St Mary's Newsletter September 2024



Diary Dates

Wednesday 11th September - 5.30pm Primary 5 Parents School Camp Information Session - (Primary 5 Classroom for 30 mins) Wednesday 11th September - Meet the Teacher 6-7pm (school hall then visit classrooms)

Friday 13th September - School Holiday

Monday 16th September - School Holiday

Tuesday 17th September - School Holiday

Wednesday 18th September - Thursday 19th September - P5 School Camp

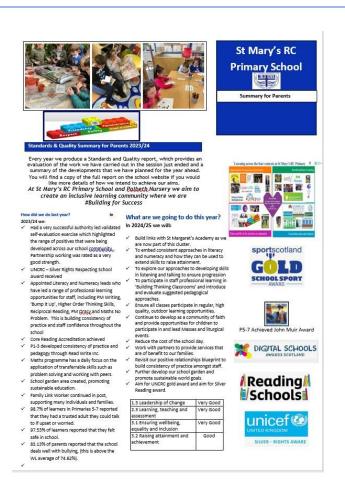
Friday 27th September - Big Family Breakfast (free breakfast for all families 8.15am) followed by Sharing Our Learning in classrooms (Head Teacher/Partners Input for parents at 9am with class visits from 9.15-10am)

School Improvement - How did we do last session? What are our priorities for this session?



Every year, we produce a Standards and Quality report, which provides an evaluation of the work we have carried out in the session just ended and a summary of the developments that we have planned for the year ahead.

See the information leaflet below.



Parent Timeline

Shannon has created a 'parent timeline'. The aim is for this to be an interactive, continuous working document throughout the year for parents/carers to access information on things that are happening in St. Mary's, i.e. any events that are going on, anything that may occur costs, and anything Parents are welcome to attend. Please Click on the Link below to check it out.

Parent Timeline

Meet the Teacher 2024



A reminder that we are holding a 'Meet the Teacher' event on Wednesday 11th September at 6pm. All parents/carers are invited along to meet the teaching staff team and also to see your child's classroom for this session.

Primary 5 Residential Experience

Mr Elliott will hold an information session with parents/carers of Primary 5 children who are intending to participate in the upcoming residential experience on Wednesday 11th September at 5.30pm (prior to the Meet the Teacher event that evening) and this will allow for any questions. Sacramental Preparation



Our Sacramental Preparation programme for 2024/25 will begin shortly.

The Rite of Enrolment for all candidates to Sacraments of Christian initiation (Reconciliation, Holy Communion, Confirmation) will be on **Sunday 27th of October 2024** at 11am Sunday Mass.

Enrolment Forms should now be completed by parents online via the Parish website at the following link: https://www.westcaldercatholicchurch.org/enrolments.html

These should be completed prior to the Enrolment Mass to ensure Father is aware of all children making each of the Sacraments.

Dates for Sacraments are as follows:

First Reconciliation – 8th March 2025 after Saturday vigil Mass

First Holy Communion — Sunday 25th May 2025

Confirmation – 11th June 2025 at 7pm (Our Lady & St. Bridget's, West Calder)

Whole School Masses for 2024/25

We are delighted to welcome families and parishioners into school to celebrate School Masses this session. We look forward to seeing many of you there. Please see important dates of Masses below and details of which classes are leading them:

St. Mary's Primary School Masses 2024-25

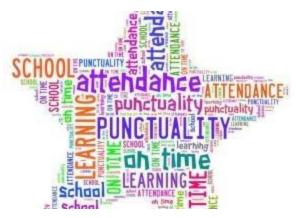
First Friday Mass	Primary 7
All Saints Day	Primary 6M
First Friday/Advent Mass	Primary 6R
First Friday Mass	Primary 5
Ash Wednesday	Primary 6M
First Friday Mass	Primary 4
Feast of the Ascension	Primary 6R
Leavers' Mass (in Church)	Primary 7
	All Saints Day First Friday/Advent Mass First Friday Mass Ash Wednesday First Friday Mass Feast of the Ascension

Sharing Shelves

Our children will be setting up St. Mary's new Sharing Shelves. Realising the impact hunger can have on learning and family life, we have set up our shelves for people to take or to donate food and hygiene essentials. Whether you're struggling or just caught short some days. Please come and take what you need. No judgement and no cost. Non-perishable items are recommended such as tins/pasta/rice/cereals. This will be inside the main entrance.

We also have Hallowe'en on the horizon so if anyone has any costumes that no longer fit, please can these be handed into Shannon and we can put a rail out so that they can be reused.

Attendance Matters - Supporting Parents/Carers



Please take a few moments to watch the video on attendance and its importance using the link below.

Attendance Matters

Here is a resource containing links and information to support you with issues which may be impacting on your child's attendance. The negative impact of late coming and regularly missing school is well known and we wish to avoid this. Children are much more settled when they join their class lines in the morning as coming in late can be very upsetting for them and can often lead to gaps in learning if happening on a regular basis.

Parent Supports

Shannon, our Family Link Worker can work with families to support attendance. Please do not hesitate to contact Shannon for advice and support.

