



St David's R.C. Primary School Newsletter

Week ending
29th January 2016



Dear Parents and Guardians,

Wishing you all a very Happy New Year and I hope 2016 will be a year of happiness and good health for you and your family.

Staffing I am delighted to welcome back Mrs Caroline Parker from her maternity leave. Mrs Parker will return after the February holiday and will be teaching Primary 3/4 along with Mrs Ruthven—its great to have her back. We also welcome to the school Miss Katie Hancock who will be teaching Primary 5/6—we are delighted Miss Hancock joins our team and we wish her well in this new post.

Catholic Education Week: 31st January —7th February : During Catholic Education Week we are encouraged to reflect on the value and purpose of Education in Faith. 'The children will be engaging in a variety of learning activities linking to this year's theme 'Learning To Be Merciful'. Our Primary 7 pupils will attend Mass in the Cathedral on Wednesday 3rd February at 11.15pm to celebrate their transition into secondary school—they will be joined by all Primary 7 pupils from all the Catholic Primary Schools in Edinburgh. *If you are a parent of a Primary 7 pupil you are most welcome to come along to the Cathedral for this Mass.* Education Sunday will be celebrated in our associated school Parishes on Sunday 7th February—we are encouraging **all pupils to attend Sunday Masses on 7th February in school uniform.** We hope you are able to come along to one of the Masses. I have included in this newsletter the 'Prayer for the Year of Mercy'.

Sacramental Registration: Just a reminder to parents who hope to present their child for any of the Sacraments this session. Parents need to make contact with their Parish priest and register their child for the Sacraments. Fr Suszko if you attend St Margaret Mary's and Fr Peter Kelly if you attend St Margaret's Davidson Mains. We will be having a meeting for all parents of children receiving their sacraments this session on **Monday 1st February at 6pm in the school.**

School Choir: A huge thank you to all choir members for the tremendous commitment they gave to rehearsals and attending Christmas events throughout December. They raised funds for the school, school camp and charity as well as entertaining the elderly at the West Neighbourhood Centre and St Margaret Mary's Church, Thank You!

New Year Reminders:

Keeping the school informed: Several times in the session we request you provide us with up to date information regarding your details. Unfortunately some parents have failed to do this. Our concern is if there is an emergency about a child and details are not correct we may fail to contact parents/contacts. If you have moved house or changed mobile/home telephone numbers please inform our school office so our records can be updated. At times we are experiencing difficulty in reading some parents' email addresses—please can these be printed. Once we have the emails addresses in our school system we will be able to communicate more effectively through email. Thank you.

Uniform and PE Kit: Please continue to send your child to school in uniform everyday—including Friday. Denim jeans or black leggings are not school uniform and should not be worn to school. Please can I also remind parents that every child requires a PE kit. As you are aware from the media currently, PE is vitally important for all children to promote life long healthy habits and good health. For Health and Safety reasons, children need a PE kit to do PE safely and hygienically. PE is not an optional curricular area, it is just as important as any other subject in the curriculum. The Scottish Government have asked all schools to ensure they are teaching a minimum of 2 hours of PE a week—we are ensuring this happens at St David's. Please can you send PE kit into school with your child every Monday morning either in a drawstring bag or a carrier bag. The kit will remain in school on your

child's peg to be used as and when necessary. Your child will then be encouraged to return home with the kit on Friday to have it laundered. If everyone follows this pattern your child will always have a PE kit in school. Your child will therefore always benefit from Physical Education—an important curricular area.

Punctuality: Please note that school starts at 8.50am and children should be in their line in the playground when the bell rings. Children are welcomed by their teacher and then taken into class. I cannot express enough the importance of your child being punctual. If your child is late they miss the teaching and learning until their point of entry in the school and it causes everyone who was on time to be disadvantaged, as the child who is late comes into the room and needs to be welcomed and settled. **We will be discussing pupils who are persistently late with the Education Welfare Officer.** A huge reminder—please call school as early as possible if your child is sick and unable to come to school. We waste time and money having to contact those parents who do not inform us. I am sure that you would agree that this time and money could be better use. Most parents do remember to call us, as they understand why this system is in place. Please can I remind parents that if their child is late for school (even if your child's classroom is in the new building) they must enter the school via the main reception door (School Office) - this is for security reasons.

Thank you to all the parents who do have their children in the line on time, in the playground when the bell rings. You know that you are teaching your child, life-long habits about being punctual, and being in the right place at the right time.

