



St Matthew's RC Primary



Midlothian

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3rd November 2023

Dear Parents/Carers,

We have had a spook-tacular week at St Matthew's this week. The children had a great time at our Halloween disco on Tuesday, filled with many fantastic costumes, lots of dancing, laughter and fun! It was heart-warming to see our learners and staff having such a great time together.

Prior to the Halloween festivities, some of our Primary 3 learners participated in their rite of Enrolment mass for their Reconciliation journey; they represented themselves and our school exceptionally well and we look forward to supporting them on this journey. Furthermore, some of them also read at All Saints mass on Wednesday, and did a fantastic job. The whole school community was very proud of them and a number of parishioners commented on what a super job they did. Many thanks to Miss Torley for supporting them with this.

Now that Hallowe'en has passed, the classroom doors are bare once more, gearing up for Christmas. We look forward to sharing the next masterpieces with you.

In the meantime, please take note of important dates for you diary moving forward, which can be found at the bottom of this update.

Kind regards,

Mrs Cran

School Updates

Children in Need - Be SPOTactular! - Friday 17th November

Be SPOTactular! and show us your spots! Come dressed in spotty or bright clothing (no costumes please).

This will be a non-school uniform day for all pupils at St Matthew's. If you are able to, please send a coin donation on the day and we will send all money raised to Children In Need.

Christmas Cards for School

We have had a delivery of the ordered mugs and coasters and have been issued. We are currently still waiting for the cards and gifts tags and as soon as they arrive they will be issued immediately. Please accept our apologies that they do not arrived together, but unfortunately, this is out with our control.

P7 Numeracy Event @ SDHS

The P7s are going for a Numeracy event at St David's High School on Tuesday 7th November 2023. Pupils will be back at St Matthew's for approximately 1.30 pm. Due to the timings of this event, please arrange for all pupils to have a packed lunch, drink and snack to take with them.

Parents Meeting for Sacrament of Reconciliation

There will be a meeting for parents about this Sacrament on Tuesday 14th November in Our Lady Church Hall, Bonnyrigg at 7pm.

P1-3 Trip to Scottish Owl Centre

On Wednesday 15th November, we will be going on a school trip as part our novel study. We will be going to meet and learn about some real live owls with Sacred Heart Primary School to the Scottish Owl Centre, Whitburn. Please could all permissions forms be returned, to the school office and £6.50 payments be paid through parent pay by no later than Friday 10th November.

Individual Photographs

Tempest Photography company will be coming in on **Wednesday 15th November** to take individual and family group photographs, please could we ask that all pupils come to school in school uniform this day and bring their PE kit with them to change into. Please note P1-3 will get their photos prior to leaving for the trip to the Scottish Owl Centre.

Parent Consultations

Letters have recently been issued to all pupils. Please ensure you return the Parent's Evening slip with your preferred time slot for **Thursday 16th November**. The options are 3:30-5:30pm or 6:30-8:30pm. Please could we have all slips by Friday 3rd November.

Flu Vaccination

Nasal flu vaccines will be given to the children on **Friday 17th November**. All pupils who have previously returned the permission form will receive this vaccination.

Appropriate Clothing

It is imperative that the children come to school wearing jackets – ideally with hoods. As the weather turns colder, we might find ourselves in the difficult position of having to decide whether a child is dressed warmly enough to go outside. As children have the right to fresh air and the opportunity to exercise, we endeavour to send the children outside as much as possible, including when it is raining lightly. If the weather conditions are adverse or dangerous, we ensure the children enjoy their break time indoors, but would greatly appreciate clothing that suits the coldest weather, to ensure they get a break outside to prepare them for learning across the day

St David's High School Open Evening

St David's High School are holding an open evening for this year's P6/7s to attend with their families on **8th November, 6-8pm**. This will be an opportunity for the children to have a tour around the school and hear from some of their new teachers. You do not need to sign up, but simply go along on the night.

Cross-Stitch Club

Reminder cross stitching club is running every Tuesday after school at 15:15-16:15. Our last session will be on the 28th of November.

