



Newsletter



28th February 2019

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Dear Parents / Carers,

The Great Dunblane Story

Our older children are to take part in amazing telling of the 2000 year history of Dunblane. The P5/6 pupils will join the 4 P6 classes from Newton and Dunblane Primaries to perform a specially commissioned multi media dramatic telling of our proud historic Dunblane past. The fast moving hour long show will whiz the audience through early Dunblane Man, the Romans, Dark Age, Jacobites, Victorian Dunblane and a host of famous characters from history who have all visited our community.

It will be full of astonishing pictures, music, songs, dances and drama. The three local schools have joined together to make this a very special transition project to prepare for High School. The show will be researched written and directed by the acclaimed Tapsalteerie Theatre who have worked with community projects across Scotland. It is done in partnership with The Stirling Smith Art Gallery and Museum.

There will be two public performances on **Wednesday 6th March at 2pm and 7pm** and we hope all performers can keep their diaries free! It will be something the children will remember all their lives. Tickets will go on sale in February and will sell fast!

Easter Service

Our Easter service this year is on **Friday 29th March 2019 at 2:15pm**. The will be presented by our P3/4 class who will be working with Nerys over the coming weeks. The Daffodil Tea will follow the service in the church hall.

Positive Behaviour - Relationships Policy

We are looking at our relationship policy as a learning community, the results from the survey will help us to work together. Please take the time to complete our Survey Monkey questionnaire. Following the link: <https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/7X3LPG6>

Young Carers

We will be welcoming Stirling Young Carers to an assembly in April to share their work in the area and their links with the community. If you would like to find out more about their work please follow the link below.

<http://www.stirlingcarers.org/young-carers/>

Hi5 Information

Thank you to everyone who came along to our recent presentation. The powerpoint shared will be uploaded to our school website.

Lateness

There has been an increase in late coming to school over the last few weeks. Please note that all lateness is recorded on our registration system. If you would like to discuss further please contact the school directly.

Parents Evening

Letters will be sent out this week to make appointment for parents evening on Tuesday 21st March.

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 on the NHS Website

Winter Vomiting All schools have been again asked to remind parents that any child who has suffered from wintervomiting bug or noro-virus must stay away from school for 48 hours after sickness has stopped. This is very important in order to reduce the spread of sickness.

Nut Free School;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.

School Improvement Planning

Thank you to our parents who attended the recent Focus group meeting - your feedback is important and helps to inform our planning and next steps. See below for our next sessions, these will last no more than 1 hour and any time you have to drop in would be appreciated.

Our Next Meeting:

Focus	Date
Personalised Support	Thursday 21 st Mar'19 @ 2pm
Raising attainment and achievement	Thursday 2 nd May @12pm

Where Great Things Happen!

Thank you for your responses to our Question of the Month. You can continue to provide feedback by:

Completing a post it and putting in the box outside the office.

Reply via email to stmaryeps@stirling.gov.uk subject Question of the Month

or by completing the slip below and sending into school via school bags.

Question of the Month

'What would you like to see on our Improvement Plan and WHY?'

Free School Meals and Clothing Grants

All children from P.1-3 are entitled to a free school meal. Thereafter, some families may be eligible for free school meals. An application form is available from the school or can be printed from the Council's website. (See link below) At St. Mary's we encourage children to wear our school uniform, which includes school shoes, and to bring a gym kit. Some families may be eligible for clothing grants. Application forms can be obtained from Stirling Council, telephone 01786 233210 or downloaded from the Council website at <https://my.stirling.gov.uk/educationlearning/schools/school-uniforms-freemeals-ema/>

Staffing

On behalf of the school I would like to thank Mrs Allan and Mrs Laing for working with our classes this term. We will be welcoming back Mrs Johnston-Kehoe who will be returning from maternity leave in March.

