



St Matthew's RC Primary



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7th October 2023

Dear Parents/Carers,

We had lots happening again this week, with our P7's venturing off to St David's High School for a transition morning, African Drums beating loudly once again as the learners show off their exceptional rhythm skills, eccentric news reporting on natural disasters in our P5-7 classroom, more playground leaders training for our older learners, swimming for our P3-5 class, assemblies run by NSPCC all about speaking out to stay safe, and the continuation of a fantastic hairdressers within our P1-3 classroom (bookings are open now!). It's so wonderful to walk through the corridors of St Matthew's and see and hear all the fantastic things going on inside and outside of the classrooms! It makes me very proud to be part of such a great family and makes me love coming to school each morning!

Thank you to the parents who came along to join me for coffee and chat this morning. It's a privilege to get to know the families of our school better and find out a bit more about what we can do for you to improve your experience as part of our school community. Our next coffee and chat will take place virtually on Friday 3rd November at 9.30am – please make a note in your diaries and I hope to see lots of you there.

And a final thank you to all those that came along to support our Macmillan coffee morning last week. I am delighted to inform you that we raised **£208.48** in cash on the day and are awaiting a figure on how much was donated through the QR codes. Primary 5-7 and Miss Mackenzie, you should be incredibly proud of yourselves!

Have a great weekend, everyone!

Mrs Cran

School Updates

October Holiday

Please note the children will be on holiday the week beginning the 16th October, this includes a staff in-service day on Monday 23rd October. All children will resume on **Tuesday 24th October** at 8.50 am.

P3 Enrolment Mass for Sacrament of Reconciliation

Letters have been issued to invite our P3 are invited to take part in the mass for Sacrament of Reconciliation being held on Saturday 28th October at 6.00 pm at St Matthew's RC church. Please could we have all completed return forms back by no later 11th October. Also if we have asked for copies of baptism certificates, please could these be forward prior to pupils be able to take part in this Mass.

Christmas Card Orders

We have just sent out the Christmas cards to all pupils. Please could we have all cash payments and orders by no later than 27th October.

Milk Orders for Oct - Dec

If you would like your child to receive milk for October to December, orders and payment need to be put in by 23rd October. The price for milk if your child does not receive free school meals is £7.48 for the term. Payment can be made through Parent Pay.

Rag Bag Collection

We have arranged a Rag Bag collection for Friday 27th October. Please could you send any old unwanted clothes, paired shoes, handbags and belts and return your filled Bags to the school for the uplift on the 27th (no later than 9am). The school receives a donation from the company for every ton collected.

Halloween Disco

We are delighted to let you know that a Halloween Disco has been organised by Caroline and Claire again this year – it was a great success last year, raised lots of money for the school and the children and their families had a spooktacular time!

This year's disco will be held at **St Matthew's Church Hall**, on the **28th October 2023, 6.30pm – 8.30pm.**

Tickets for the party will be priced at **£3 per adult, £1.50 per child**, and will be available to purchase through the school office, using either cash or Parent Pay. All children must be accompanied by an adult and everyone attending must purchase a ticket. If you choose to send money in with your child for tickets, please ensure that you include how many of each ticket you would like to buy. Tickets are limited and will be offered on a first come, first served basis, and they will be on sale next week (between Mon 9th October - Fri 27th October).

Similar to last year, it has been requested that food donations are made/brought along on the evening of the party to ensure that there are some snacks for all our children and families to enjoy. We would kindly ask that you consider possible allergens within the food you choose to add (eg nuts).

Please note – we will also be doing a smaller Halloween Disco in school on Monday 31st October, 2pm – 3pm. The children **can** come to school dressed up for the day but please try to keep the spook factor to a minimum to avoid the teachers (and some of our learners) getting too scared. If your child has a mask as part of the costume, they will not be permitted to wear this during learning time, and only during the disco itself.

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).

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

This week has been very busy in P1-3! We have continued to learn sounds and new spelling patterns - the P1s are doing really well with blending sounds to make words. We finished off our new story about The Very Hungry Tadpole and will continue to learn more based on it next week. The older children will then have a go of creating their own life cycle story. We have also been enjoying stories about Winnie the Witch during our milk and story time during in the run up to Halloween. In maths with Miss Edmond, we have continued to learn about 2D and 3D shapes. In our numeracy lessons this week, we have been practising different counting strategies and looking

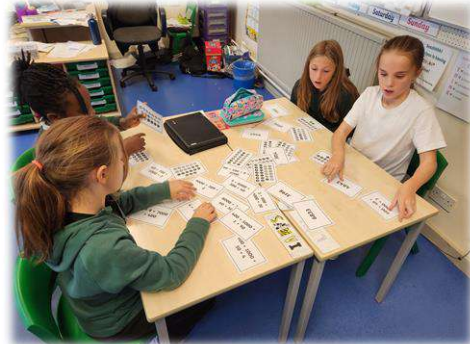
at ordinal numbers. We've really enjoyed watching races and figuring out who came 1st, 2nd, and 3rd. In French, we have continued to practise saying 'I like' or 'I don't like' in relation to fruit.



P3-5

This week in Literacy we have been learning about reading comprehension. We have learned how to look for important information within a text, and focused on being able to accurately retell the main events from a story. We practised this by writing our own version of a classic children's story.

In Numeracy we have been learning about number sequences. We practised identifying numbers using cubes and counters, and filling in missing numbers on a number line. Next week we will be reinforcing basic maths facts.



P5-7

In literacy we are still working on our non-fiction novel study around the theme of Pompeii and natural disasters. This week we finished writing our newspaper articles on Pompeii. On Monday we made a hurricane in a jar and then wrote up the experiment details and instructions. In groups we have been researching different natural disasters then writing a script for a News Report. We then are going to film the News Report. With our Roman topic we have been looking at different objects and trying to figure out what they were used for. We have also been learning some Roman games and playing them in groups.

In numeracy we have moved onto looking at numerals and patterns and relationships. Some groups have been looking at sequences counting in different amounts, other groups have been looking at well known number sequences such as square, cube and triangular numbers.

We had another great session of PE doing gymnastics, working on different rolls. On Thursdays for the next 2 weeks the class 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.

We had another fab time at drumming learning lots of new rhythms.



The Snug

This week we have been working on blending our sounds. We are trying very hard to sound out each sound first to read the word. Some of us are even beginning to remember some words by sight. Some of us have finishing our Read Write Inc activity book and have written some super sentences. Some of us have learned the new sound 'i' and others have learned some magic e sounds too.

This week we have been matching and sorting different shapes, we have been also looking at the properties of shape. Some of us have been focusing on counting in 2s this week while others have been working on matching number shapes and dice patterns.

We have enjoyed doing some artwork this week and used glitter and PVA glue to make some spiders webs. We also looked at the colour monster again and created some lovely artwork using paint and forks.



Kind regards,

Siobhra Cran
Acting Headteacher

Dates For Your Diary

Please note these are subject to change

October:

- 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 – Final Day for Christmas Card Orders
- 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