



Thursday 24thth August 2017

Dates for the Diary

Wednesday 30th August

Parents Information Evening
6pm and Parent Council AGM

Week beginning 4th September

Extra Curricular clubs will begin
information will be sent out
next week

Monday 4th September

P7 Parents Transition and
Dalguise information evening at
Dunblane High School

Wednesday 6th September

Parental Focus Group 9am
Parents Charter

P1 Parents Workshop 2pm

Friday 8th September

Tartan Treasure Trail P1-7
Learning Contexts Information
issued

Monday 11th – Friday 15th
September

Activities week for Primary 7

Monday 18th September

Worlds Largest Lesson Day
Maths Focus Week Data
Handling

Wednesday 20th September

Braeport Memory Café
School Choir

Friday 22nd September

Jeans for Genes day

Monday 25th September

P5/6/7 trip to Edinburgh

Wednesday 27th September

P3/4 Woodland Discovery Day
to Glenfinglas Wood

Welcome Back Everyone! - A special welcome to our new pupils and their families. It is super to see all pupils settling into school for the new term and looking smart in their uniform. I hope you all had an enjoyable summer.

Thank you for all the lovely gifts handed in to school at the end of last term and the beginning of this one - it is very much appreciated.

Parents Information Evening! - We are holding our Parents Information evening on Wednesday 30th August at 6pm. This is an opportunity for parents to meet their child's teacher and discuss how their children have settled during their first week. You will have an opportunity to view your child's learning timetable and some of the resources that your child's teacher will be using this session.

We will share with you our plans for the session and discuss how we can strengthen our parental partnerships. It is a lovely opportunity for you to meet with other families as we continue to build our St Mary's Learning Community.

Primary 1 and 2 Workshop - Our Primary 1/2 parents workshop will take place on Wednesday 6th September from 2pm - 3pm. If Parents could please bring in the mythical creature "homework" from during the holidays as this will form the basis of the activity the children will undertake with you. Please let us know if you are unable to attend so we can ensure that every child has an adult to work alongside them.

Primary 7 Transition Information Evening- On Wednesday 6th September our P7 parents are invited to join us at the High School to hear about the P7 transition plans and our Learning Community Residential to Dalguise

New Staff - We would like to welcome Helena Robertson to the St Mary's Staff team. Helena has joined our team of support for learning assistants and will be working in all of our classes and in our playground.

Miss Gemma White has also joined the Dunblane Learning Community Teaching team and will be based at St Mary's Episcopal Primary School. Miss White is currently team teaching in Primary 1 / 2 when not required in other schools. Miss White will be available to cover in classes if there were to be any staff absences.

Miss Cliff, a postgraduate student from Strathclyde has also joined us for this term. She will be teaching in Primary 7 until the 6th October. Miss Cliff will have sole charge of the class from the 25th September - 6th October with Miss Johnston-Kehoe overseeing the lessons.

Mrs Mackie will be in our school office all day on a Monday and a Tuesday and Wednesday and Thursday mornings. Mrs Mace will be in the school office from 9am - 10.30am on Fridays. Out with these hours there will be no one in the school office. As a result we are requesting that only essential calls or emergency calls be made to the school outwith these times as the phone will have to be answered by a member of staff who will be teaching at the time.

Jeans for Genes Day 22nd September 2017 -We support this charity every session in order to help raise awareness and develop an understanding amongst our children about genetic disorders. If any parent would like to come and speak to our classes about genetic disorders on 22nd September please contact the school or Mrs Shanks. Mrs Shanks has historically co-ordinated this event for us and is willing to do so again this session.

Annual Data Check & Consent Forms:-All pupils have been given an envelope to take home today. Your co-operation in **completing and returning the forms** enclosed in the envelope by next Friday (1st September) is very much appreciated. This will ensure that our records are up to date with your child's current contact information and will save office time issuing reminders and duplicate forms. Please don't forget to update us with any changes to contact numbers/email address throughout the year.

Communication:- Our School App is our preferred method of communication for updating parents/carers with information. This includes newsletters, which will be issued on Thursdays, fortnightly. If you are unable to access our school app and require the information by another means please let us know.

Healthy Start, Mindfulness - This session our healthy start is again focusing on children having a Growth Mindset and their learning powers. We are supporting the children in developing their skills to become independent creative. Learners. We are revisiting some mindfulness techniques as it can be easy to rush through life without stopping to notice much. We are trying to encourage our children to pay more attention to the present moment - to their own thoughts and feelings, and to the world around them - it is hoped that this will also support the children's mental wellbeing. <http://www.mindbodygreen.com/0-18136/7-fun-ways-to-teach-your-kids-mindfulness.html>

Message from Parent Council Our Parent Council AGM will take place on Wednesday 30th September at 7pm following on from our Parents Information evening. All parents/carers are invited to come to any Parent Council meeting and we very much look forward to seeing some new faces (along with the more familiar ones!). This session we are looking for new Parent Council Committee members, so if there are any parents that would like to be part of our Parent Council or support our Fundraising committee please come along on Wednesday 30th September. We will put a film on in one of our classrooms for children to allow parents to attend.

Flu Immunisation -Your child will have a pack in their bag informing you about Flu immunisation. If you wish your child to receive this you must return the enclosed documentation to the school and we will forward this onto NHS Forth Valley. The children will be receiving workshops and information from NHS staff about the Flu immunisation so that they are aware of why this is an important immunisation for them to have.

PE - Pupils need to have PE kit in school every day. This includes t-shirt, shorts, gym shoes or trainers. The kit will be brought home on a Friday for washing, to come back to school on a Monday. We will not have a P.E specialist this session but all classes will still receive two hours of P.E a week, in addition to our daily Activity Miles. All jewellery /watches are to be removed - again it would be preferable if children don't wear any on PE days. Long hair should be tied back (please remember a bobble).

Extra Curricular Clubs - Extra Curricular clubs will start week commencing Monday 4th September. A timetable will be issued so that parents are made aware what is available.

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Kilt Walk Support - Charlotte Hughes' Dad is completing the Kilt walk on 17th September. He has decided to donate all funds raised to St Mary's Episcopal Primary School. We are absolutely delighted by his generosity and would like to demonstrate our support.

On Friday 8th September from 1pm - 3pm we would like all of our children to complete a sponsored "Tartan Treasure Trail" around Dunblane. This will help to mark the end of our Healthy Start and launch our Shaping the Nation learning context of "Dunblane through the ages".

The treasure trail is 1.75miles long and will take the children about 2 hours to complete. We would like to encourage the children to wear some tartan as they complete the treasure trail. They will do this activity in their House Groups with each house being split into 4 smaller groups. If you would like to support us with this activity we would be extremely grateful. Please contact the office to let them know if you are available.

Sponsorship forms will be issued on Monday 28th August. All monies raised will be given to Mr Hughes and contribute to the sponsorship money he raises.