



St Mary's Newsletter October 2024



At St Mary's RC Primary School and Polbeth Nursery we aim to create an inclusive learning community where we are Building for Success

We aim to provide high quality education that meets the needs of all learners, based on Gospel values, enabling them to be successful learners, confident individuals, responsible citizens and able to make an effective contribution to society, now and in the future.

Our values are focused on:
Trust & Honesty, Respect, Friendship, Safety & Perseverance.



In St Mary's RC Primary School and Polbeth Nursery, our aims are building blocks towards our vision, 'Building for Success':

Our Aims:

Successful Learners

To provide the highest quality learning and teaching experiences which meet the needs of all learners in an inclusive, safe and nurturing environment.

Confident Individuals

To encourage success, promoting confidence, independence and creativity in our learners to build resilience and develop a growth mind-set.

Effective Contributors

To equip every pupil with skills for life by investing in them as individuals by creating a foundation to build skills for learning in Literacy, Numeracy and Health and Wellbeing.

Responsible Citizens

To build and maintain effective partnerships between the school, the home, the parish, partner agencies and the wider community.

1 - School Vision Values and Aims

What is my child learning?

Please follow the links below to see what learning between August and December looks like for your child.

[Primary 1](#)

[Primary 2](#)

[Primary 3](#)

[Primary 4](#)

[Primary 5](#)

[Primary 6](#)

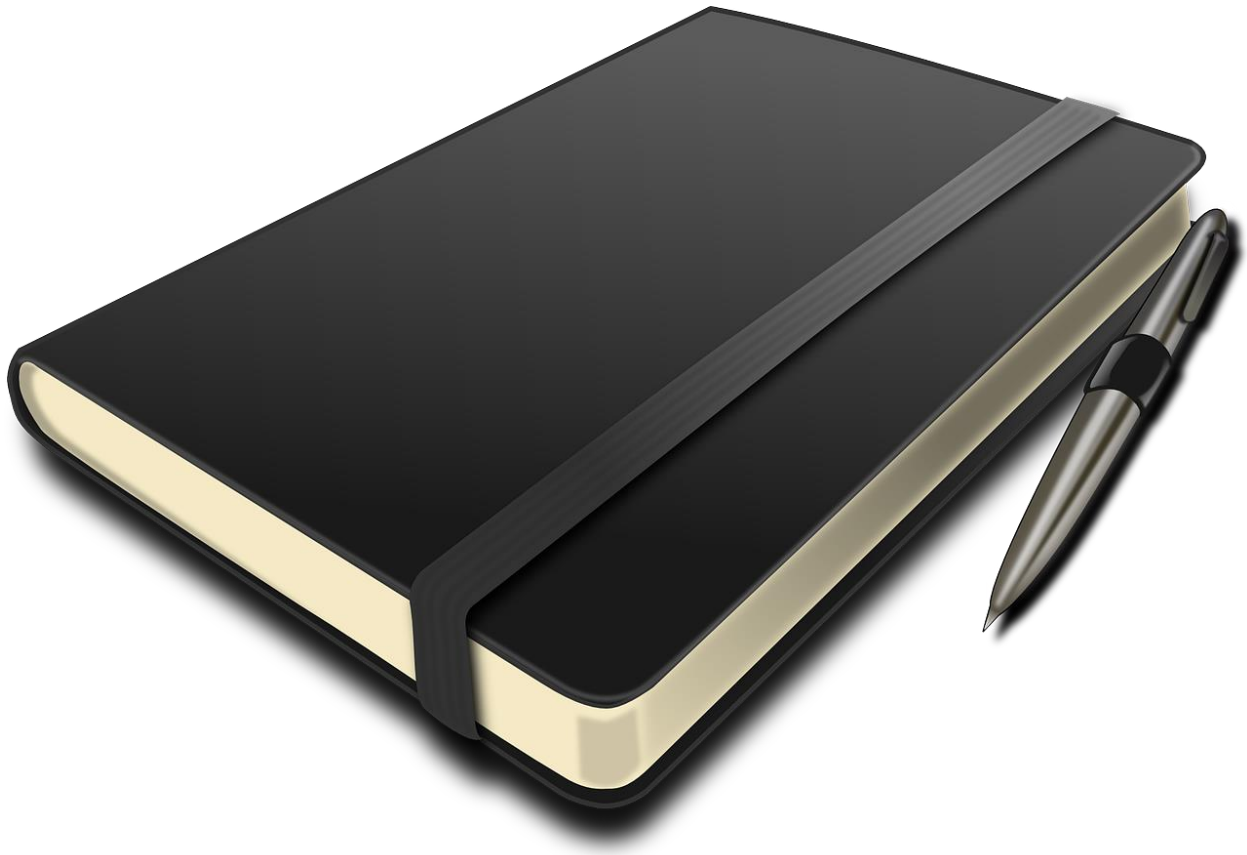
[Primary 7](#)

