



# St Mary's RC Primary School

A school where everyone matters



## Christmas 2016 Newsletter

Dear Parents, Carers and Friends,

### DIARY DATES

#### DECEMBER

Fri 2 Dress Down Day  
 Fri 9 Christmas Fair  
 Tue 13 Christmas Lunch *Change of date*  
 Thur 15 Christmas Show 1.45pm and 7pm

Wed 21 Christmas Parties  
 Thur 22 Last day of term

#### JANUARY

Mon 9 All return

### WELCOME

A warm welcome to Mrs Ellis, ASN Auxiliary in school, Ms Bowes, ASN Auxiliary in the nursery and to our new pupils Oskar P1/2, Lewis and Ellie P5/6 and Abi P6/7.

### CHILDREN IN NEED

Our 'Wear Something Spotty' Day for Children in Need raised £88. Thank you to everyone who contributed and took part!

### PTA

The first issue of the PTA's News Update is attached to this newsletter.

### *Achievements*

**Sophie P6** passed Gymnastics Level 5.  
**Ava P4** Passed Level 8 and completed the Scottish Swimming 'Learn to Swim' Programme. **Massimo P4** won 3 gold medals and **Kristen P4** won 1 gold and 2 silvers at the O Duo Gymnastic club competition  
**Alexis P6** designed the winning Healthy Eating Week 'Design a Dish' meal and this has been included in the Autumn/Winter menu.

### CHRISTMAS

Details of our Christmas activities are on page 3 of this newsletter.

### WET WEATHER PLAYTIMES

As you are aware the weather on a day to day basis can prove unpredictable - we live in Scotland after all! We feel it is vitally important that children are able to play outside in all sorts of weather. This helps our children develop as sociable and resilient young people. There are however days when the weather is extreme and it is not appropriate for the children to be outside.

### SCHOLASTIC BOOK FAIR

Our recent book fair was very successful and your purchases raised over £380 of book fair rewards to enable us to 'buy' books and resources for school and nursery. Thank you for your support.

Please ensure that your child comes to school appropriately dressed for cold, windy and sometimes wet weather. This will help us to

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We aim to create

Successful, happy, well rounded individuals      Teaching and Learning together  
 Making informed choices and decisions

ensure that your child accesses outdoor playtimes even when the weather is inclement.

Many thanks for your cooperation.

### **CHRISTMAS CHARITY**

This year our Christmas charity will be Edinburgh Direct Aid. Mrs Thomson, who is a part-time teacher at our school, is a volunteer for EDA and we thought this would be a good opportunity to support the work of this charity.

"Edinburgh Direct Aid is an Edinburgh based charity run almost entirely by volunteers, no-one is paid except local staff in destination countries. They have sent aid to Sri Lanka after a tsunami, Kashmir following an earthquake and to people from countries affected by war such as Palestine, and more recently Syria.

The town of Aarsal is on the Lebanese side of the Syria-Lebanon border and is now home to 100,000 Syrian refugees, 6,000 of whom are school-age children.

Volunteer schools have been opened and Edinburgh Direct Aid has provided help with teaching materials, winter fuel, school desks, stationery and sports equipment as well as funding the building of two schools, one of which was completed in the Autumn of 2016. The organisers at the charity are very pleased that St Mary's has chosen to help this Christmas."

We would like to support this charity by providing stationery and art materials for the schools. Could you help by donating any of the following:

- P1/2 writing/coloured pencils
- P2/3 sharpeners/rubbers
- P4/5 crayons/felt pens
- P5/6 glue/glitter
- P6/7 paint/brushes

Or any other suitable art/craft materials.

Please do not wrap any items as they will need to pass through customs. Please send items into school before the Christmas break. Thank you for your support.

### **POSITIVE PATHWAYS SCOTLAND**

Positive behaviour support training for family carers of children with autism between the ages of 5 and 18. There are 2 free training sessions taking place on Tuesday 6 December and Tuesday 13 December.

The training focuses on understanding emotional and behavioural challenges, a range of e-learning resources and tools, a small number of 1:1 sessions with a behavioural therapist and follow up consultation phone calls throughout the year.

For more details: [www.positivepathways.scot](http://www.positivepathways.scot)

### **DIGITAL LEARNING AND TEACHING STRATEGY FOR SCOTLAND**

This strategy aims to create the conditions to allow digital technology to enhance learning and teaching across all curriculum areas. In doing so, it will enable educators, learners and parents to take full advantage of the opportunities offered by digital technology.

It is based around 4 key objectives:

- empowering leaders,
- improving access,
- enhancing curriculum and assessment delivery
- and developing the skills of educators

It sets out an approach that will support education establishments and local authorities in delivering education enhanced by digital technology

For more information:

<http://www.gov.scot/Publications/2016/09/9494>

We wish you all a happy and peaceful Christmas and best wishes for 2017.

Claire V Graham, Head Teacher  
and St Mary's staff



## CHRISTMAS ACTIVITIES



### Christmas Cards

This year we would like, once again, to raise money for the SCIAF 'Real Gifts' Appeal and would be grateful if, in lieu of giving cards or gifts to fellow pupils or members of staff, pupils make or give a single card addressed to their entire class or school, which will be displayed at the front entrance to our school and a small donation towards the Appeal. No donation is too small and the pupils will be involved in helping to choose the 'Real Gifts' that we buy. Staff will also be giving one card with a donation.

### PTA Dress Down Day

We are having a Dress Down Day on Friday 2 December and ask that children bring in a donation for the PTA Christmas Hampers. Please see the attached note from the PTA for more details.

### Christmas Lunch

Christmas lunch is being served on **Tuesday 13 December**. Order forms to be returned by **Thursday 1 December with £1.90 (for P4-7 pupils)**. This is to allow time for the kitchen supervisor to order supplies for the lunch. Please return the form even if your child is having a packed lunch.

### Christmas Fair

This year's Christmas Fair will take place on Friday 9 December, 9.30am to 10.30am in the school dining hall. The children will be busy over the next few weeks making Christmas decorations and gifts for sale at the fair. All parents, carers, grandparents, friends etc are welcome. An amount of £2 per child should be plenty to buy what they may want. There will be four children's hampers to be won in the raffle, £1 per ticket. *Donations of home baking will be much appreciated.*

### Knox Christmas Concert

The P7 pupils have been invited to the Knox Academy Christmas concert taking place on Tuesday 20 December at 2pm.

### St Mary's Christmas Concert

Our Christmas Concert this year will be taking place on Thursday 15 December. There will be two performances, 1.45pm and 7pm. Further information regarding ticket sales etc will be available at the beginning of December.

### Christmas Parties

Both P1-3 and P4-7 parties will take place on Wednesday 21 December starting at 1.30pm. Please do not send your child to school wearing their party clothes. Children can change into their party clothes at school or go home at lunchtime to change. If your child is going home at lunchtime please inform the school, in writing, that you will collect your child.