

St Mary's RC Primary School

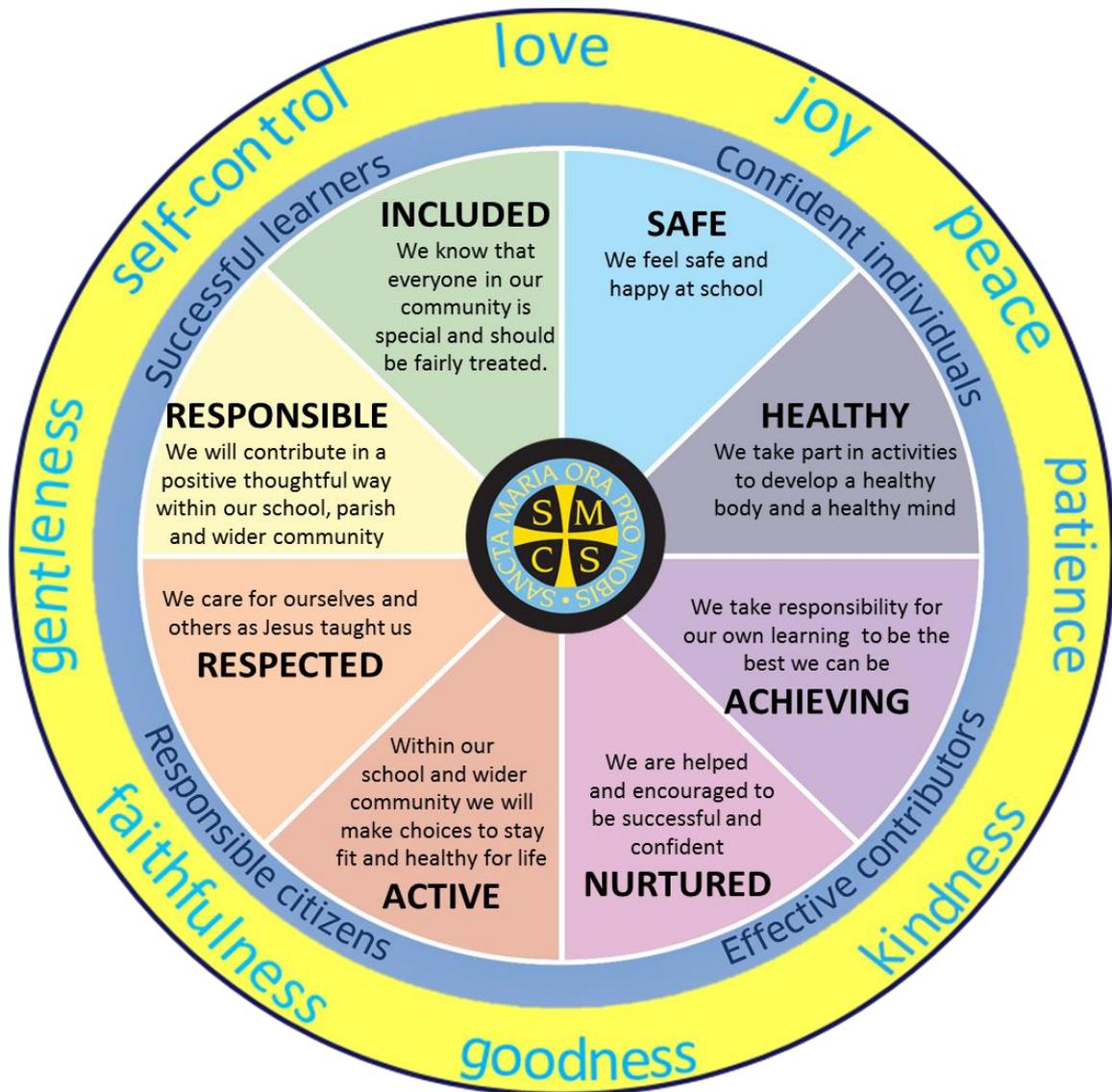
October 2018 Newsletter

At St Mary's our vision is to work together as a strong, vibrant community to create a positive, inclusive and productive place where children will be nurtured to grow and learn; a place where all pupils, staff and parents are supported and encouraged to develop all positive opportunities in and out of school. In our school, all children will be provided with high quality and challenging learning experiences to meet their individual needs and to help them be the best they can be. In St Mary's we grow together with respect and love.

