



St Matthew's RC Primary



32 Carnethie Street
Rosewell
Midlothian
EH24 9AT

Tel: 0131 271 4695
Email: stmatthews_ps@midlothian.gov.uk
Website: <http://stmatthews.mgfl.net>
Acting Headteacher: Mrs S Cran
Twitter: @stmatthewsps1

9th November 2023

Dear Parents/Carers,

Brrrrr.... Now that the weather is starting to turn and the cold spells are upon us, please ensure your child comes to school with a jacket/hat/scarf. There have been some learners who have been coming without and while we do have some spare coats that we can give in circumstances like this, there aren't many, so it would be hugely appreciated if learners brought their own. We try to get out for playtime as much as possible, and only stay in if the weather is really bad, so it's important that they are prepared for all weathers.

On the note of clothing, it is great to see more and more learners coming to school in full school uniform, including a tie. Thank you for supporting the school to maintain high expectations around this. If you need any additional uniform, please speak to the school – we have a uniform bank here with lots of items that you are welcome to have!

Finally, I was so proud to see so many learners step up for the Cran catwalk in assembly this week. The focus for the catwalk was around overcoming challenges in learning and being resilient and many children could identify that they did this, which was just fantastic to see.

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.

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.

RSHP (Relationships, Sexual Health and Parenthood) Consultation

In August 2023, draft statutory guidance was published around the delivery of relationships, sexual health and parenthood education in Scottish schools. The draft guidance is an update to guidance originally published in 2014 and a public consultation has now been opened to ensure that all views are considered before the guidance is finalised.

As the primary educators of their children, it is important for parents and carers to offer their views on the content of this guidance, particularly within the context of upholding Catholic beliefs.

In particular, views are sought on whether:

- the content of the revised guidance is clear in its aims
- the guidance provides the necessary and relevant information to guide teachers on their delivery of RSHP education
- the specific guidance contained is accurate and relevant in providing factual and meaningful learning on the specific topics it covers
- the resources and signposts are relevant, up-to-date and useful in supporting teachers and school staff to provide meaningful RSHP learning

Please take some time to engage with the new guidance and share your views within this consultation by following the link below:

https://consult.gov.scot/learning-directorate/teaching-guidance-for-relationships-sexual-health/?fbclid=IwAR00NJ8Ct6t6HTY10XHc-trxbz5AsFcatL_VSv5hcnUdviYmy9OWFortyl4

P1-5 Nativity Show – Wednesday 13th December

We are so pleased to announce that our nativity show this week will be A Wiggly Nativity by Starshine. Rehearsals will begin next week in anticipation for our performance in December. Please find below the parts which have been given to children.

Mary	Poppy
Joseph	Jack
Donkey	River
Innkeepers	Sanvi, Liliana, Goodness
Shepherds	Ikem, Alex, Amelia
Chickens (dancers)	Mia-Jane, Rio, Leo, Lena
Sheep+lambs	April, Eilis, Rylie, Phoenix
Camels	Macie, Clark, Melika, Cathal
Cows (dancers)	Aaron, Lottie, Lea
Wisemen	Noah, Marcel, Patrick
Angels	Joanie, Francesca, Tadhg, Mercy
Star of Bethlehem	Ruby
Narrators	Sophie, Amelie, Matylda, KK, Madeleine, Romie

Children who have lines will be given them next week and all children will be given song lyrics to practise at home.

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

Appointments for our parent consultations on **Thursday 16th November** have now been issued. Please contact the school office if you have not received your appointment.

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.

P3-5 Assembly

We would like to invite the P3-5 parents and carers to their "Share the Learning" assembly on **Friday 24th November** at **11.30 am**. Parents will have the opportunity to join their children in the classroom following the assembly to explore the space together and hear more about what the learners have been up to.

Appropriate Clothing

As mentioned above, 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

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. Final session is on Friday 17th November.

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. 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.

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

P1-3 are so excited about our new learning topic! We are learning all about light and dark and studying the novel *The Owl Who Was Afraid of the Dark*. We have a dark tent in our classroom filled with different sources of light for us to experiment with. We have been enjoying making shadow finger puppets in there!