Parking:

Please can I remind all parents to ensure they are parking safely when picking up and dropping of children—we have had a couples of complaints form residents who are unable to access their driveways due to cars obstructing them. This is also a reminder to parents using our Breakfast club facility— due to safety access should not be through the staff cark park.

Mrs Siobhan Kellock (Head Teacher)

We have been asked by Parents to share the prayers which are taught and said in school. We will introduce the different prayers to parents through the Newsletter.

Morning Prayer

Father in heaven, you love me,
You're with me night and day.
I want to love you always
In all I do and say
I'll try to please you, Father.
Bless me through the day.
Amen.

Night Prayer

Good our family, I come to say
Thank you for your love today.
Thank you for my family,
And all the friends you give me.
Guard me in the dark of night,
And in the morning send your light.
Amen.

MILK MONEY

Milk money of £4.10 to cover the period 4 (07.01.16 — 26.02.16)

or

Term 2: £8.20 (07.01.16—22.04.16) is now due.

If you haven't already paid please send the money to the class teacher as soon as possible.



School Lunches

Just to remind parents that if they are paying for school dinners this should be done on a **Monday** morning. Please adhere to this, as many of our children continue to pay daily and this impacts on our Pupil Support Assistants working day.

Please send payment in a sealed envelope labelled with your child's name and class and amount.

P1-P3

All Primary 1– Primary 3 children are entitled to a **FREE** school meal (Monday—Thursday) and a **FREE** packed lunch to take home (Friday).

Thank you.



SHARING OUR LEARNING

Friday 12th February

8:50am—9:15am: Tea/Coffee

9:15am—10:00am: Sharing Our Learning

10:00am—10:30am: Uniform Nearly New Sale

We hope you are able to come along!

PARENT COUNCIL MEETING

Tuesday 15th March @ 6pm



NATIONAL EPIDEMIC OF HEAD LICE

Head lice is a common problem, which can affect the whole community, adults and children alike. However, head lice infection is most common amongst children.

The Scottish Executive have issued guidelines for all schools to follow. In this document they quote:

'Head lice are not primarily a problem of schools, but of the community. Stigma and tradition, however, combined with inadequate public and professional knowledge continue to hold schools responsible.'

Effective management depends on the ability of all relevant professionals/agencies to offer clear, accurate and impartial advice and support to parents on detection and treatment.

"The control of head lice is not the responsibility of any one agency alone."

What are Head Lice?

Head lice are small, six-legged wingless insects which are pin-head size when they hatch, less than match-head size when fully grown and are grey/brown in colour. They are difficult to detect in dry hair even when the head is closely inspected. Head lice can cause itching.

Head Lice live on or very close to the scalp at the base of the hair, where they find both food and warmth. They feed through the scalp of their host. The female louse lays eggs in sacs, which are very small, dull in colour and well camouflaged. These are securely glued to hairs where the warmth of the scalp will hatch them out in 7 to 10 days. Nits are the empty egg sacs, which are white and shiny and may be found further along the hair shaft as the hair grows. Nits are often easier to see than the head lice themselves. Many people mistake the empty egg sacs—or 'nits' - for head lice or believe that it is evidence of an active head lice infection. This is not true; it is evidence of a previous infection. A head lice infection cannot be diagnosed unless a living louse has been found on the head.

During their life span of one month, head lice will shed their skin up to three times. This skin, combined with louse droppings, looks like black dust and may be seen on the pillows of people with head lice. Head lice cannot fly, jump or swim; they can only be contracted by direct head to head contact. Contrary to popular belief, the length, condition or cleanliness of hair does not predispose any particular group to head lice infection. Anyone with hair can catch head lice, meaning that the problem, whilst often more prevalent in children, is not unique to them.

Whilst cleanliness is not related to contracting an head lice infection, regular hair washing and combing does offer a good opportunity to detect any infection so that it can be treated. Head lice cannot be prevented, but daily brushing and grooming can aid early detection.

Responsibility

The Scottish Executive states that,

'The primary responsibility for the identification, treatment and prevention of head lice in a family has to lie with the parents, if only for reasons of practicality. Parents however, cannot be expected to diagnose current infection, or distinguish it from successfully treated previous infection or other conditions if they are not adequately instructed and supported by health professionals.'

'Regular checking of children's heads is important, but it is a parental responsibility.'

Detecting

The Scottish Executive advise that weekly checks, by 'wet combing', are the most effective method of detection.

What is 'Wet Combing'?

