



# St Matthew's RC Primary



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13<sup>th</sup> October 2023

Dear Parents/Carers,

Another week has passed by in a flash, but what a busy week it has been. It started off with a visit from our local community police officers to discuss Internet Safety with our learners. Thank you to the parents who raised the impact social media was having on their children, which prompted us to arrange the class discussions, which our learners engaged excellently with and learned a lot from.

I have included the Social Media Guidance from Police Scotland which was shared with you all back in August, which might be a useful reference document should you wish to discuss internet safety further with your children.

Excitement was high on Tuesday as the children got their first glimpse of our Hallowe'en doors! Spooky music filled the halls and added to the excitement as the learners entered the school with shrieks of delight. Hallowe'en excitement continued on Wednesday as all learners had the opportunity to take part in our 'Cr-after break' activities to create some decorations for the much-anticipated Hallowe'en disco!

Our P7s continued with their Playground Leader training on Thursday and look forward to having the opportunity to share their newly developed skills with some of our younger learners after the October break.

With the first term drawing to a close today, I wanted to wish you and your families a restful and enjoyable October break and thank you all for your support over the last 8 weeks.

We look forward to welcoming all learners back to school on Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> October. There are lots of exciting things planned for the Christmas term, such as class assemblies, school Nativities and our annually anticipated 'Christmas Classroom Doors' which we look forward to sharing with you.

Mrs Cran

## School Updates

### **October Holiday**

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

## Show Racism the Red Card Day

As you will be aware, St Matthew's has the tradition of having a 'Dress Down Day' on the last Friday of every month to help to raise money for school resources. The charity, 'Show Racism the Red Card', is the leading educational anti-racism charity in the UK and they hold an annual dress down day, where everyone is encouraged to wear red.

This year, this is to be held on Friday 20<sup>th</sup> October, which is during the October break, so we will hold our day on Friday 27<sup>th</sup> October, which links with our monthly dress down day too. Please encourage your children to wear red on this day to 'show racism the red card' and bring a contribution towards the charity.



## 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 27<sup>th</sup> 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 23<sup>rd</sup> 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 27<sup>th</sup> 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 27<sup>th</sup> (no later than 9am). The school receives a donation from the company for every ton collected.

## Hallowe'en Disco

We are delighted to let you know that a Hallowe'en 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 **28<sup>th</sup> October 2023, 7.00pm – 9.00pm**.

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 9<sup>th</sup> October - Fri 27<sup>th</sup> 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 (e.g. nuts).

Please note – we will also be doing a smaller Halloween Disco in school on Tuesday 31<sup>st</sup> 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 28<sup>th</sup> of November (please note we will not be running the club Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> 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 6<sup>th</sup> 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**. 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 29<sup>th</sup> 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.

## Breakfast Club Update

Mrs Lawson and Ms Gilzean have been doing a fabulous job every morning for breakfast club. They have not only been making sure that everyone has a full tummy first thing in the morning but also have been organising some amazing arts and crafts activities for the children to do. Some of the activities that the children have been doing are wool crafts, autumn crafts and building with Duplo Lego blocks. We have some fabulous pictures of some of these activities and crafts.



## 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

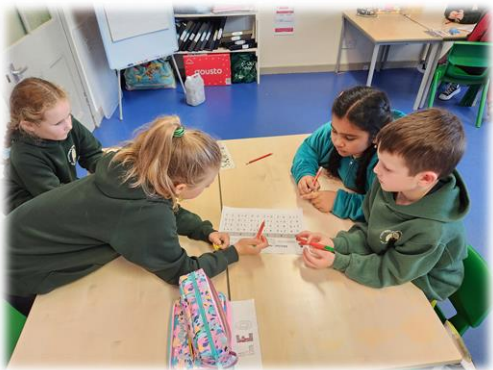
We've had a fantastic week in P1-3! We finished off our Very Hungry stories this week and Miss Mac was impressed with our stories about snakelets, baby chicks, and spiderlings. We used our knowledge of life cycles and took inspiration from The Very Hungry Caterpillar for the structure of our story. The P2s and P3s continued to practise the 'ow' and 'ou' spelling patterns. In numeracy, we have been practising counting using a 5 and 10 frame. This means we can recognise that when the 10 frame is half-filled, we know there are 5 and when we count, we can start at 5 and count on rather than starting from 0. This was tricky but we got it! We enjoyed some spooky Halloween games in PE such as Trick or Treat tag and Witches Potion. We all really enjoyed making Halloween crafts on Wednesday for our Halloween party and the teachers' Halloween doors have really got us in the spooky spirit! Finally, we all really enjoyed our fruit tasting session on Thursday and some of us tried some fruits for the first time.



### P3-5

In Literacy we have been focusing on common and proper nouns. We have learned that words such as names, countries and days of the week always begin with capital letters. We worked together to split nouns into two columns, and wrote mini autobiographies to show what we have learned.

In Numeracy we have been focusing on basic facts. We have been learning about aspects such as doubling and halving, and times tables. We have spent some time using Times Tables Rock Stars on the Chromebooks to try to reinforce our understanding.