[Tay](#)

[Rannoch](#)

[Ness](#)

Diary Dates



Parent Consultations - Wednesday 23rd October 5-7.30pm

Friday 25th October 1-2.30pm

Hallowe'en Parties - Friday 25th October

Sacramental Enrolment Mass – Sunday 27 October 11am Mass.

Dress Down Day (bring Chocolate) - Fri 22nd November

Sale of Work/Christmas Fayre - Sat 30th November 10am - 12noon

First Reconciliation – 8 March after Saturday vigil Mass

First Holy Communion – Sunday 25th May

Confirmation – 11 June 7pm, West Calder.

Enrolment for Sacraments

Parents/carers of those making one of the following Sacraments this session should register for enrolment using the form links below. These are available on the Parish website.

P3 Sacrament of Reconciliation (Confession) forms.office.com/r/JzkhtNPhhW

P4 First Holy Communion forms.office.com/r/HqwL3NjP7G

P7 Sacrament of Confirmation forms.office.com/r/aYXiEdsh3c

Whole School Masses for this session



St. Mary's Primary School Masses 2024-25

11th October 2024	First Friday Mass	Primary 7
1st November 2024	All Saints Day	Primary 6M
6th December 2024	First Friday/Advent Mass	Primary 6R
7th February 2025	First Friday Mass	Primary 5
5th March 2025	Ash Wednesday	Primary 6M
28th March 2025	Stations of the Cross (during Assembly)	Primary 7
2nd May 2025	First Friday Mass	Primary 4
29th May 2025	Feast of the Ascension	Primary 6R
25th June 2025	Leavers' Mass (<i>in Church</i>)	Primary 7

All Masses will begin at 9.30am in the dinner hall, with the exception of the Leavers' Mass which will take place in Our Lady & St. Bridget's, West Calder.

You said...We did.



At our recent Big Breakfast/Sharing Our Learning event, we asked for parent views about what was 'going well' and 'even better if...'

Thank you for the feedback. Here is a snapshot of some of the comments submitted.

What is going well...

'The event was lovely and family orientated, it was nice being with all the kids and parents/guardians together seeing everyone interacting as well as hearing about any events going on within the school and community. Loved being in the classroom and seeing what the children's day to day looks like. St Mary's is a close knit school where everyone comes together, communication is great, open and honesty from staff is also great.'

'It was fantastic. (A special thanks to all the members of staff who organise this tremendous Friday activity.) We had a delightful morning at St. Mary's, a special event where parents/guardians were invited to join the children for a lively family breakfast filled with fun and learning. It was a wonderful opportunity to spend quality time with xxxx, meet their friends, and actively participate in their school activities. The effort and support of the professionals (or other school staff members) for the children and young people, including the parents/guardians.'

'Love it I think it's great to see their classes and have breakfast at school etc see what they are learning.'

'The children are given a wide range of experiences that are supported well by a staff that care about them'

'It gave us the opportunity to see how our son is performing in his classroom environment in this pivotal year for him.'

