

St Mary's RC Primary School

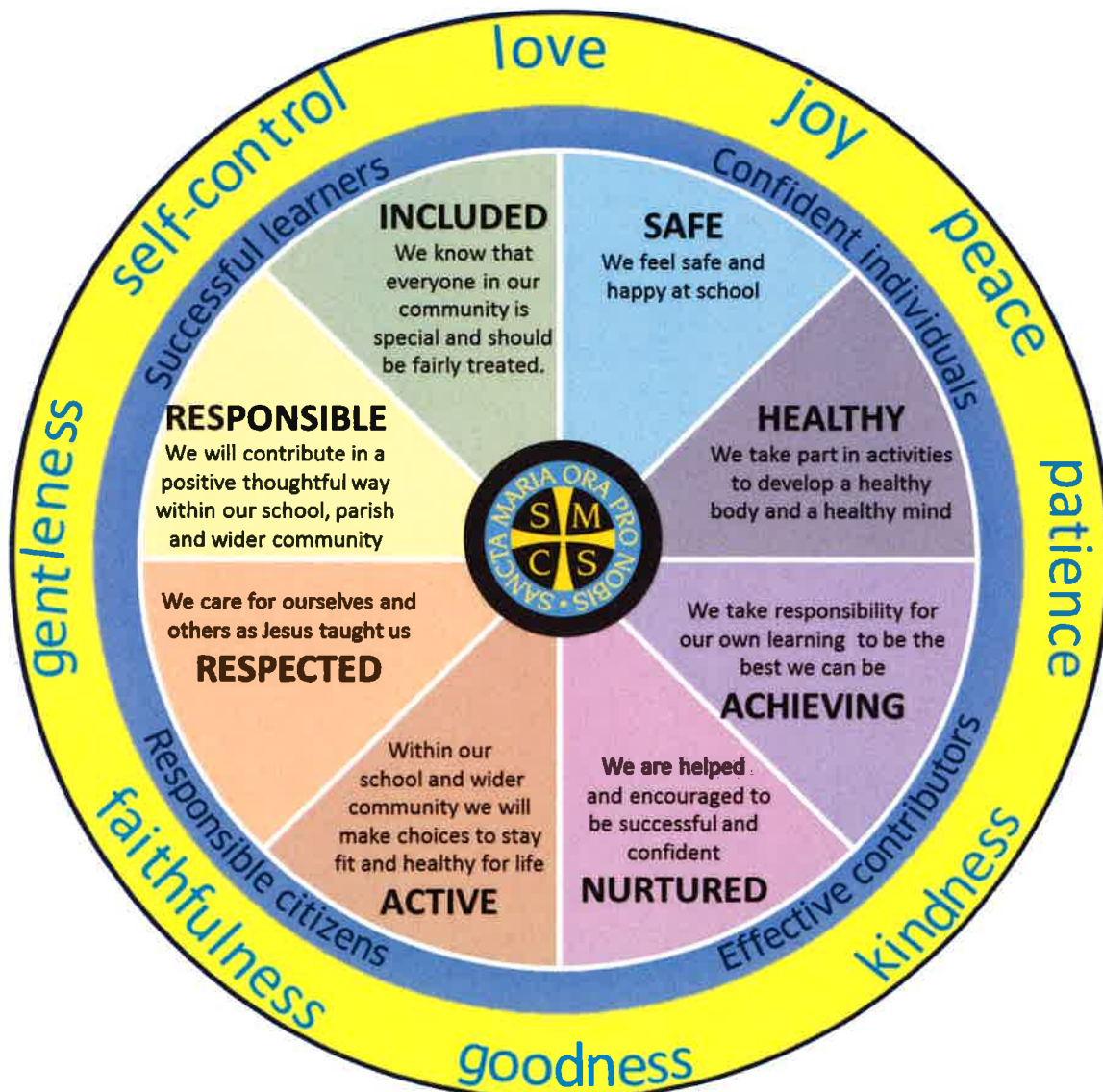
April 2019 Newsletter

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.



