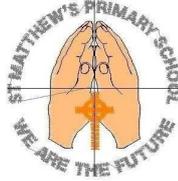


# St Matthew's RC Primary School



22.02.13

Dear Parents and Guardians,

We are now into our second week after the February Break and already working hard. We had a restful three days and then a rather productive In-service training two days. Mrs Golder, Ms. Rodgers and myself attended an Emergency First Aid Course and the support team attended two courses related to the School Improvement Plan. Mr Thomson worked on our Monitoring and Tracking systems after which we conducted a school assessment exercise looking at what we have achieved so far, the children's progress and areas for improvement, all of which helps us on our continued journey to excellence.

**Sainsbury's Active Kids** We are collecting vouchers so please don't forget to hand them in to us.

**The Toy Amnesty** held on February 8<sup>th</sup>. was a great success in terms of the children's own stalls. There was also a RAG BAG collection that week which brought in £43. In total, including the revenue from the Table Top rentals, we made £225.78. Now remembering that we have 22 children in school, this was an excellent amount to send to our designated charity – CLIC Sargent, the charity for children with Leukaemia and other cancers. Our Daffodil collection is also included in the sum above which gives us £50 to send to Marie Curie. **Children giving to children and those in need.**



## **Visit to Rosslyn Chapel**

The whole school had an interesting and informative visit to Rosslyn Chapel where the children from Roslin Primary 7 presented a short play explaining the history of the chapel and a guided tour afterward. It was a most enjoyable experience for us all. Our thanks to everyone at Roslin.

**Forest Walks** The whole school have been helping build a bivouac with Alasdair Taylor, an outdoor learning coach engaged by Rosewell Development Trust . The second of these outdoor learning experiences will be Tuesday Feb. 26<sup>th</sup> and I feel sure the children will get as much out of it as last week's session.

**World Book Day Thursday March 6<sup>th</sup>** This event is held to support the children in their growing love of books and literature in general. Like last year, we plan to hold an World Book Day assembly on March 6<sup>th</sup> starting at 9.15am. The children are invited to choose a favourite author or character to dress up as. We would like them to present their



choice to the whole school talking about the author, his or her other works, why they like this book and reading an exciting excerpt from it. Parents are encouraged to attend. You will receive, with this letter, a Book Club catalogue for you and your child to choose books to buy for their personal collection. The book voucher you received recently can be used against the cost of your purchase. Good hunting.

**Parents Evenings March 12<sup>th</sup> & 13<sup>th</sup>**. You have already received the letter with dates for appointments to complete and return by March 1<sup>st</sup>. A speedy return will ensure an appointment on the day and time which would suit you best.

**Euro Quiz March 13<sup>th</sup>**. St Matthew's PS will be represented at the Midlothian heats by a team of 4 children. In order to choose these children fairly we will hold a small quiz of our own with the winners going forward to the Euro Quiz heats at Bonnyrigg.

**P6/7 Cross Country March 19<sup>th</sup>**. This event will be held at Vogrie Country Park. The children will be transported by mini bus. Further details to follow.



**Science Museum Visit March 20<sup>th</sup>**. As we are committed to improving the children's experiences in Science we have successfully bid for Edina Trust funding. Our trip to the Science Museum in Glasgow in March will be an opportunity to explore and excite the children's interest in science. We plan to make this occasion a rich and rewarding one. P1 & 2 will attend a Sky Safari, Planetarium and a Mini Beast Workshop while the P5-7 will attend a Blood, Bile and Body Bits, and a workshop on Wind Works. On our return the children will be invited to present their thoughts and assessments of the day and what they have learned. Packed lunches and snacks (no fizzy drinks and no glass bottles) to be brought and children must be at school for 8.45am as the bus will leave at 9.00am prompt.

**Parent Council Meeting March 21<sup>st</sup>**. 6.30pm. Please feel free to attend. This is the perfect forum for you to access information and raise issues you wish discussed.



## **Easter Bonnet Parade/Egg Hunt/Decorated Eggs**

**March 22<sup>nd</sup>**

Last year's Easter Bonnet Parade was most entertaining with a very festive feel. This year because we have been preparing for the Euro Quiz the theme will be European monumental icons e.g the Eiffel Tower. Don't worry, the hats will be constructed at school. Your job however, is to help your child decorate an egg for the hunt. There are prizes to be won!!



**Easter Holiday March 22<sup>nd</sup> – April 8<sup>th</sup>**. School closes for the holiday at 12.30pm.

**Josh at Camp April 8<sup>th</sup>**. Josh starts his P7 Cluster Camp experience. We know he will have a great time and look forward to his stories on his return.

**Poetry Session April 8<sup>th</sup>**. Stuart Henderson, a published national poet, will deliver a poetry writing session for the whole school 1.30-2.30pm. We hope through this experience to encourage children to write and read more poetry.

**Pink (The Musical) P1&2 April 9<sup>th</sup>**. The children of P1 & 2 are to attend a performance of the musical PINK which is being held at Rosewell Primary. We are all very excited at the prospect.

## **HOMEWORK**

At the beginning of the academic year I sent an explanation of some of our expectations. Please find a copy attached. Mr Thomson and I are rather disappointed by the lack of commitment to and personal responsibility for homework. Please share the page of expectations with your child so that we can get back on track.

Thank you for your continued cooperation. If you have any worries or concerns please feel free to make an appointment with me or pop in first thing in the morning or after school.

Regards,

Mara Matthews