Our School Motto: 'Respect, Cooperate, Achieve!'

At St Mary's our values reflect the Fruits of the Holy Spirit: Love, Joy, Peace, Patience, Kindness, Goodness, Faithfulness, Gentleness and Self-Control.

Our aims embrace the SHANARRI principles of Getting it Right for Every Child.



St Mary's RC Primary School Tynebank Road Haddington

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Website: <http://edubuzz.org/blogs/st-marys>

Dear Parents, Carers and Friends,

The summer break now seems a long time ago but a warm welcome back to everyone. The children are now very settled in their new classes and are looking forward to an exciting year ahead.

DIARY DATES

Book Fair- Monday 29 October to Friday 2 November

OCT

Wed 10 P7 Parent Open Evening at
Knox 7pm
Fri 12 Mass 10am
Break for holiday
Mon 22 Staff in-service day
Tue 23 Pupils return
Wed 24 Photograph orders to be
Returned
Thur 25 Parent Council Meeting
Tue 30 Flu Immunisations
Parent/Teacher Meetings

NOV

Thur 01 All Saints' Day Mass
Parent/Teacher Meetings

DEC

Thur 06 Parent Council Meeting
Tue 11 Christmas Lunch
Fri 14 Christmas Fair
Wed 19 Nativity 1.45 pm & 7pm
Thur 20 Christmas Parties

END OF TERM

WELCOME

A warm welcome to our new pupils:

P1: Cara, Alby, Adam, Emilie, Ines, Brooke, Nerys, Danielius, Mariel, Maja, Michal, Cameron, Sam, Eladija, Arijus, Jacob, Reinas and Joseph and Rosa P2/3, Chloe and Rosie, P4/5

Welcome also to Miss Glen, our NQT who is settling into P2/3 and Miss Bertolani in P5/6.

NASAL FLU IMMUNISATION

These will be taking place on Tuesday 30 October. If you have not yet returned your child's form can you please do so as soon as possible. Thank you

CONTACT DETAILS

You will have recently received the Annual Data Check form for your child detailing all the information we currently hold. Can you please check the details, amend if necessary then sign and return the form to school as soon as possible in order that we can update your child's records. It is important that we hold the correct information, particularly your contact details and those of your emergency contacts in order that we can contact you should your child become unwell.

JUNIOR ROAD SAFETY OFFICERS

Our JRSOs for this year are Esmee from P6/7 and Kaiden, Ailie and Thomas from P5/6. They attended the JRSO Launch meeting at Port Seton Community Centre on Friday 28 September where they learned about their role and responsibilities within the school. They will be responsible for sharing information through assemblies, competitions and surveys and will help to improve active journeys and safety in and around the school. We wish them a very successful year.

ANNUAL LOCAL OUTINGS PERMISSION

You will have also received the parental permission form that covers local outings for your child for this school session. Again, could you please complete and return these forms as soon as possible. Thank you.

Achievements

At St Mary's we recognise the importance of encouraging our pupils to be engaged, supported and motivated to achieve the best they can. We celebrate achievements within and out with the school in our assemblies, in our newsletters and around the school and classrooms.

If your child has achieved something outside school do let us know so we can celebrate with them. The best way to do this is by sending an email to the school email address or a note into school giving all the details of their achievement.

Amelia P1/2 won 3 medals at her first gymnastics competition; 2nd for floor routine, 3rd for vault and 3rd overall for her age group.

Catriona P4/5 achieved her Lifesaving Bronze Level 2.

Marischa P5/6 won a medal for Golf Etiquette and Professionalism.