- Wash the hair and apply conditioner, then comb through with a wide-tooth comb to remove tangles.
- Taking a section at a time, a fine tooth detection comb is then pulled downwards through the hair, keeping the comb close to the scalp (where head lice are often located).
- The comb is checked for lice after each section.
- The comb must be fine enough to catch the lice and a pharmacist should be able to recommend a comb for this purpose, if parents are in any doubt.
- This process should be completed weekly.
- Checks should be continued following treatment to ensure that it has been effective and to detect any re-infection.



Nursery

Dear Parents,

We have now started the second term of the academic year and the groups are settling well. The children are producing some great work as well as making lots of progress (keep checking the online journals). It is a pleasure to listen to them talk and hear their interests. Where possible we take those interests and develop them into topics and themes. For example, from our winter topic we have looked at light and dark after some children noticed how dark the mornings are. To develop this observation we put out the 'blackout' tent and torches. From there we have looked at nocturnal animals, this in turn evolved into us paying particular attention to Hedgehogs and Owls and so on and so on...

Christmas festivities: We all hope everyone enjoyed all the activities leading up to Christmas. The children were fantastic and we hope that everyone who managed to make the events enjoyed them. If you didn't manage to make the concerts there will be other opportunities to let you see your child sing and dance. Lastly thank you again for all the cards, presents and good wishes we received. It was very generous.

Curriculum: We are looking at winter, light & dark and nocturnal animals. We will also be discussing 'people who help us', where we live and house numbers. We also plan to look at our names, try writing them and learn our initial letters. If any parents have a job that comes under 'people who help us' please let us know if you would be willing to talk to the children and let them know what you do. We have a police officer coming to speak to us soon!



Request: As so many little ones are coming in with coughs and colds we would be very grateful for any donations of boxes of tissues. We are also very short of 'junk' for model making. Please save and donate any clean boxes, tubes, tubs and cartons. Lastly, please dress your children in trousers they can unfasten easily, lately we have had a few accidents because of difficult to undo fastenings.

Important reminder: Please dress your children for WINTER weather. Ideal clothing would include welly boots, hats, mittens/gloves and waterproof coats. Also a bag on their peg with a change of clothes would be a great idea at this time of year.

Kind regards

Mr Innes, Mrs Singh, Miss Fraser, Mrs Rafferty and Mrs Doran



Primary 1A

Welcome back

It's great to see everyone back and ready to have a wonderful 2016!

Thank you for your cards, gifts and wishes at Christmas, you are too generous!

We have a busy few weeks ahead of us.

First we will be learning some Scottish songs/poems to celebrate Burn's day on the 25th. Then we will be gearing up for our "Diversity" night on February 9th. The children will be learning all about The United States and how they celebrate Pancake Tuesday.

We also have Fairtrade Fortnight and Finance week coming up in the next month.

Mrs Guthrie and I have copied the first set of common words again and put them in your child's blue bags. Please take time to practise learning these words with your child.

Happy New year to you all "may yer lum aye lang reek"



Mr Creaney

Primary 1B

Well done to Primary 1B and all the other classes involved in the Nativity. I'm sure you'll agree that all the children were excellent in the performance and we have a few stars in the making!!!!

This term we will be busy building on the work from last term in Literacy. We will continue to learn new sounds, new common words and develop our reading and word attack skills further. Please complete homework each night and revise all sounds and vocabulary with your child.

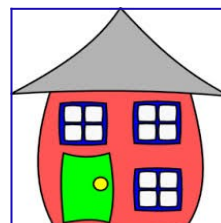
I will continue to send home reading from the Oxford Reading Tree scheme and where possible provide the extended stories for you to read to your child. Continue to talk about what is happening in the story and ask questions about the story to develop comprehension skills.

In numbers we will continue counting the numbers 1-10 and beyond. Continue to practise at home and when you are out and about. Find numbers all around you, count items that you can see, read the bus numbers, ask how many or how many more do I need to make x?

In maths we will investigate pattern and shape around us, financial education and money, time and measure in the next few weeks as well as revise topics already covered.

In Health and Wellbeing we will cover gymnastics and ball control skills as well as general fitness. Please be sure to send a P.E. kit in with your child each Monday so that they can participate in lessons. Our P.E. days for this term are Wednesday and Thursday.

Our topics these term will be: IDL - Materials (to include Houses and Homes) and Science - Energy (to include forces and movement). More information about what you can do to support your child's learning around these topics will be sent home as part of your child's home learning each week.



Thank you for your continued support.

Mrs Murphy

PRIMARY 2

Happy New Year and a warm welcome back to all the boys and girls in Primary 2 who have already been working super hard and showing how eager they are to learn.