P3-5 Swimming

Please remember swimming every Friday morning. Children should come to school in their uniforms (except on dress down days), and bring their swimming kit and towel with them in a separate bag.

PE Kit

PE this year will be taught on a **Monday** and **Wednesday**. Children should come to school wearing their PE kits as it ensures that children do not need to use their PE time to get changed twice.

Please be reminded that no clothing associated with football clubs should be worn to school, during PE or

when representing the school in the locality. Pupils should wear white T shirts / shorts/ trainers/tracksuit bottoms for PE, a St Matthew's Hoodie or Jumper may be required all year round.

P7 Camp at Manor Adventure

For any of the P7s that have booked a space on the St David's ASG camp at Lockerbie Manor, please note that the next payment for this payment is due today, 27th October 2023. Payments can be made on parent pay.

Breakfast Club & Morning Arrival

We offer a breakfast club to all pupils at a cost of 50p per day – payments via **parent pay** (free to pupils entitled to free school meals). Pupils are invited to join in various games & art activities and given a healthy breakfast. The club runs between 8.30 am and 8.50 am - due to staffing we cannot allow children into the school prior to **8.30 am**. No booking necessary.

Please could we remind parents that the playground is unsupervised in the mornings and the doors do not open until 8.50 am. Due to safety reasons, we ask that pupils are not left unattended in the playground early in the mornings.

Breakfast Club Update

We have been having some spooky Halloween fun at breakfast club over the last few weeks. Here is a look at some of our creations.



Nut-Free Snacks

Due to severe nut allergies at our school, please do not send your child to school with snacks or lunch items containing nuts. This includes, but is not limited to, Kinder Buenos, Nutella, Daim bars and peanut butter. Please note that any snacks with nuts in them will be sent home with the child. We very much encourage healthy snacks such as fruit.



Parking

If you absolutely need to drop your child to school or collect them using your car, please ensure you park inside the Whitehill grounds and avoid parking on the roadside, particularly either side of the entrance/exit of the football grounds. When parking on the roadside outside the grounds, visibility can be affected for cars entering and exiting the stadium grounds, which could lead to an accident.

Our JRSOs continuing to put cones out every day to encourage and guide safe parking and as always, we are grateful and appreciative of these cones being adhered to. Thank you for your continued support on this matter.

Medication

If your child requires any medication (including inhalers, 2 required to be held in school) while at school, please ensure that you have completed the relevant medication form. These are available from Mrs Golder at the school office.

As per our administration of medication policy, we cannot administer this medication without parental consent and permission forms need to be completed by parents prior to us administering any medication. Please also ensure all medication sent to school is in date and includes the dispensing label from the pharmacy if a prescribed medication.

Class Updates

P1-3

In P1-3 this week we have been enjoying Halloween, reading new stories, and learning through playing. On Monday, we spent time using primary colours to mix the colour of our skin with paint - this was tricky but we learnt a lot about resilience and which colours to add to change the tone of the paint. On Tuesday, we created potions and wrote out the ingredients. In the afternoon, we had a blast at our school Halloween party! In the classroom, we practised adding through Halloween activities such as pin the nose on the witch, dooking for apples, and throwing rings on the witches hat. The P1s have been busy making sound crafts for the letters 'c', 'k' and 'u' and practising their reading and blending

skills with CVC words. We have also spent time learning about odd and even numbers this week using numicon to help us. We are very good at identify odd and even numbers! We have also enjoyed doing some art this week using chalks and learning different techniques of shading, smudging, and drawing lines. Next week we start out new topic on The Owl Who was Afraid of the Dark!



P3-5

This week in Literacy, we have been working on our text study. We learned about the different Saxon kingdoms that existed in Britain at the time that our novel was set. We compared the map to what Britain looks like now, and used our problem solving skills to create a map using county domino cards. We looked at adverbs used in the text, and discussed what other adverbs could be used instead. We also discussed inference, and tried to work out how the character was feeling based on clues in the text. We will be looking at more inference next week, as well as learning more about life in the past.



In Numeracy, we have been learning about division. We learned that division is when we split a number into equal groups and discussed how we can use our times tables knowledge to help us to divide. We will build on this learning next week by looking at different strategies to help us to divide.

