



St Matthew's RC Primary



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29th September 2023

Dear Parents/Carers,



Another busy week at St Matthew's, starting off with Maths week, which provided lots of opportunities for our learners to work together across the classes completing engaging and exciting maths-based activities, and finishing off with a maths hunt around the school, where the learners could apply lots of their learning in different contexts.

Our P5-7 learners also had the first session of their training from Active Schools to support playground games with our younger learners at playtimes, providing further opportunities to develop their leadership skills and responsibility across the school. They represented our school exceptionally well and the instructor had many positive things to say about what respectful and well-mannered learners they are. Well done P5-7! We look forward to seeing them putting their learning into action in the coming weeks.

There was a wonderful buzz in the school this morning as our P5-7 class hosted our annual coffee morning to raise money for Macmillan Cancer Support. Many thanks to all of our wonderful families joining us and for contributing to this very important cause and to Miss Mackenzie and our fantastic learners for putting it all together!

Fundraising for

**MACMILLAN
CANCER SUPPORT**

This week also marked the first of our afterschool clubs, cross stitch, run by Miss Mac and Mrs Lawson, which highlighted the resilience and perseverance of our learners. We are in the planning stages of organising further after school clubs or lunchtime clubs for our learners and will keep you updated on this.

Have a great weekend,

Mrs Cran

School Updates

Coffee & Chat with the HT

We would like to invite parents for a coffee and chat with the HT on Friday 6th October from 9.00 am

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 (please note we will not be running the club Tuesday 17th Oct as this is a holiday).

Drumming for Excellence

P3-5 & P5-7 will be taking part in another drumming session on Tuesday. This time they will be learning about Cajon, Afron and Peruvian Drums.



Pantomime

We have a few outstanding payments for our trip to see the Pantomime production of "**Peter Pan**" on Wednesday 6th December. The cost per pupil for this excursion is **£18.00** which covers the price of tickets and the coach. Please could we have these in asap. If you have any concerns – please contact Mrs Golder in the office. Please could all payment be made through Parent Pay



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 (Thursday for P5-7 for this week)**. 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 29th September 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.

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 continue 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, which we require 2 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 have had a really fun week! Our house corner was turned into a hairdressers and we've had such a good time doing each others hair and role playing as receptionists, hairdressers, and customers. There have been lots of opportunities for writing and numeracy in there too. In literacy, the P1s have continued to learn sounds and begin to blend words. The P2s and P3s have been writing their own stories about caterpillars.



We've really enjoyed celebrating Maths Week Scotland with our maths room rotations on Tuesday and a whole school scavenger hunt on Thursday.

Finally, we were so pleased that our caterpillars turned into butterflies on Tuesday! We will be releasing them on Friday. Now we know all about the life cycle of a caterpillar, we've started to learn about the life cycle of a frog too.



-5

In Literacy we have been working on writing our stories, and we will be finishing these next week. We have also been learning about reading comprehension, and finding important information in a text. We will also be continuing this next week.

In Numeracy we have been working on a range of different activities for Maths Week. We worked in small groups to solve a maths mystery, took part in a whole-school scavenger hunt, and moved round the classrooms to take part in different activities.



P5-7

In literacy we have started our non-fiction novel study around the theme of Pompeii and natural disasters. This week we have been learning about the events of Mount Vesuvius and Pompeii in more detail. We have been learning how to use alliteration in headlines and writing our own newspaper articles about Pompeii. We did some drama freeze frames with thought tapping, we all made up a character and then throughout the events of Pompeii I got them to freeze and then when I tapped them on the shoulder they would tell me what their character was thinking at that moment. We used this to create a role on the wall for our character too.

It's been Maths Week this week so we've had lots of fun activities. On Tuesday each teacher organised a different activity, in my group we were exploring different ways to measure how far our paper airplane went, including non-standard units such as hands/feet and standard units like rulers, meter sticks, measuring tape and trundle wheels. On Thursday we did a scavenger hunt in mixed groups throughout the school and the playground. In class we have been learning about emoji algebra, adding and subtracting pyramids and how to do Sudoku's to work on problem solving skills.

We another great session of PE doing gymnastics, working on balancing and different jumps. On Thursdays for the next 3 weeks the P7s will be working with Active Schools learning playground games which they will teach to the rest of the school during lunch times after their sessions are finished. The P6s will be working with me playing games and working on a range of skills.

This week we have been listening to Florence and the Machine, one of my favourites, looking forward to seeing what score they get.

We have been working on some art this week creating a big class collage of mosaics made from small bits of paper, we will be finishing these next week but they're looking great so far.



The Snug

This week we have been practising our sounds and have been practising our blending and we're finding our sounds on our magnetic board or using the letter bottle top game. Some of us did a great job remembering our hold a sentence and writing tasks in our workbooks. We all finished re telling our 'Cautious Caterpillar' story and wrote it down in order with some held from the adults.

This week has been Scottish Maths week and we have loved taking part in the activities with the other boys and girls in the school. We had so much fun learning about different areas of maths like time, shape, measure and chance. We also enjoyed working in small groups with other children to complete the maths scavenger hunt.

We did a super job walking to the steading this week. We are looking forward to going to use their sensory room in smaller groups of four over the next few weeks. Please can we remember to all wear our jackets from now on as each Monday for the foreseeable we will be going up to the sensory room.



Kind regards,

Síobhra Cran
Acting Headteacher

Dates For Your Diary

Please note these are subject to change

September:

- Fri 29th September – P3-5 Swimming
- Fri 29th September – Macmillan Coffee Morning @ 11am
- Fri 29th September – Dress Down Day/Wear Green for Macmillan

October:

- Tues 3rd October - Drumming
- Fri 6th October – Coffee and Chat – in person @ 9am
- Fri 6th October – P3-5 Swimming
- Fri 13th October – P3-5 Swimming
- Mon 16th - Fri 20th October - October holiday
- Mon 23rd October - In-service Day (school closed to pupils)
- Fri 27th October – P3-5 Swimming
- Fri 27th October – Dress Down Day
- Fri 27th October – Rag Bag Collection

- Sat 28th October – P3 Enrolment Mass for Sacrament of Reconciliation @ 6pm – St Matthew’s RC Church

November:

- Fri 3rd November – Coffee and Chat – virtual @ 9.30am
- Fri 3rd November – P3-5 Swimming
- 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
- Tues 14th November – Sacrament of Reconciliation Parents Meeting – 7pm @ Our Lady Church Hall, Bonnyrigg
- Thurs 16th November - Parent Consultations
- Fri 17th November – Flu Vaccination Programme in School
- Fri 17th November – P3-5 Swimming
- Mon 20th November – Fri 24th November – Road Safety Week
- Fri 24th November – Dress Down Day
- Fri 24th November – P3-5 Assembly – parents welcome @ 11.30

December:

- Weds 6th December – Pantomime at Festival Theatre
- 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