Literacy

- Reading - Oxford Reading Tree reading books to continue to be read each night as well as continuing to learn the Common Words will help your child read. We have also introduced Everybody Reading In Class (E.R.I.C) to encourage a love of reading. Please encourage your child to bring in a book from home or their school Library book which they now get to borrow and renew on a weekly basis.
 - Cursive handwriting - the class have started learning to write using joined up cursive. When writing at home or doing homework, encourage your child to write in joined up cursive.
 - Writing - we write our News on a Monday about what we did at the weekend...to prepare your child for this task, please discuss your weekend with your child. Feel free to send in any props or information about your child's weekend.
 - Spelling - we will be continuing with our weekly spelling tests which will be in class on Thursdays and Fridays. The weekly spelling words can be found in the homework diary.
- Literacy Rich programme - some children will be beginning to learn about compound words (e.g. blackbird, armpit, whiteboard etc.) and compound sentences where 2 sentences are joined by a connective (e.g. and, then, because etc.). Some groups will be learning about final consonant blends (e.g. rk in bark, st in fist, mp in jump etc.) as well as initial consonant blends (gr in gran, br in brush, cl in clap etc.)

Numeracy/Maths

- Continuing work on numbers to 20 30 and 50 and beyond; saying the number before/after; counting on/back in 2s, 5s, 10s
 - Measure
- Money in relation to Finance Week theme. Primary 2 decided that they would like to have bookshop in class so that they can practise buying and giving change. They have already planned what this bookshop will look like and this week sees the start of us putting out plans into action.

Music

The children will be practising singing songs and hymns around the theme of Mercy in line with Pope Francis' Year of Mercy.

H.W.B

P.E. - Please remember to send in your child's kit on a Monday in a labelled bag with labelled shorts, indoor shoes and t-shirt. It will be sent home on a Friday for washing. If your child wears earrings, please remember to remove them on PE days to avoid any accidents. PE days: Mondays and Thursdays.

Food Technology

The children will learn how to create nourishing soups and delicious smoothies and juices using vegetables and fruit. We will also be cooking more delicious Scottish Foods to celebrate Burns Day on Monday 25th January as well as learning about Spanish Foods for our Diversity topic.

Social Studies

We have begun our learning about Climate Change in Cold and Hot countries, and the effects this has on the environment. We have learned about the 7 continents and the equator. We will be learning about how weather in different parts of the world affects us, animals and plants. On Wednesday 27th January we will be visiting Dynamic Earth to learn more about weather systems across the Globe.

Science

We will be developing our knowledge about Space and the Solar System.



R.E.

The children will learn about the theme of Mercy and we will be talking, in class and at home, about how we can show mercy to one another. We will also be learning how people in Spain prepare for Lent, and this knowledge will be shared at the Diversity Evening on Tuesday 9th February, 6-7.30pm.

Wishing you and yours, a happy and healthy 2016.

Mrs Magill

PRIMARY 3

I would like to welcome all of the children back to school after what I hope was a restful and enjoyable Christmas break for everyone, parents and pupils alike.

Firstly, I would like to say a big well done to all children for our wonderful assembly! It was a super way to end our first term in Primary Three.

We have had a great start to 2016; the children are very focused and are excited to continue their learning journey.

Maths and numeracy.

This term the children will be learning about measurement. This maths topic will be very active and the class are looking forward to estimating and measuring lots of different objects.

We will also be covering money which will tie in with our Finance Week in February. As part of our ongoing Rights Respecting Schools programme, the class will discuss the needs, wants and rights of each individual. We will continue learning mathematical strategies through our SEAL programme this term. The children have really enjoyed the activities so far.

You can further your child's learning this term by asking practical questions relating to our maths topics. For example, ask them to find the measurements on food cartons, etc. And again with money, allow them to pay for items and to work out the change, etc. This will help your child apply the skills learnt in school to everyday life.

Literacy and English

All children are trying really hard on their cursive handwriting and it has paid off. Keep up the hard work!

Primary 3 and 3/4 are starting a new Read, Write, Inc. programme where some of the children will be working on their phonetic awareness with myself and Mrs. Burgess. Others in the class will be working on their literacy skills such as grammar, reading, and writing with Mrs. Ruthven. Everybody is very excited to get started!

The library has officially been launched and we are delighted! Each Wednesday we will be visiting St. David's library where the children can choose a book to read for enjoyment throughout the week. We try to provide as many opportunities to read as possible in school so your child is encouraged to bring in their library book each day.

