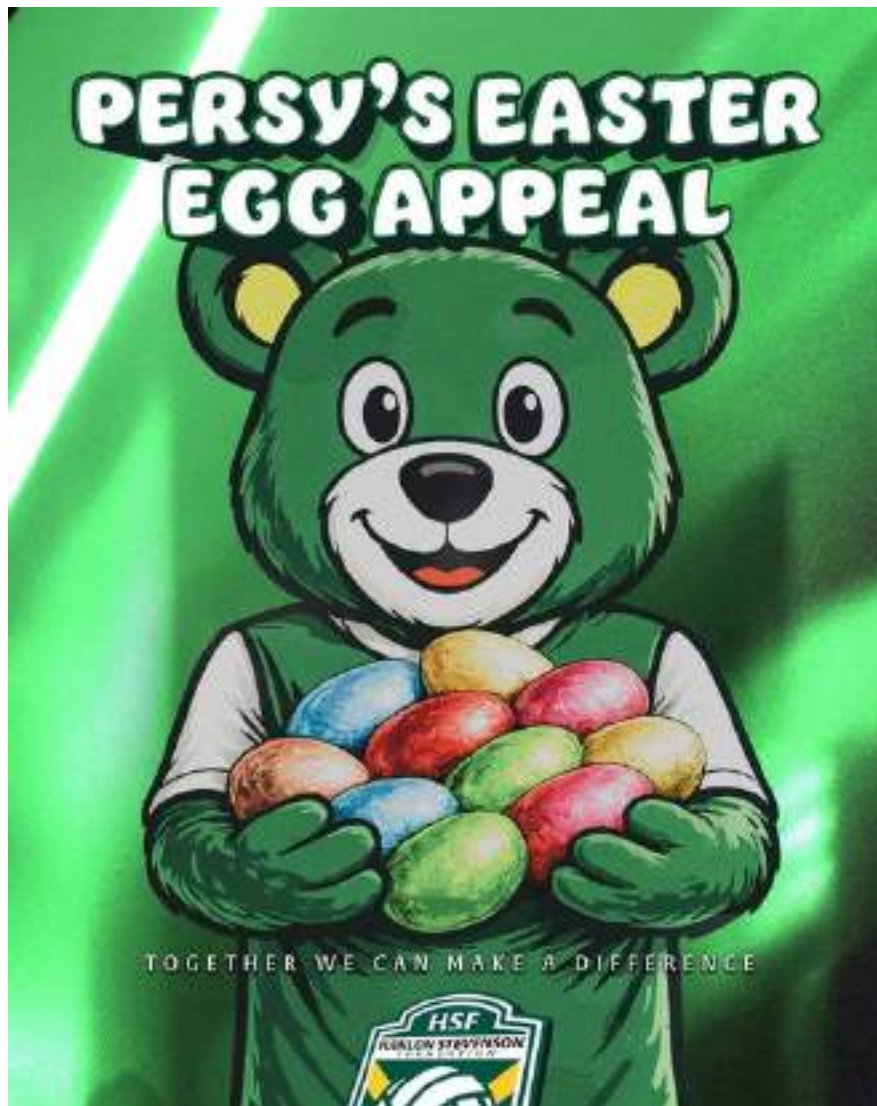


P5



PIC-COLLAGES





This Lent we are focusing on our school values of kindness and ambition. We want to support children in our local communities who are less fortunate and have partnered up with the Hanlon Stevenson Foundation, a local charity. We aim to support their ambition below:

🍷❤️ Persy's Easter Egg Appeal ❤️🍷 "This Easter, Persy will be delivering Easter Eggs to hospitals, youth groups and schools to help spread a little joy. If you'd like to support the appeal you can help us by donating an Easter Egg which we will deliver on your behalf."

Throughout Lent our 'Minnie Vinnies' pupil group will collect and store the Easter Eggs

Classes can also add to the Lenten SCIAF, 'Wee Box, Big Change' appeal by collecting pennies and loose change to drop into the class Wee Box. More info about this below:

<https://www.sciaf.org.uk/resources/901-wee-box-big-change-2026-fundraising-resources>

Our Laudato Si pupil group will count the pennies for us each week.

Thank you in advance for supporting our Lenten fundraising this year.



On Tuesday this week, P7 attended the annual Transition Mass at St Mary's Metropolitan Cathedral. Accompanied by their class teachers, Ms Mariner, Mrs Gillespie, Mrs Khan and Mr Burgess the children gathered outside the church for the obligatory picture before heading inside for Mass. The staff were delighted with the way the children represented our school and took part in the Mass through song and prayer. Millie beautifully read a bidding prayer and Albie and Lucas proudly carried the school banner in the opening procession. The theme of the Mass was Jesus the Teacher and during his sermon the Archbishop spoke about the importance of keeping the Our Father prayer close to us throughout our lives, particularly for the children as they make the move to secondary school.

Since Holyrood cluster organised the Mass, some of the choir led by Miss Miller were asked to lead the singing. The children did themselves, Miss Miller and the school proud in the way they led the hymns throughout the Mass.
Well done P7 and well done choir!

Mark Burgess

Parent Consultation's



Parent's Evening

You are invited to make appointments for the school's next parent-teacher meetings.

The parent-teacher meetings are on 25/03/2026 and 27/03/2026.