Dear Parents, Carers and Friends,

New additions to our School Newsletter: a '**CLASS NEWS**' page where you will find details about what your child has been learning in their class and a '**SCHOOL NEWS**' PAGE with details about our exciting new projects taking place.

Achievements

Blyth P1 won her very first gold trophy for passing her Gold Highland Dancing exam. She also won a silver medal in her first Highland Dancing competition of the year at the Edinburgh Indoor Championships in February.

Jake P7 competed in an Athletics competition at the Emirates Stadium, Glasgow, running for Haddington Running Club Juniors. His team came 2nd in the relay.

Neal P4 achieved his 2nd Mon in Judo.

Lucia P4 passed her Grade 1 Recorder Exam with Distinction.

Archie P6 won the Haddington Junior Badminton Club Primary Competition.



WELL DONE to everyone and remember, if your child has achieved something outside school do let us know so we can celebrate with them.

DIARY DATES

APR

Thur 04 PTA Spring Party

Fri 05 Break for holiday

Tue 23 All return

Sat 27 **PTA Jumble Sale**

Tue 30 P7 HWB & Literacy Transition

Event at Knox Academy

Parent/Teacher Consultations

PACKED LUNCHES ONLY AT

ST MARY'S - SEE BELOW

MAY

Thur 02 Parent/Teacher Consultations

Mon 06 Holiday

Mon 13 P6 & P7 Basketball Tournament

Mon 20 Staff in-service/Pupil holiday

Fri 24 P6/7 Athletics at Meadowmill

Sun 26 First Holy Communion at

St Mary's RC Church 9:30am

All welcome.

Mon 27 Health Week (details to follow)

Wed 29 or P5 Jobs Kingdom Live - date to

Thur 30 be confirmed.

JUN

Fri 07 Sports Day

Sat 15 PTA Family BBQ (details to follow)

Tue 18 P7 Transition Day at Knox

Wed 19 P7 Transition Day at Knox

Fri 21 Leavers' Mass

Mon 24 Whole school outing to East Links

Thur 27 P7 End of Year Show 1.45 pm

Fri 28 Break for holiday

AUG

Mon 12 Staff in-service/pupil holiday

Tues 13 Staff in-service/pupil holiday

Wed 14 Pupils return



Class News P1-3



Literacy

Primary 1/2 have been discussing characters in stories and have drawn some wonderful pictures of the Troll from The Billy Goats Gruff and used WOW Words to describe the horrible, stinky creature! He looks very scary and we hope he doesn't come to visit us!

They've also been helping the Nursery children by writing instructions on how to make a yummy jam sandwich. They know what you need and what to do first, then, next and finally. If anyone is not sure how to make a sandwich please ask Primary 1/2 for their expert advice!

In P2 the children have been learning to write instructions and reports developing their skills of sequential language. They used the context of Being a Good Friend. All the children thought this was 'easy' to write about because "in St. Mary's we learn how to be kind to each other"

Numeracy

Shape has been a Maths focus for P1/2 this term. They have had lots of fun finding 2D and 3D shapes in the playground, making their own shapes using playdough and matchsticks and even designed a rocket for an alien using a variety of shapes (just in case an alien visits Haddington and needs a way to get home!)

Using arrays has helped P2/3 to learn the multiples of 2 and 3 ('times tables for the older generation!') Mrs McHugh was amazed at how confident the children were at counting forwards and backwards in 2s and 3s!

Have a look at our 'Array Cities' on the wall at Parent's Night.



What else have we been doing?

Castles has been a Learning focus for P1/2 this term and they have had fun painting picture of their own castles and using their imagination in the role play castle in the class. The children have learned about the different features of a castle—do you know why castles are built on a hill or why they have long windows? Ask P1/2! The children also met a Dragon who lives in a castle. Thankfully she was friendly and didn't eat anyone!

P2/3 have been learning about School from the Past and have had lots of fun researching what it was like to go to school in Victorian Times. The children are all very happy that school is different today! Especially that they don't get punished with a cane or a ruler—ouch! They all agree that school is a much nicer place to be than in "the olden days!"