Tiegan P6/7 won 4 x 1st, 1 x 2nd and 2 x 3rd prizes at the Haddington Flower Show.

Aoife P5/6 won a medal at Judo.

Fraser P6/7 won a gold and silver medal at the rugby tournament held in North Berwick.

Lucy P6/7 volunteered at the Haddington Day Centre and also completed the Alzheimer Society Memory Walk raising funds for the charity.

Thomas and Andrew both P5/6 won football tournament medals.

Ava F P6/7 won a 1st joint gold medal at the East Lothian Championships.

Owen, Paige, Teri and Jessica, all P6/7, took part in the Nungate Gala.

The pupils and staff contributed to a donation to the East Lothian Foodbank of 100.8 kg of food during the 2017/18 year. Huge thanks from the East Lothian Foodbank Team!

SchoolPay

Online payments for school meals, trips, nursery snack and other school-related purchases

The new on-line payment system SchoolPay (formerly known as iPayimpact) has been available to parents/carers in the Haddington Cluster since June 2018. The new system provides our parents/carers with the opportunity to make school related payments online, including school meals. This system provides reports for parents which can show outstanding balances for any school trips, and multiple payments can be made in one transaction, for more than one child.

This system enables you to:-

- Create your own personal account and see at any time what your balance information is
- Pre-order and pay for meals (payment required for P4-7 pupils only) for your child in advance, giving you full visibility and control over their lunch
- Make and track instalments payments for larger items such as school trips
- Manage costs for all of your children - across nursery, primary and secondary schools - from the same account, making things easier and faster for you.

If you have not yet registered and set up your child's account please follow the link below for details on how to do this and some useful FAQs. If you have misplaced your child's account reference number, please contact Mrs Soulsby in the office who will be able to assist you.

www.eastlothian.gov.uk/schoolpay

SCHOOL DRESS CODE

I am very pleased at the standard of dress code in the school. The children look very smart. Just to remind you that the school dress code is navy, black, grey trousers, (not jeans, joggers or leggings unless leggings are worn under a school skirt) skirt or pinafore. White or navy polo shirt, shirt or blouse (tie optional) and a school sweatshirt. **PLEASE ENSURE THAT CLOTHING IS LABELLED OR MARKED WITH YOUR CHILD'S NAME.** Please also ensure that your child is dressed accordingly for the weather.

GYM KIT

All children are expected to wear navy/black shorts/leggings/joggers and a plain white t-shirt and trainers in case of outside activities. Clothing with logos eg NIKE and football team clothing is not permitted. Our PE teacher is in school on Thursday mornings but children may participate in other physical activity with their teacher or a visiting specialist on other days.

Please note: We will be updating our School Handbook with this more detailed information.

SCHOOL CAR PARK

Once again, may we remind everyone that the school car park is for the use of school staff and visitors to the school **only and parents/carers are not permitted to use the car park**, unless by prior agreement with the Head Teacher. We are aware that the bollard is not in operation at the moment but please **do not use** the car park for dropping off or picking up children. Not only does this cause congestion but is a health and safety risk.

We have also been asked to relay to parents and carers the following message from the Senior Roads Officer for East Lothian Council:

"In recent years one of the most frequently expressed road safety concerns communicated to ELC is that of the safety of children outside schools. The traffic movement around some school streets has resulted in potentially dangerous driving manoeuvres as well as indiscriminate and illegal parking by some drivers dropping and picking up children. Addressing traffic congestion, dangerous driving and illegal parking too close to school entrances, remains an ongoing challenge facing ELC.

With this in mind can we please remind parents/carers that parking on double yellow lines (and zigzag markings) around schools is a potential dangerous act for those already walking, scooting and cycling to school. There are the obvious health benefits of more active travel modes for journeys to/from school. We do appreciate that a minority of people feel the need to bring their cars but we would like this to be treated as a last resort. If they do need to drive we would prefer that they take some extra time for their journeys and park further away from schools on quieter streets or within designated parking places".