Nut Allergies in School



2 - Please be aware of the advice regarding nut products in schools.

Family and young people advice



Some of the things we can provide advice or support on:

Advice on which benefits you may be entitled to and support to claim them if required.

> Support to challenge



Information provided on any grants available, referrals and support to claim



can also be provided.

Help with claiming support for the cost of the school day-Free School Meals, School Clothing Grants, School Clothing Bank referrals, EMA's (Education Maintenace Allowance).









If you are struggling with your Money, Benefits or Debt, Housing or Energy, Give us a option 4. call on 01506 283 000

Communication Strategy St. Mary's Polbeth

School email or telephone	If parents/carers have information to pass on e.g. change of contact information, questions to ask, comments to make or concerns to raise please email the school/nursery stating which member of staff you would like to contact you and why. We will be in touch ASAP. You can of course call the school but this will allow the opportunity to gather information you need before responding to you.	School – 01506 280170 wistmaryspol- ps@westlothian.org.uk
	arrangements at end of day please phone the school office.	
School App	All teachers have access to our school app and we will share notifications from this regularly. Community and parish notifications may also be sent via this app. There will be whole school news, events and information. There will also be individual class/ after school club updates and reminders. Please download onto your phone and filter as appropriate. THIS WILL BE THE BEST WAY TO KEEP UPTODATE WITH SCHOOL NEWS	To download our app search 'school app for parents' in the Apple or Google Play app stores on your device. Once you have opened the app search for 'St. Mary's Primary Polbeth'. Username: stmps Password: 1967
	AND EVENTS AS WELL AS SHORT NOTIVE ALERTS.	
Groupcall	This service will be used if the school has very important information that must be shared ASAP. It can be in the form of a text or email format. Sometimes groupcall messages will come from the school and sometimes from the central team at the Civic Centre. This is the service the school will use to contact you if your child is absent from school without notifying us.	Please make sure the contact details we have for you are up- todate at all times. Groupcall emails may go to your junk folder, please select move to inbox to ensure you receive all future emails.
Seesaw for P1-3	This is for pupils to use in class and access home learning tasks. Achievements will be shared on this and pupils are welcome to share their achievements from home on here too! This will not be used as direct communication between parent/carer and class teacher – please use one of the methods above.	Your child has their own login details. If they forget or lose them they can ask their teacher for another copy or a request can be made by parents via the school office email.
TEAMS for P4-7	This is for pupils only. Pupils are asked not to share their passwords. This platform is for learning and teaching in school and accessing home learning tasks. This will not be used as direct communication between parent/carer and class teacher – please use one of the methods above.	Your child has their own login details. If they forget or lose them they can ask their teacher to reset or a request can be made by parents via the school office email.
Twitter	This is used by the school to share. Follow us on twitter to see a	Our twitter handle:
	snapshot of learning activities, class achievements and links to our blog.	@stmaryspolbeth
Parent Consultations	These are held twice a year (November and March). They are returning to face to face and held in school.	Details of how to book will be share nearer consultations
Parent Council	The Parent Council contribute hugely to the school community. They aim to represent views of the parent body while offering practical support. They organise annual events such as the Christmas Fayre and Bunny bingo and use funds to support a variety of school initiatives. Please get in touch with the Parent Council/ School if you wish to join.	Parent council chair: <u>christopherjohnferguson@gmail.cc</u> <u>m</u>
Newsletters	Regular Newsletters are shared by the Head Teacher and contain the latest updates on class and whole school events.	Shared via email – please ensur your email details are up-to-date
Blog	Each class posts weekly on the school blog and this is a great snapshot of class and whole school events.	Blog: https://blogs.glowscotland.org.uk/ ^[1] wl/stmaryspolbeth/ ^[2]
Termly Sways	These are shared by School and Nursery to keep you up-to-date with your child's learning and class/nursery events.	Shared via email – please ensur your email details are up-to-date
Sharing our	Sharing our Learning events are held termly and details of these can be	
Learning	found on the app, newsletters and annual calendar.	https://stop.on/onvincence.cl-sto
Website	This contains a variety of information regarding the school and nursery and links to the blog, twitter, school handbook and contact information.	https://stmarysprimarypolbeth.we ^[3] stlothian.org.uk/ ^[4]

3 - [1] <u>https://blogs.glowscotland.org.uk/wl/stmaryspolbeth/</u> [2] <u>https://blogs.glowscotland.org.uk/wl/stmaryspolbeth/</u> [3] <u>https://stmarysprimarypolbeth.westlothian.org.uk/</u> [4] <u>https://stmarysprimarypolbeth.westlothian.org.uk/</u>

Coffee Mornings with Shannon	Shannon has an open door policy to any and all parents/carers who wish to pop in for a chat, find out more about the school events or share time with other adults.	
ASN Support Group	Our ASD parents group is returning and welcoming all parents/carers from Nursery, Mainstream and the ASD Resource to come along and discover supports available, find out more about curriculum/events and share experiences with others in a similar position.	Updates will be found on the app, school twitter, nursery Facebook and newsletters.
Digital Profiles	All children have their own digital profile. Links are sent out to parents so that it can be used to highlight strengths in learning and any achievements (within or out with school)	Links shared by email. Please contact the school office if you cannot access your child's profile.