P5-7

In literacy have started our film study looking at WALL-E. This week we continued working on our inferencing skills by making small cartoon strips of what WALL-E and EVE could be saying and the evidence we have as to why we think that. We have also been answering understanding questions in full sentences, using the question to help form our answer. For Black History Month the theme is 'Celebrating Our Sisters' and we had to research different women and what they were the first to do.

In numeracy we have started looking at division and fractions. To start division we have been looking at the link between division and multiplication. Looking at fact families and how it can help us solve missing number sums. For fractions some groups have been looking at recreating the whole fraction, for example if we have 1/3 how many more to make a whole? Other groups have been working on mixed and improper fractions and how to write them.

This week in PE we didn't have the hall so we did PE in the classroom and outside. We had a great time doing Go Noodle and doing they did years ago. We also groups leading lunchtime games club with the P1-3s we have been doing an art different Saints, we found many Saints for almost



all the ones that had our next two playground and P3-5s.n RE project looking at that there are so everything!

The Snug



This week we have continued our sound learning. Some of us have been working on our initial sounds of 'g' and 'o' and learning how to form them. Some of us who know our initial sounds have been working on our blending and sight word skills too. Some of us have been working on our set 3 sounds and have learnt the and have been working on learning 'aw' and 'are'. Some of us have been working on our reading skills in our activity books.

During maths time, we have been continuing with our sequencing learning to 20 for some of us. Others have been sequencing to 50 and others have been sequencing to 1000. Some of us have been working on our place value of ones, while others have been working on place value of ones, tens and hundreds.

We loved the Halloween party this week and we enjoyed wearing our costumes to the party on Tuesday. We have really been enjoying our calm yoga time at the end of every day, this helps us move and stretch our bodies and also keep our minds nice and calm too.

Kind regards,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Siobhna Cran".

Siobhna Cran
Acting Headteacher

Dates For Your Diary

Please note these are subject to change

November:

- Mon 6th November – P7 Enhanced Transition – Group 1
- Tue 7th November – P7 Numeracy Event @ SDHS 9.00 am
- Wed 8th November – P6/7 Open Evening @ SDHS times TBC
- Fri 10th November – P3-5 Swimming
- Mon 13th – 17th November- Scottish Book Week
- Mon 13th – 17th November- Catholic Education Week
- Mon 13th – 17th November- Anti-Bullying Week
- Mon 13th November – P7 Enhanced Transition – Group 2
- Tues 14th November – Sacrament of Reconciliation Parents Meeting – 7pm @ Our Lady Church Hall, Bonnyrigg
- Tues 14th November – Boccia @ St David's HS
- Wed 15th November – P1-3 Trip to Scottish Owl Centre – Leave at 9.00 am – return at approx. 3.15 pm
- Wed 15th November – Individual Photographs
- Thurs 16th November - Parent Consultations
- Fri 17th November – Flu Vaccination Programme in School
- Fri 17th November – P3-5 Swimming
- Fri 17th November – Children in Need Day
- Mon 20th November – Fri 24th November – Road Safety Week
- Mon 20th November – P7 Enhanced Transition – Group 2
- Fri 24th November – Dress Down Day
- Fri 24th November – P3-5 Assembly – parents welcome @ 11.30
- Mon 27th November – P7 Enhanced Transition – Group 3

December:



- Mon 4th December – P7 Enhanced Transition – Group 3
- Weds 6th December – Pantomime at Festival Theatre
- Sat 9th December – Christmas Party – St Matthew’s Church Hall – 6.00 pm – 8.00 pm
- Mon 11th December – Fluoride Varnish
- Fri 15th December – St David’s High School maths teacher visit to P7
- Sun 17th December – Sacrament of Reconciliation P4’s 5pm – St Matthew’s RC Church
- Fri 22nd December - Christmas holidays - school closes 12.25pm

January:

- Tues 9th January – New term starts for pupils

Term Time Days of Obligation – whole school mass

- Wed 1st Nov – All Saints Day
- Fri 8th December – Feast of the Immaculate Conception
- Thurs 9th May – Feast of the Ascension