



Newsletter



29th November 2018

Contact Information
Email - stmaryeps@stirling.gov.uk
Tel: 01786 822 740
Website: stmarysepsdunblane.org.uk

Dear Parents / Carers,

Staffing

A big St. Mary's welcome to Mrs McMaster who has now officially started in our school office. She is looking forward to getting to know all our families over the coming weeks and months. As you all know Mrs Kinvig will be leaving us at the end of this term. I have made arrangements for class cover. Mrs Allan, who I have worked with before, will be working with P3/4 and P5/6, Mrs Laing who currently works in the school will be covering P7 every Thursday. Both teachers have already been in to discuss teaching and learning prior to starting in January.

Adverse Weather

As we are heading into the winter months our attention turns to our lovely Scottish weather. Any information regarding adverse weather affecting school opening will come directly from the school by text message in the first instance, message via our school app as well as updates on the Stirling Council webpage.

Safer Routes to School

There are drawings available in the school entrance hall to share proposals for changes to parking, signage and road structure on Smith Loan linked to the Safer Routes to School. Feedback is welcomed by our Parent Council who will be writing a response to the plans.

Parking

Just a reminder that we have an agreement with India Gate restaurant, who kindly allow us to use their carpark for drop off and pick up from the school.

Head Lice

A reminder that all parents should remain vigilant throughout the year and treat their child's hair appropriately if required. Further information on the treatment of head lice can be found using the following link: www.nhs.uk/conditions/Head-lice

Nut Free School

This session, we will continue to be a **nut free school**. Children should not bring any foods, snacks or packed lunches which contain traces of nuts. This includes Nutella.

Class Dojo

Can all parents please be reminded of the purpose of Class Dojo. This is an agreed method of communication between teachers and parents to relay relevant information such as - picking up for an appointment or unable to take part in P.E etc. Any information beyond that should either come to the school email or arrange an appointment with relevant staff. Please be respectful of staff time and there is no expectation of any staff to respond to a Class Dojo message before 8:30am or after 5pm. Thank you for your continued support.

School Improvement Planning

Parents are invited in to provide feedback supporting our School Improvement planning process at various points throughout the year. There may even be coffee and cake!
Please come along and join me on the following dates for drop in feedback sessions.

Focus	Date
Curriculum	Thursday 13th Dec @2pm
Learning, Teaching and Assessment	Thursday 10 th Jan 2019 @ 10am
Personalised Support	21 st Mar'19 @ 2pm
Raising attainment and achievement	Thursday 2 nd May @12pm

Priority 1
Numeracy and
Attainment

Priority 2
Digital Literacy

Priority 3
Parental Engagement
and Family Learning

Priority 4
Leadership at all
levels

Where Great Things Happen!

Thank you to those who responded to October's question about Growth Mindset.

Here are some responses:-

"Yes, it is important."

"Yes, very much so. We learn and build resilience through trying, making mistakes and trying again."

"Yes, focussing on growth ensure improvement."

"100% YES! - a critical life skill to guide the children towards"

"Really Important! Coping with setbacks and seeing mistakes as positive is vital. Builds resilience.

Needs to be challenged and find work hard to embrace it and really know what it is to put effort in and succeed. Are we challenging our children enough?"

Parental Feedback

Thank you to everyone who came along to our November Parents Evening and took time to feedback on your child's Eduprofile and complete the surveys.

38% of our families responded to the questions

The majority feel that their child does share their learning and families know how to support their child's learning at home.

90% feel that the school does keep them informed of their child's progress.

Question of the Month

"What Makes St. Mary's Episcopal Primary and Nursery School Unique?"

Big Acorn News



Thank you to the team of Dads who have been painting the railings. They look really smart now. If anyone fancies adding some colour back to the animals, get in touch!

Dunblane Centre Craft Fair

The craft fair raised nearly £250. A wonderful effort by everyone! All hands on deck now to make our Christmas Fair a success.

Raffle Tickets

Please sell as many as you can. Klara has more if you need more! The draw is on 13th December so still plenty of time. The main prizes are very special, including a pass to Nevis Range Ski Resort!

Jill Trevena

Some parents from our community took the opportunity to go along to a 'Practical Mindset' day with Jill Trevena at the Dunblane Centre. She helped us think about the difference between productive and non-productive activities for wellbeing. The productive ones included burning off adrenaline in some way each day, being grateful for things, positive self talk, knowing you are enough and finding out what your 'Flow' activities are. She helped us be more mindful of the worries we have and how to help them pass. Children were welcome too and fully engaged in the activities so they could share their worries and experience some positive steps to work through anxieties. It was a really supportive day to develop strategies alongside your child. If you want more information Jill can be found on Facebook.

Parent Engagement.

We are looking to establish a baseline of how you feel about how the school engages with you. Please use the link below, or the QR code to access the survey. It will take 10-15 minutes of your time and be very valuable to help us on our improvement journey. It will close on the 1st December for analysis.



https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfikt5_orxkXKP4L_c_QoeUeBeRt9lVCWfo7DKuRX_Dynkdsg/viewform?c=0&w=1

St Mary's Episcopal Church

Welcome to Reverend Nerys Brown

Nerys' installation was a great success. She is going to start opening the Church at 8:45am - 9am every weekday morning for morning prayer and would love to see you there. Photo of Nerys with our new Bishop, Ian.

Parents' Prayer - Nerys would like to welcome families to meet together and pray for our children, our school and our community.

St Mary's Rectory, 2.30 p.m. on Friday 14th December.

All are welcome.



The next **Messy Church** is on Tuesday December 4th.

Next **All Age service** is Sunday 2nd December at 10.30 for the start of Advent. Then the Young Church will put on their Nativity Puppet Play on 23rd December at 10.30am.

Posada: We have had a wonderful response to this. Mary, Joseph and the Donkey make a start on their journey on Saturday and will visit 22 different homes from the school and Church until they reach The Christingle Service at 4pm on the 24th December.



Dates for your Diary

November		
Wed 28 th	P5/6 Excursion	All day
Thursday 29 th & Friday 30 th	Staff In set days	School closed Reopens Monday 3 rd Dec
December		
Monday 3 rd December	P7's - Ceilidh Practice	2pm - 3pm
Thursday 6 th and 20 th	P.E Specialist	am
Wednesday 12 th	Nativity - School Hall	10am
Wednesday 12 th	All P7 Transition Christmas Ceilidh	2pm -3pm
Thursday 13 th	Nativity - School Hall	6pm
Thursday 13 th	Parent Focus Group	2pm
Monday 17 th	P7 Dunblane Learning Community Ceilidh	tbc
Tuesday 18 th	P1/2 Christmas Party	1:30pm
Wednesday 19 th	P3/4 Christmas Party	1:30pm
Thursday 20 th	P5 - 7 Christmas Party	1:30pm
Friday 21 st	P1/2 Christmas Church Service	Whole school and Nursery Church 11:30 am (please note change of time from previous newsletter)
Friday 21 st	School closes for Christmas	1pm
January		
Monday 7 th January	School reopens	9am
Thursday 10 th	Parent focus Group	10am



Respect, Enthusiasm, Aspiration, Compassion, Honesty