Topic

After such a keen interest in our topic on the Ancient Egyptians in term 1, the children are thrilled to have started learning about China. We will be exploring the culture and climate of the country as well as finding out about the Chinese New Year. Show and tells should be based on this topic.

We will also be enjoying Burns Night celebrations whilst taking part in Scots week. There will be a poetry recital in the class and the winners will be invited to recite their poem at assembly on the 12th February.

Diversity night will be taking place on the evening of the 9th of February. As a mini topic, P3 have chosen Brazil as their country so make sure to come along and find out how Shrove Tuesday is celebrated there!

Our science topic this term is making sounds. We will be learning about how sound travels and will be carrying out experiments to investigate it.

PRIMARY 3 (continued)

R.E.

We have begun our preparation for the Sacrament of Reconciliation and the class are participating well. We are learning how to ask God for forgiveness for our sins and to forgive others. Please continue to do the tasks in your homework book each week with your children. The dates for the Sacraments will be confirmed soon.

P.E.

P.E. days stay the same - Tuesday and Wednesday. Well done to all children on bringing your full gym kits each week.

Please ensure your child has indoor shoes in school.



Homework

The class have really improved their organisational skills and are remembering to bring in their blue bags every day, well done! Remember to check that all active and written spelling tasks are complete each week - this has a hugely beneficial impact on their writing.

We look forward to an exciting Term 2. Happy New Year!

Miss Lambert

Primary 3/4

P3/4 had a lovely Christmas holiday and are pleased to be back at school. This term we will be celebrating Burns Day at the end of January with a poetry competition and we are also learning some Ceilidh dances in PE.

Our topics for this term are "China" which involves the pupils learning about the culture and traditions of that country. In Science we will be looking at Sound and the children will get to find out how sound is made using percussion instruments and some every day materials.

In maths we will be taking part in Financial Week where we will be looking at money. In other areas of maths we will be focusing on number and number processes, time, 2D and 3D shape and measurement.

As well as dancing we will be doing gymnastics, football and hockey in PE, so it is important that everyone has their PE kit on Tuesdays and Thursdays.

Reading is a very important part of the curriculum and so we will be encouraging pupils to drop everything and read for about 15 minutes once a week.

There will be another Diversity evening on 9th February, where parents come to the school and see what their child has been learning. We look forward to seeing mums and dads if they are able to come.

Mrs Ruthven



PRIMARY 4

What a great job Primary 4 did at assembly. I was so proud of them all and so grateful for the support they received at home. Thank you all for coming to assembly and trying out our spelt scones.

Diversity and The Children's Charter

As part of our work towards becoming a Rights Respecting School Primary 4 will be focussing on the Right to an Education. We will talk and explore what this looks like around the world.

Our topic work will link into this by exploring *Our European Neighbours*. We will pay special attention to Italy to build on our history topic of the Romans. Italy will be the country we show at our diversity event although in class we will study all the countries in Europe and how they help and support each other.



Homework

Our organisation skills will be tested further this term with lessons at the swimming pool. We will keep you up to date with when we are going and what the children need to bring along.



Topic work and Creative Writing

Our science topic this term is Forces and Magnets. We will predict, experiment and record our findings using different materials. We also have a trip to Dynamic Earth to look forward to.



Maths

In maths this term we will continue our work on multiplying and division. We will link this into fractions, time, decimal numbers and money! A lot to think about.

Language

We will focus on writing information and stories. We will prepare by talking and listening and taking notes. We will look at the different types of words we can use and how they fit together to make our stories interesting. We will use the library and internet to research our writing and prepare our notes. We will use i-pad apps like Book Creator to convey our stories and information in different ways

Mrs Hughes

PRIMARY 5

Happy New Year everyone, we are all excited to be back after the holidays and to continue on with our learning. The children were delighted to see each other again and to share their stories from the Christmas break.

The children will work both independently and in groups, to investigate important people in Scottish history, such as Robert Burns and Mary Queen of Scots. We will be taking an Interdisciplinary approach to learning our topic, linking our learning through other curricular areas. iPad's will be used as a research device and as a presenting tool to share what we have learned.

To celebrate Scottish heritage and culture we are studying poetry as part of our Robert Burns mini topic. Primary 5 will learn how to identify different types of poems from their features. They will learn how to express their ideas and feelings through the use of figurative language for example similes, metaphors, onomatopoeia and personification. We will be using VCOP (Vocabulary, Connectives, Openers, Punctuation) to improve our writing and will continue to work on developing our talking and listening skills through focus lesson plans and group work.