A reminder that if wishing to speak to your child's teacher or a member of the management team, please make an appointment at the school office rather than e.g. when lines are being dismissed or coming in first thing to the office as these are very busy times and we want to make sure we can give you our full attention. We endeavor to uphold appointment requests or respond to any complaints within 5 working days.

Notifications

Breakfast Club

A reminder that pupils can have breakfast at the start of the school day in the dining hall between 8.15am and 8.45am. Children who attend will be directed to their lines for the start of the school day. Please do not drop your child off before 8.15am.

Uniform

All children are expected to wear school uniform.

A royal blue sweatshirt with the school badge and a white polo shirt with grey trousers/skirt/dress.

A white shirt and school tie with a royal blue jersey or cardigan and grey trousers/skirt/dress. Pupils should not wear jeans, football tops or fashion bottoms e.g. tracksuit trousers with stripes of more than one colour.

For PE days, a white T-Shirt or Polo Shirt with grey/royal blue bottoms. Ideally, if they can dress in the appropriate gym clothing on allocated days so that they can just remove a school jumper to ensure that they get maximum learning time.

School uniform may be ordered online via - Border Embroideries

Alternatively, buy from a clothing store of your choice and jumpers/T-Shirts can be taken locally to <u>Topstitch Embroidery</u> for the school badge to be embroidered on.

We have a stock of school ties available from the school office priced at £4.

Shannon (our Family Link Worker) is available to support families with school uniforms. We have a large bank of nearly new uniforms available and Shannon can also seek assistance from the School Clothing Bank for those needing support with this.

Please follow the link below for more information.

School Clothing Grants & Free School Meals

Playground

A reminder to encourage pupils to walk with their scooters and bikes when inside the school grounds to keep everyone safe, especially at the end of the school day.

Dogs are not allowed in the school grounds, both for the nursery and primary.

Medication

Wee reminder that all medication must be signed in via the school office. Pupils should not be bringing medication in their school bag and no medication can be administered without the relevant forms.

Pupil Absence

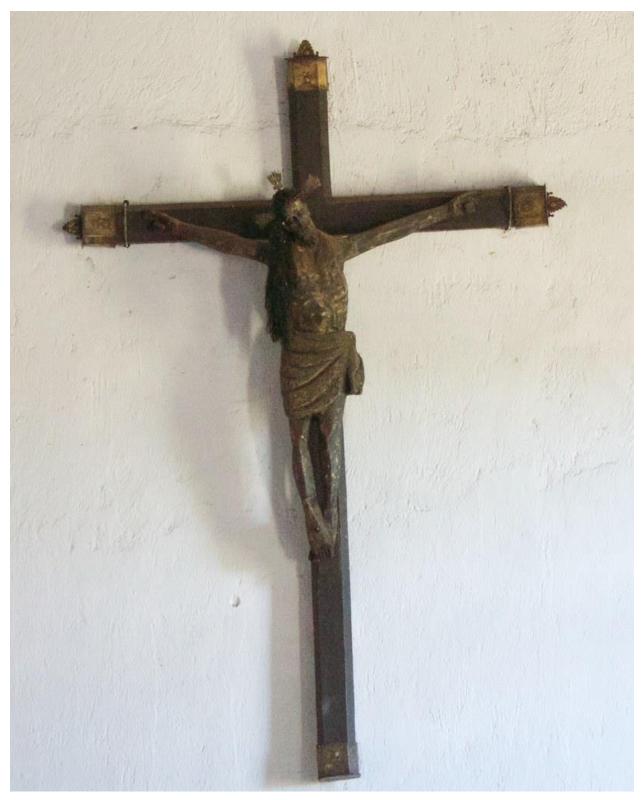
If your child is absent from school, please contact the school as early as possible, **before 9.00am** on the first day of absence.

When a pupil has been recorded as absent, and no prior notification has been given of the absence by the parent/carer, the school shall attempt to contact the parent/carer, using the Group Call system.
Parents/carers are responsible for providing and updating emergency contact information for use by the Group Call system. Parents/carers are responsible for responding promptly to contact from the school if contacted via group call.

Car Park Safety

Please do not drop off/pick up your child from the school car park. We have a taxi drop off area for identified pupils and this area can become congested and we want to prevent any potential accidents. As far as it is safe to do so, children and parents/carers are encouraged to travel to school on foot, bike, scooter or park and stride. No child should be walking through the school car park. I'm sure you'll all agree that the safety of our children is paramount.

Family Prayer



Dear God, we lift up our children to you. Please protect them and keep them safe from harm. May they grow in wisdom and understanding, and may they always turn to you for guidance. Please give them strength when they face challenges, and help them to have the courage to stand up for what is right.

Amen				
Thank you all for your continued sup Head Teacher	port. I #building for su	Helen Pritchard, Iccess		