'Good communication between parent and teachers. Great to see their learning environment and taking part in child's lessons.'

'It was amazing. Well organised. Very pleasant atmosphere. Good support . Kids are very happy . Everything going really well'

Things could be even better if...

'We had an extension!'

'No phones allowed to be brought into school for fun 31.'

'Another school show.'

Hallowe'en Celebrations



Friday 25th October

All pupils are invited to come to school on Friday 25th October in fancy dress. We encourage any home made costumes/props/pumpkins but discourage any overly scary masks/weapons to avoid any distress. There will be fun Hallowe'en themed fun activities all morning.

Christmas Sale of Work - Annual Parent Council Event!



Please pop the annual Christmas Sale of Work date on your calendars - Saturday 30th November 2024 from 10am - 12noon. This event is organised by the Parent Council to raise funds that directly impact upon pupils. This is the main fundraising event of the year so we hope as many of you as possible are able to attend. There will be a range of fun activities (including the chance to meet Santa) and opportunities to pick up some great bargains or purchase some class enterprise produce. If anyone would like to volunteer to help out at this event, please contact Dr Chris Ferguson (Chair) - christopherjohnferguson@gmail.com

Throughout the month of November, donations of the following items are encouraged. These may be handed into the school office or for any large items, please call in advance and we can arrange for the janitor to support.

Suggested Donations:

Bottles - anything goes e.g. shampoo, tomato sauce, perfume, beer, wine, spirits.

Chocolate - for the chocolate tombola e.g. selection boxes, family bags, bars of chocolate (there will be a dress down day in November where children can bring in chocolate if they wish to dress down - date to follow).

Bric a Brac - quality goods that are no longer required in homes

Toys - good condition toys e.g. board games, cuddly toys, outdoor, role play etc.

Long life food items e.g. cupboard staples - tins, packets, pasta, cereals, jars.

Any gifts for the Wheel of Fortune that can be added to hampers e.g. vouchers, spirits, Christmas gift sets.

Remember - one man's trash is another man's treasure.

Parent Consultations



Our Term 1 parent consultations will be held on Wednesday 23rd October from 5 - 7.30pm and Friday 25th October from 1 - 2.30pm. Parents are invited to book an in person appointment with teaching staff in the school dining hall.

Appointments are live and a group call has been sent out from the office about this. Please contact the school if experiencing any difficulties.

Dress down day

We are planning to hold a dress down day on Friday 22nd November and we ask that those who want to dress down donate chocolate that will be used for the chocolate tombola at the Christmas Fayre. As it is Scottish book week, children can come dressed as a favourite book character or just wear clothes of their choice.

Participatory Budgeting

Every year, the school ringfences a set amount of money to allow for Participatory Budgeting. Participatory budgeting (PB) is a democratic process that allows pupils, parents, educators, and community members to have a say in how a school's budget is spent. We have started the consultation process for this session and invite parents/carers to contribute by adding to the padlet using the link below. Each committee has £250 budget

[2024/25 Participatory Budgeting Consultation St Mary's RC Primary](#)

Credit Union

Our pupil led numeracy committee have been in contact with our local Credit Union company and they are going to start working in partnership with the school to offer the opportunity for our children to start their own savings accounts. This can be used to save up money for big events such as residential experiences etc. It is a great way to teach children about the value of money and give them tools to equip them with the skills and knowledge needed for independent living in later life. Our numeracy committee have asked that all children receive £1 from our participatory budgeting allocation so that all children have the experience of 'growing £1'.



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- *Join the Savings Club St Mary's Primary School!*
 - *Save with Caledonian Credit Union every Friday morning during school terms.*
 - *Meet Joan Martin, our School Coordinator, who is excited to welcome every student to join Caledonian Credit Union*
 - *Start saving with just £1.00! Watch your savings grow and use them for special things in life.*
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Parent/Carer Opportunity

There is an opportunity for a two part workshop that is free for parents to attend and is all about trauma informed parenting (TIP). This may be of interest to some within our school community.