Kingswood School Camp Monday 2 – Friday 6 September 2019

If your child is currently in P5 or P6 you will have received information regarding the school camp visit taking place next September. As mentioned in our initial letter, the deposit of £50 is due to be paid by 22 October 2018. If you have not already done so, please make arrangements to pay this by the due date. East Lothian Council's preferred option of payment is via the online system SchoolPay (formerly iPayimpact). If you log into SchoolPay you will see that there is a School Camp Fund set up for payments.

Payment schedule:

Cost of trip	£240
Deposit payable by 22 October 2018	50
2 nd payment payable by 11 March 2019	60
Final payment payable by June 10 th 2019	130

You may of course pay in smaller instalments but we must receive the scheduled amounts due as above as the school will receive invoices for payment by these dates.

If any family is experiencing difficulty with payments please get in touch with us. Families who are entitled to free school meals or are on low incomes may be eligible for financial assistance. All enquires will be treated in complete confidence.

TERM TIME HOLIDAY ABSENCE

At the end of the last school year there was a high volume of children missing school due to family holidays and we have already seen a number of holidays being taken during school time since the beginning of this term. Family holidays taken during term time should be avoided if at all possible. There is a strong connection between attendance and achievement and good attendance will ensure that children have the opportunity to achieve their potential.

If term time family holidays cannot be avoided, the request and the reason for the request, should always be put in writing to the Head Teacher. Please give as much notice as is possible.

The majority of family holidays taken during term time will be categorised as unauthorised absence and the child's attendance record will be noted accordingly.

SICKNESS ABSENCE

If your child is not attending school due to illness, hospital, dental appointments etc, please ensure that you contact school prior to 9.30 am to inform us of the reason for your child's absence. You can contact the school office either by phone on 01620 823298 or by the school text messaging service on 07860049096. If we do not hear from you, or are unable to contact you, we will contact all emergency contacts listed for your child.

Progressing Children's Rights in Scotland - An Action Plan 2018-21: Consultation

On 2 July, the SG published the consultation on Progressing Children's Rights in Scotland - An Action Plan 2018-21. The link below will take you to a shortened version of that consultation, designed for children and young people.

The UN Convention on the Rights of the Child - what is it?

The UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) is an international treaty that sets out the rights that all children and young people under the age of 18 have.

What are Rights?

Rights are about making sure people are treated well and get a fair deal. They set out the sorts of things that must be put in place for this to happen. Everybody has rights. Children's rights are human rights. The rights set out in the UNCRC include, for example, the right of children and young people to an education, good quality health care, to be protected from being hurt or badly treated and the right to relax and play.

<https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/NC8BJ2H>

Achieving the Rights Respecting Schools Award is in our School Improvement Plan and this year Mr Cowie will be leading on key work with the children.

Haddington Support from the Start Health Happy Bairns

2018 '12 Days of Christmas' Book Advent

The book advent encourages parents to read a 'new' book in the lead up to Christmas and on Christmas Day itself.

Reading together is a wonderful way to encourage families to bond, as well as helping with literacy, communication and imaginative skills.

If you have any unwanted children's books that are in excellent condition, please pass them on to us. This year we will wrap books so that families from Haddington and surrounding area can participate in this positive project.

Books can be dropped off at the following locations:

- St Mary's RC Primary School
- Haddington Infant School
- Yester Primary School
- John Muir House FAO Steven Wray
-

All donations by 2nd November please to allow wrapping time.

Many thanks from all at Support from the Start

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E-MAIL CONSENT

One of the ways in which East Lothian schools like to communicate with parents is via e-mail.

If you are happy to receive correspondence, such as flyers, notifications and newsletters, in this way, please complete the fields below and return to school/nursery.

Please note - once you have consented and provided email details, these details will move with your child's pupil record to their next school in East Lothian.

Child's name:

Name of Parent/carer:

Email address:

Signed: Date:

If you change your mind at any point in the future about being contacted by email, please contact the school office to make any changes.