Dates for your Diary

March		
Tuesday 5 th	Glee	Door open 6:30pm Albert Halls
Wednesday 6 th	Dunblane 2000yrs	2pm and 7pm Dunblane High School Primary 5/6
6 th March	Parent and Family Support Discussions Difficult Bedtimes	Church hall 9:20 - 11:20am
Thursday 7 th	World Book Day	See Pupil Council info below
Wednesday 13 th	Parent and Family Support Discussions Sibling Rivalry/Not Sharing	Church hall 9:20 - 11:20am
Friday 15 th	Trossachs Fire and Rescue Workshops	All classes throughout the day.
Friday 15 th	Red Nose Day	See Pupil Council info below
Tuesday 19 th March	Whole School Parents Evening	Appointments to follow
Wednesday 20 th	Parent and Family Support Discussions Hassle free outings	Church hall 9:20 - 11:20am
Thursday 21 st	Parent Focus Group Personal Support	2pm
Thursday 21 st	World Down Syndrome Awareness Day	See Pupil Council info below
Wednesday 27 th	Parent and Family Support Discussions Children Pushing Boundaries	Church hall 9:20 - 11:20am
Wednesday 27 th	Let's Investigate Showcase Event	Open afternoon in school, information to follow
Friday 29 th	Easter Church Service Followed by Daffodil Tea in the Church hall	Church 2:15pm
	End of term	School Closes at 3:15pm
April		
Monday 1 st - Friday 12 th	Easter Holidays	School reopens Monday 15 th April at 9am
Thursday 18 th	P.E Specialist	P5/6, 3/4, Nursery & 1/2
Friday 19 th	Good Friday	School closed
Monday 22 nd	Easter Monday	School closed
Monday 29 th	Think Dance	P3/4 Evening Performance at MacRobert Art Centre - info to follow
May		
Thursday 2 nd	Focus Group	12 - 1pm
Wednesday 29 th	Hosting Memory Café for Dementia Friendly Dunblane	tbc
June		
Wednesday 5 th	Scots Song Project	Tollbooth
Friday 7 th	Nursery Sports	
Friday 14 th	School Sports	
Wed 19 th	Summer Show	10am
Thursday 20 th	Summer Show	6pm
Thursday 27 th	Prize Giving	6pm



Parent Council February Update

I hope you have all had a chance to read the minutes of the last Parent Council meeting sent by email. Please feel free to get in touch with any questions or comments. The next meeting is on Monday 25th March, 6.30-8.30pm. We will be discussing spending priorities for next year. If you have a child at the school you are part of the **Parent Forum** and are welcome to come to any PC meeting you can manage.

I am very grateful to Kate Kilpatrick who has worked hard on the **Parent Engagement Survey** feedback. This will be emailed out shortly. I encourage you to have a look through it, especially at the action points towards the end. If you have any ideas how we can improve the ratings that were given, please do not hesitate to get in touch. This survey is being taken as a baseline and the PC and school will now work hard to improve in all the areas. The immediate priority is to improve parental perceptions of the role and function of the PC and make it more welcoming. If you have any ideas how this can be achieved - get in touch!

We are now registered with Volunteer Scotland for the **PVG** (Protection of Vulnerable Groups) scheme so the more of us who are willing to register with them, the better. If you are considering volunteering in the school in any capacity, please consider joining the scheme. Klara Kyanston is co-ordinating this for us.

App glitches

The survey highlighted difficulties with the school App. An email will come out soon asking for a 'glitch list.' We can then send a compiled list to the app developers in the hope of fixing them into the future. Please share your issues with us so we can be sure to send a comprehensive list to them.

Mental Health Task Force

The Scottish Government is looking at how to improve mental health services and has put together a Task Force who have completed a report. They are open to comments and feedback so we are proposing putting together a short life working group to read the document and compose a response. If you would like to be involved, please let Liz Owen know. The first meeting is on Friday 1st March at 7.30pm with supper.

Disco

Our first disco was a great event to come together and spend some time getting to know each other better. Thank you to everyone who baked and to our teenagers who helped sell snacks. It was not the intention to make a profit as the social side of things was the focus. However after paying for the space over £100 was raised. Thank you!

Podcast of the month Recommended by: Liz '**Feel Better, Live more**' Life is busy and stressful and this podcast has some really useful ideas about stress busting from Rangan Chatterjee. I haven't listened to all the episodes but got a lot from the episodes on gut health, sleep, touch and social media.

St Mary's Episcopal Church

	<p>Tuesday 5th March 3.30-5.30pm</p>
	<p>Wednesday 6th March 3.30-5.30 Drop in interactive and multi-sensory Lent activities.</p>
	<p>Sunday 17th March. 7pm. Event organised by St Mary's Youth Group to introduce trypraying. Come along for a different approach to worship and prayer.</p>
	<p>Sunday 31st March Mothering Sunday. All age service. 10.30am.</p>

Pupil Council

Raising Awareness dates for your diary

<p style="text-align: center;">Thursday 7th March</p>  <p>You can choose to:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • come to school dressed as a character from a book • bring your favourite book to school • buy a book from our second hand book sale - all books 50p • Pupils will receive a £1 voucher as an optional spend - info on voucher. 	<p style="text-align: center;">Friday 15th March</p>  <p>You can choose to :-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Come to school in your PJs or onesies • Bring a pillow or cuddly toy • Wear Red Nose Day t-shirts, noses etc. 	<p style="text-align: center;">Thursday 21 March</p> <p style="text-align: center;">21.03.2019 World Down Syndrome Day #LotsOfSocks</p>  <p>How can you help? By wearing #LotsOfSocks!</p> <p>But not just any socks... ...wear the official #LotsOfSocks socks or other brightly coloured, mis-matched socks.</p>
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The Pupil Council are raising awareness of these events and have been learning about the Cost of the School Day. There is no request for donations to participate in these fun events - Enjoy!