Learn how to reduce challenging behaviours with curiosity, compassion and connection.

Recognise your own stress reaction to your child's behaviour. Understand what is really going on in your child's brain in these moments.

T.I.P workshops are very much in line with the Curriculum for Excellence and Health and Well-being.

Their themes are centred on connection, relationship, family engagement, building resilience and calm coping strategies and parental support, advice and learning. Supporting parents to manage their children's moments of crisis more effectively.

In this workshop you will hear about the Bryan Post stress model, how to apply and evidence the change that it has made in your home and your life.

T.I.P also offers ongoing support through the Facebook group and after attending the workshops all learners are free to join our private support group for caregivers working to put this technique into practice for ongoing support and guidance.

To book, please use the link below:

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/trauma-informed-parenting-workshop-tickets-1022578649267?aff=oddtcreator>

West Lothian Family Languages Event

The poster features a watercolor background with various colors like green, orange, and blue. At the top right, there is a black silhouette icon of a family (two adults and a child). On the left side, there is a blue speech bubble icon with a white 'G' and a Chinese character. On the right side, there is a black speech bubble icon with a white 'A' and a Chinese character. At the bottom left, there is a red coffee cup and a green teacup. The text is centered and uses a mix of purple and teal colors.

West Lothian Family Languages Event

7th November 2024

Drop-in between 6.30pm-7.30pm

Deans Community High School

Come along and help us to develop our understanding of the languages and cultures that matter to you! Everyone is welcome!

Complete this form by 24th October to let us know you are coming:

<https://forms.office.com/e/10n8uaFBHW>

HEALTH CARE



A reminder to parents/carers to ensure that the school are fully aware of any healthcare requirements which your child has, e.g. Asthma.

Permissions must be completed for any medication (short or long-term) which is required to be taken within school.

*West Lothian Council's 'Procedures for the Management of Pupils with Healthcare Needs' states that **Parents must:***

- make sure their child attends school when well enough to do so;*
- ensure that all relevant information pertaining to their child's health needs, including any changes to their condition or medication, is given to the Head Teacher, or a person designated by the Head Teacher, at the earliest opportunity;*

- *where required, obtain a health professional's signature in relation to Individual Healthcare Plans;*
 - *sign all forms/Individual Healthcare Plans/personalised Symptom and Action Flowcharts;*
 - *give the first dose of any medication to their child and confirm that no adverse reaction has been observed prior to the medicine being administered in school;*
 - *provide the school with a supply of medication in the original packaging/dispensing container including any patient information leaflet and for prescribed medication with the original pharmacy label attached stating the child's name, name of medication and time/frequency of administration.*
 - *ensure that the school supply of medication is replenished as required;*
 - *collect out of date medication and ensure that it is disposed of correctly; and*
 - *collect all medication from the school at the end of the academic year.*
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If you are unsure whether you have completed the necessary paperwork for your child, please contact Miss Lindsay who will be able to check this and provide the paperwork if required.

If any changes in your child's health or medication occur, please notify the school immediately.

Family Prayer for October - Our Lady



Hail Mary

Hail Mary,

Full of Grace,

The Lord is with thee.

Blessed art thou among women,

and blessed is the fruit

of thy womb, Jesus.

Holy Mary,

Mother of God,

pray for us sinners now,

and at the hour of our death.

Amen.

Notifications

A reminder that all communication should come via the school's email account: wlstmaryspol-ps@westlothian.org.uk or via phone on 01506 280170. Please do not use email, Microsoft Teams or Seesaw to communicate with your child's teacher. Appointments can be made via the school office if you wish to speak to your child's teacher. We appreciate your support with this.

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.

Carpark

A reminder that the car park is for staff and school transport only.

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.

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.

Many thanks for your continued support. Together, we are #buildingforsuccess

Helen Pritchard

Head Teacher