This week we learned some basic facts about owls and made beautiful owl models using mixed media and collage techniques. We have also learned about what an owl eats and labelled the body parts of an owl. We can't wait for our trip to the Scottish Owl Centre next week!

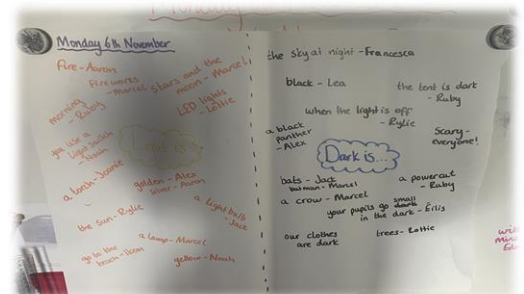


We've also been consolidating our knowledge of odd and even numbers, practising adding strategies, and the Lilies and Roses maths groups have been learning about place values to 100s!

In Literacy, we have been participating in dictation tasks and applying our knowledge of phonics and spelling to write sentences.

We all drew our own self-portrait this week and learned a bit about artists who have created self portraits in the past - drawing ourselves was tricky but we gave it our best try!

Next week we will continue analysing our story of *The Owl Who Was Afraid of the Dark* and focus on the chapter called *Dark is Exciting*.



P3-5

In Literacy we have been continuing our text study. We looked at inference by predicting what could happen in the story based on clues from the text. We also looked at the main character and thought about the similarities and differences between him and us, thinking about things like his appearance, but also how his life is different from ours. We found out what leather is used for and how it is made, and we researched different breeds of dogs to find out what purposes they served. We also learned that some people in the past would have had servants, and learned about the sort of jobs that they did.



In Numeracy we have been focussing on division. We have covered different things across the different groups, such as grouping and sharing, using bar models to demonstrate division, linking division to multiplication and our knowledge of times tables, word problems, and remainders.

We have been focussing on kindness and friendship in Health & Wellbeing. As a class we came up with a lot of ideas about what it means to be kind, and we are working on a poster to display in the class. As Remembrance Day is this weekend, we also discussed why it is commemorated, and created a class wreath.

P5-7

In literacy we have continued our film study looking at WALL-E. This week we have continued learning how to answer questions in full sentences, using the question to help form our answer. For Black History Month we were learning about Rosa Parks. We used the information to write a newspaper report all about her life and the bus boycott. Our focus was on using alliteration in our headline and writing in paragraphs using our plan to help us.

In numeracy we have continued looking at division and fractions. In division we have started to look at sums with remainders. We have been using a mix of methods, sharing, grouping and bus stop. In fractions we have started to look at equivalent fractions using pictures to help us to begin with. The primary 7s also went on a trip to the High School for a numeracy event and they represented our school excellently.

This week in PE we have been working on badminton and fitness circuits. In badminton we were practicing our racquet skills and using the shuttlecock. In circuits we did a beep test and then did a variety of exercises around the hall. We also had our final session leading lunchtime playground games club with the P1-3s and P3-5s. Everyone has done such a great job and we've improved our teambuilding and leadership skills.



In science and social studies we have been looking at different types of power, we had to research the type of energy we had using books and chromebooks then make a poster showing the positives and negatives to that type of energy.

The Snug

This week in the snug some of us have been practising writing CVC words. We have looked at the words and said all of the sounds, then wrote down all of the individual sounds we would hear. Some of us have been learning new sounds that we would then blend into new words too. Some of us have continued practising reading with our reading books and completed different sentence and grammar tasks.

This week we have continued our focus with money learning and were sorting coins into the same coin groups. We have also worked on place value for some of us and have been looking at odd and even numbers and small doubles up to 10.

This week we have been learning about food hygiene, which has built on our hand washing knowledge. We learnt that we have to clean the table we are using to prepare food, to wash our hands and tie our hair back.



Kind regards,

Síobhra Cran
Acting Headteacher

Dates For Your Diary

Please note these are subject to change

November:

- 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:

- Fri 1st December P5-7 Assembly – parents welcome @ 11.30
- 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

- Fri 8th December – Feast of the Immaculate Conception
- Thurs 9th May – Feast of the Ascension