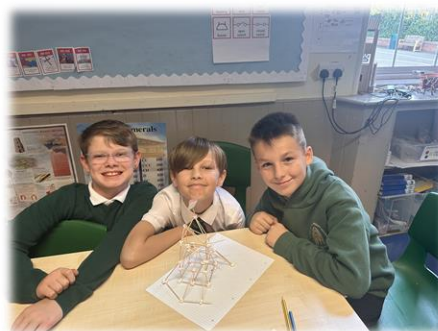
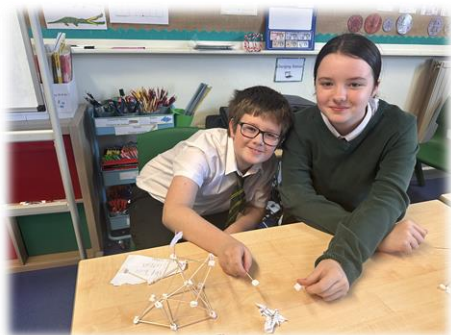
### **P5-7**

In literacy we have finished our non-fiction novel study around the theme of Pompeii and natural disasters. This week we have been finding and writing definitions of different words related to our topic. We have been looking at earthquake safe buildings which helped us design our own ones in science using marshmallows and cocktail sticks. They all did a fab job making different buildings and we tested them on jelly. We learnt about what different countries do during a disaster drill and we did a few drills ourselves. We also designed our own natural disaster survival kits. We have also looked at onomatopoeia and used this to write a poem on different natural disasters which we will turn into a shape poem.

In numeracy we have continued looking at numerals and patterns and relationships. Some groups have been looking at sequences counting in different amounts, reading and following a rule creating different number patterns, other groups have been looking at well-known number sequences such as square, cube, triangular numbers and the Fibonacci sequence. We have also done a short basic facts assessment which I will use to create games targeting those skills.

We had another great session of PE playing different games. On Thursday we had our final session with Active Schools learning how to lead playground games which they will teach to the rest of the school during lunch times after the holidays. They've all been amazing at working together in groups and making up their own games and choosing roles for themselves within the groups.

We all had a great time at crafter break creating decorations for the Halloween party on the 28th.



### **The Snug**

We have had a very busy week in the snug. Some of us have completing sound matching activities and have been continue to practise our blending and sight words. Some of us have been learning new magic e sounds and have been completing sounds. Some of us have worked through our RWI workbooks too.

We have all made a poster about the dangers of electricity and tried to make them colourful.

During our number and maths time we have been trying to recognise numbers quickly and out of a sequence. We have also learnt about 3d shapes this week. We learnt lots of new names of shapes, like cube, cuboid and cone. We then sorted pictures of real 3d items and matched them to their shape name.

We had so much fun making Halloween decorations this week. We liked going into a group with lots of children from different classes. We also learned about mains and battery electricity and sorted household items like irons and remote control into the two categories.



Kind regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Siobhna Cran'.

Siobhna Cran  
Acting Headteacher

#### Dates For Your Diary

**\*Please note these are subject to change\***

#### **October:**

- Mon 16<sup>th</sup> - Fri 20<sup>th</sup> October - October holiday
- Mon 23<sup>rd</sup> October - In-service Day (school closed to pupils)
- Fri 27<sup>th</sup> October – Final Day for Christmas Card Orders
- Fri 27<sup>th</sup> October – P3-5 Swimming
- Fri 27<sup>th</sup> October – Dress Down Day – Show Racism the Red Card – All to wear red
- Fri 27<sup>th</sup> October – Rag Bag Collection
- Sat 28<sup>th</sup> October – P3 Enrolment Mass for Sacrament of Reconciliation @ 6pm – St Matthew’s RC Church
- Sat 28<sup>th</sup> October - Halloween Party 7.00 pm – 9.00 pm
- Mon 30<sup>th</sup> October – P1 & P7 Dental Inspections
- Mon 30<sup>th</sup> October – P7 Enhanced Transition – Group 1
- Tue 31<sup>st</sup> October – School Halloween Party

#### **November:**

- Fri 3<sup>rd</sup> November – Coffee and Chat – virtual @ 9.30am
- Fri 3<sup>rd</sup> November – P3-5 Swimming
- Mon 6<sup>th</sup> November – P7 Enhanced Transition – Group 1
- Tue 7<sup>th</sup> November – P7 Numeracy Event @ SDHS 9.00 am
- Fri 10<sup>th</sup> November – P3-5 Swimming
- Mon 13<sup>th</sup> – 17<sup>th</sup> November- Scottish Book Week

- Mon 13<sup>th</sup> – 17<sup>th</sup> November- Catholic Education Week
- Mon 13<sup>th</sup> – 17<sup>th</sup> November- Anti-Bullying Week
- Mon 13<sup>th</sup> November – P7 Enhanced Transition – Group 2
- Tues 14<sup>th</sup> November – Sacrament of Reconciliation Parents Meeting – 7pm @ Our Lady Church Hall, Bonnyrigg
- Thurs 16<sup>th</sup> November - Parent Consultations
- Fri 17<sup>th</sup> November – Flu Vaccination Programme in School
- Fri 17<sup>th</sup> November – P3-5 Swimming
- Mon 20<sup>th</sup> November – Fri 24<sup>th</sup> November – Road Safety Week
- Mon 20<sup>th</sup> November – P7 Enhanced Transition – Group 2
- Fri 24<sup>th</sup> November – Dress Down Day
- Fri 24<sup>th</sup> November – P3-5 Assembly – parents welcome @ 11.30
- Mon 27<sup>th</sup> November – P7 Enhanced Transition – Group 3

**December:**

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

**January:**

- Tues 9<sup>th</sup> January – New term starts for pupils

**Term Time Days of Obligation – whole school mass**

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