To make your appointments please login at: <https://parents-booking.co.uk/stjohnsportobello>

To login just type your email address into the login web page and press Login. You will be emailed a magic login link, which you can then click on to login (without requiring a username and password).

Appointments will be available to book from 16:30 on 27/02/2026 until 12:30 on 05/03/2026.

After you have made your appointments you can choose to print or e-mail confirmation.

If you cannot login please contact the school office.
N.B. The email address field on the login page is only used to send your appointment confirmation. If you have problems logging in, it will not be because of the e-mail address you entered.

We look forward to you joining us for parents' evening.

Cross Country Champs



Mr D and forty runners from P6&7 headed off on a cold wet, Monday to Saughton Park, more in hope than expectation to take part in the Cross Country event. We were blown away by their success. Medal winners below:

Aila P6 1st Place
Grace P6 7th Place
Innes P6 1st Place
Blair P6 2nd Place
Oscar P7 1st Place
Phoebe P7 4th Place
Sarah P7 5th Place
Katie P7 4th Place
Stas P7 7th Place

We are so proud of them - this is a wonderful achievement and encompasses our values of ambition and achievement with a huge dose of resilience thrown in. Thanks to the parents who accompanied Mr D and for their encouragement. 20 pupils will progress to the finals at Inverleith Park in March.



One of our local community club, City of Edinburgh Basketball Club are running a free 'come and try' evening for all P4-7 pupils on Friday 6th March at Portobello High School. This is open to all boys and girls to come along to give basketball a shot! We'll have a fun 90 minute (17:30 - 19:00) session trying out some skills and playing games. You don't need any basketball experience, just some trainers and a smile!

At the end of the session, there is the option to stay to watch their Senior Men's team play in an exciting Scottish National head to head match!

To sign up to attend please email coachcampbell.m@gmail.com with the following information:

Child's name
Child's school
Child's DOB

2 emergency contact details (plus any medical conditions we should be aware of)
If you have any questions ask Mhari within your email.

Mid term Challenge

We hope everyone is settling back in after a lovely break. We would like to say a massive congratulations to every child who completed our mid term challenge. The children have done a fantastic job.

An entry was selected at random to be the winner of the prize:
Lilien Benson P6A



World Book Day

To celebrate World Book Day 2026 (in a nod to a certain classic book) the PTA will be selling chocolate bars after school, at Treverlen Park entrance, where there are a number of hidden lucky gold tickets to be won. These are £1 per bar (max 5 pp currently to allow everyone to take part). Pre ordering is advised as chocolate bars are limited:
<https://www.zeffy.com/en-GB/ticketing/st-j-onka-bars-world-book-day>



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 \(office.com\) link](#)

Holiday requests during term time should be put in writing at least 2 weeks prior to Mrs Kelly and sent to our admin address.
admin@st-johns.edin.sch.uk

Lateness - Gates open at 0840 and close at 0850



EVERY MINUTE COUNTS – check your emails for more information from the Holy Rood Learning Community about our school attendance focus for this term. Important learning and socialising happen from the start of every school day! #Article28 #Article29 #EveryMinuteCounts

School gates are opened from 0840 each morning for parents to drop their children off. 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 or you miss the gate closing, please bring your child through the main office where they will be recorded as late on the register or contact the school on 0131-669-1363.

Otherwise, we look forward to seeing all our children at 0850 each day.

Mrs Kelly
Headteacher

February 2026

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun
23	24	25	26	27	28	1 March
	<p>International Mother language Day</p> <p>P7 and selected children attending St Mary's Cathedral for P7 Transition Mass</p> <p>1100</p>					<p>P3 Children's Mass @ St-John's Church</p> <p>0930-1100</p> <p>P4 DTIM Mass at St-Mary Magdalene's</p> <p>1115-1230</p>

March 2026

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
P2 Trip to Stirling Castle	P7b visit to Waterstones 1000-1100		World Book Day P1 visit to Portobello Bookshop P4a visit to Waterstones 1000-1100 P4b visit to Waterstones 1100-1200	P7a visit to Waterstones 1000-1100		
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
P3 Sacrament of Reconciliation, 7pm		Parent Council TEAMS 1900 link to follow				
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
			Eid al Fitr P6 Shared Learning 1430	Eid al Fitr P2 Shared Learning 1100-1145		
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
God's Loving Plan Fortnight		Parents Evening 1600-1900		Parents Evening 1300-1500		
30	31					

April 2026

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun
		1	2	3	4	5
		Stations of the Cross		Good Friday		
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Holiday	Holiday	Holiday	Holiday	Holiday		
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
Holiday	Holiday	Holiday	Holiday	Holiday		
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
Holiday						
27	28	29	30			
Cross Country Inverleith Mr Devine and selected pupil's						

May 2026

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun
				1	2	3
Holiday	Inservice Day	All resume				
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
			Ascension Mass P3, St MM	P7 Sacrament of Confirmation		
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31
	Eid al Adha	Eid al Adha				1 st Holy Communion St MM

June 2026

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Sports Day	Back up Sports Day			Mini Marathons		
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
		P7 Assembly and Mass	P7 Leavers Event			
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
	P7 Transition Day	P7 Transition Day Meet New Teacher	P7 Transition Day	Reports		
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
				Last day of term		
29	30					
Holiday	Holiday					