Class News P4-7



Literacy

Primary 4/5 have used their Learning Focus of the Romans as a context to write reports. They have written about how the Antonine Wall was built and have some very useful information if anyone needs a garden wall built and wants it to last as long as the Antonine Wall!

More report writing in P5/6 as they used their digital skills to research a chosen natural disaster and then write a detailed report including a real life example of when such a disaster occurred. Everyone felt very thankful that living in Haddington there are no reports of natural disasters happening here!

Going back in time to World War 2 P6/7 have been learning about the important role of women and have produced some eye catching propaganda posters that would have used to encourage women to join the war effort.

Numeracy



More shape work has been happening in P4/5 as they have been exploring 3D shapes and their properties.

The children have also been learning about Money - what notes and coins to use to pay for items and how to calculate change. Maybe they can do the shopping for you!

It's been all about Angles (not angels!) in P5/6 as they have been learning how to use protractors and classify different angles. Hopefully they will be able to find their way home if ever lost as they have also been learning about direction using the compass points.

P6/7 have been learning about decimals, fractions and percentages and how they link to using money so next time you're shopping let them work out what you can save if there are any sale signs!

What else have we been doing?

P4/5 have gone back in time to learn about the Romans. They have been learning about the life of a Roman Soldier. The children had mixed opinions about being a Roman Soldier. Some would like to be as fit and strong but others wouldn't like to have to fight! They also learnt about how the Romans built roads and the Antonine Wall in Scotland and Roman numerals. Do you know what this number is? **CCLIII**

P5/6 recently delivered a very informative assembly to the rest of the school sharing what they have been learning about Climate Zones and the Water Cycle. It was wonderful to see everyone taking part and sharing what they had learned in confident and clear voices. Hopefully we can find a time to share their learning with parents.

Back in time again for P6/7 as they have been learning about World War 2. The children have learned about the main events of the war using chronological timelines and have been developing mapping skills while identifying the main countries involved. Learning about the Blitz inspired some wonderful art work which you can see on Parent's Evening and stimulated the children's imagination to help them write diary entries about a night in an Anderson Shelter. Thank goodness they have their cosy beds to sleep in!



School News



Outdoor Classroom

As most of you will be aware we have an internal courtyard. For a variety of reasons this has generally been an underused space. However, we hope to change that very soon!

We would like to develop the space into an Outdoor Classroom where the children will have an opportunity to experience hands on, enquiry based learning and have more regular learning experiences outside of their classroom. Recently we secured £300 from the Rotary to help get this project underway and have submitted a proposal for a CALA Bursary to purchase a Reading Shed and a smaller shed to house Literacy and Numeracy Outdoor Learning resources.

We want to involve the whole school community in this project so watch this space for updates and calls for help!

Get your hammers and paint brushes ready!

Learning Labs!

We are excited to announce that our P5-7 pupils are going to become **Pupil Professors!**

To help the children develop confidence and leadership skills they will be leading learning and supporting the younger children in P1-4. Each group of **Pupil Professors** will have the opportunity to lead learning in 2 **Learning Labs** over an 8 week block.

The Learning Labs will be **Reading Rockets**, **Signalong Superheroes**, **Numeracy Ninjas**, **French Fancies** and **Digital Detectives**.

Alongside staff the Pupil Professors will support the P1-4 pupils in consolidating and learning new skills in the above curriculum areas.

We are really looking forward to developing this project and watching the children develop confidence and learn new skills.

Rights Respecting Schools Award

In Rights Respecting Schools children's rights are promoted and realised with adults and children work towards this goal together.

Next term we are beginning our journey towards becoming a Rights Respecting School.

Together we will be learning learn about children's rights and exploring ways of putting them into practice every day.

We aim to achieve **BRONZE** Level by June!

PTA Spring Party

Thursday 4 April
in the Movement & Dance Room.
Entry through the Community Door.

P1 - 3 6.30 - 7.30 pm
P1 - 7 7.40 - 8.40 pm

Entry £2



JOBS KINGDOM LIVE At Queen Margaret University

Our P5 pupils have been invited to take part in Jobs Kingdom Live which takes place on 29 & 30 May (our date is yet to be confirmed). Pupils will have the opportunity to take part in an interactive and inspiring experience that showcases different jobs within a variety of industries.

See the school website for more details.

Edinburgh, Midlothian & East Lothian
Developing the Young Workforce

SCHOOL UNIFORM ORDERS

Just a reminder that our school uniform, which is supplied by Patricia Bewsey Designs, is available to order on line at:

www.garmentprinter.co.uk

At the moment we have a very small amount of stock still in school but once this has gone parents/carers will need to order online.

Patricia supplies a number of schools in the East Lothian area and **please be aware that she is very busy during the run up to the summer holidays. Please place your order early. Thank you.**

PLEASE NOTE: There will be a school packed lunch option only on Tuesday 30 April, due to gas inspection/testing in the kitchen. Parents/carers can still order the school packed lunch option on-line.

PTA Jumble Sale St Mary's RC Primary School Saturday 27 April 2019 1 - 3 pm

We desperately need helpers and donations for our Jumble Sale!

Please let school or a member of the PTA know if you are able to give a few hours of your time to help raise funds for the benefit of our pupils.

Also... please spread the word about the change from our usual venue at the Corn Exchange.

All help is very much appreciated.

SAVE THE DATE! PTA FAMILY BBQ ST MARY'S RC PRIMARY SCHOOL SATURDAY 15 JUNE 2019

This year we are unable to hold one of our very successful fundraisers, the Continental Café, due to the refurbishment of the Corn Exchange. In place of this we are going to holding a Family BBQ at the school in June.

More details to follow.

SCHOOL 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.

SCHOOL MEALS ON-LINE ORDERING AND PAYMENT

The new on-line payment system SchoolPay has now been available in the Haddington Cluster since 31 May 2018. The system allows parents to pre-order and pay for lunches (and pay for trips etc) on-line.

We prefer you to pay online for school related expenses as this ensures your school gets the maximum benefit from the money you pay and ensures that the Education Service meets its statutory duty to secure best value for the services it provides. However, we recognise you may choose to pay by cash and we will continue to provide this service to you.

If you do wish to continue to pay for your child's school meals by cash, we would very much appreciate you paying, if possible, for a week at a time instead of on a daily basis. This would help to reduce the amount of time spent by staff on associated admin and banking.

If your child is absent from school and you have pre-paid their lunch either on-line or by cash, this will be carried forward.

If you have not yet registered for iPayimpact and need a reminder of your child's reference number, please contact Mrs Soulsby in the school office.

Happy Easter from
all the staff at
St Mary's



SCHOOL/HOME COMMUNICATION

We are continually looking for ways to improve our communication with parents/carers.

Currently we use the Group Messenger service for school emergencies, absences, changes to events or important reminders. Parents/carers can also use this service to let us know about your child's absence. The mobile telephone number is:

07860049096

The Groupcall Messenger can also be used by school to send emails, with and without attachments, to parents/carers eg the school newsletters, communications from East Lothian Council and information about events both at school and in the local community. We currently have 87% of families in the school registered to receive email communication in this way.

We will of course, continue to send out paper copies to those families not signed up to receive emails and also any information which requires to be completed and returned eg Parental Consent forms for trips.

Information is also posted on our school website. Currently we have only 19 readers subscribed. Why not go to the website at:

<https://www.edubuzz.org/st-marys/>

and on the front page go to 'How Can I Stay In Touch', enter your email address and subscribe to receive notifications when new items are posted.

PLEASE NOTE

There may be occasions when no-one is available in the office to answer the phone or to speak to at reception. If you are in reception and no-one is in the office, please press number 2 on the call system to the left of the Staff photograph board.

The answer phone will be on at all times when no-one is in the office. If you are phoning and the message system is activated, please do leave a message and your call will be answered as soon as someone is available. Thank you.