We will continue to work on our reading skills using novels and books as our source of text. Our focus will be reading with fluency and applying strategies to decode unfamiliar words as well as using Blooms Taxonomy to improve and assess specific reading skills.

Primary 5 are very happy to welcome Steve Macara on a Thursday, who works for Total Craigroyston. He delivers a Health and Wellbeing Programme entitled 'Respect'. We will continue to improve our swimming skills on a Wednesday and we are delighted to have a specialist teacher, Miss Spence, to teach us how to play rugby on a Tuesday.

This term we will be learning about and comparing world religions. As part of our diversity night we will be studying Saint Brigit and Saint Patrick and why they were so important to the people of Ireland.

SSPCA visited Saint David's to teach the children how best to care for pets and wildlife. Primary 5 learned about the cost involved in looking after a pet and how best to cater for their needs. They thoroughly enjoyed this session and were keen to share their stories about animal welfare.

Please note that there have been a few changes to our timetable this term. Please ensure that your child has the appropriate kit for the activities on these days.

P.E. – Tuesday

Swimming – Wednesday

Homework will continue to be given out on a Monday and should be handed in on a Friday signed by an adult. The children are also expected to complete two active spelling and maths activities per week, date them, and traffic light them in terms of challenge. This term we will continue to focus on improving our talking and listening skills as well as our comprehension skills in reading. Please discuss with your child about their reading book or novel and about their topic at school, as this would be very beneficial for your child's progress in these areas.

Miss Folan

PRIMARY 5/6

Hello, my name is Miss Katie Hancock and I am pleased to say I will be p5/6's new class teacher.

I started at St David's after the children came back from their Christmas holidays, and I have enjoyed getting to know the class during that first week. I am looking forward to working with and supporting each of the children, and sharing many fun, stimulating and interesting learning experiences together.

Please be aware that there has been a few changes made to the class timetable. PE will now take place on Monday and Wednesday afternoons, so please ensure your child has their kit. The p5 children will be doing swimming at Craigroyston High School on a Wednesday morning, so swimming kit is needed. In addition, please ensure your child has a pair of indoor, comfortable shoes to wear in the school building, such as gym rubbers.

Homework for literacy and maths will be given out to the children on a Monday and it is to be handed in on Friday-however please feel free to hand it in earlier if it has been completed. The children are also expected to complete two active spelling and maths activities per week, they should date it, and traffic light how they found the activity in terms of challenge. For example, a coloured green dot meaning they found the activity suitable and could complete it without difficulty, orange for needing a little support and red if they found it

PRIMARY 5/6 (continued)

very challenging. The timetables for the active learning activities are glued into the children's homework jotters. Some of the learning experiences P5/6 will undertake this term are:

Listening, Talking, Reading and Writing

Language is about communicating! To communicate well we need to be able to read a range of materials so throughout this term we'll be taught reading skills through focussed reading sessions, while using and developing various reading strategies. We will also use class novels, and our reading books for learning. We'll have the opportunity to enjoy reading our own choice of novels that we choose and also to borrow books from our fantastic school library. We will be given the chance to read aloud using expression and fluency. We'll develop our skills of learning to write in a variety of genres including poetry, news reports, personal responses and functional posters, and we'll use VCOP strategies (Vocabulary, Connectives, Openers and Punctuation) to 'uplevel' our work so it sounds more interesting and engaging for the reader. Self and peer assessment skills will also be increasingly developed to ensure our work is always improving. We'll continue to learn grammar and spelling rules and how to self-correct our work particularly focussing on punctuation and presentation. We'll learn to speak confidently in a variety of situations, taking time to consider our audience and how to both ask and answer questions. We'll also learn to develop our listening skills in a variety of situations. Fresh Start led by Mrs Burgess, will also support some of our learners.

Numeracy and Mathematics

As a class we'll be investigating place value and addition and subtraction. We will then study fractions and decimals and learn how to convert between these two maths concepts. There will be a lot of opportunity to use interactive maths games and to develop problem solving and mental maths strategies.

Health and Wellbeing

Health and wellbeing skills are taught and applied across the curriculum. The themes we will focus on this term are Equality and Diversity and Anti-bullying, as well as working with others and leadership skills. The P6's will have sessions with Steve Macara learning about Health, Hope and Happiness, while the p5's will learn about Respect, in addition. Learning experiences in PE will include developing our skills in badminton and social dance, including traditional dances of other cultures.

Interdisciplinary Learning

Through a variety of contexts we'll be taught different curricular areas and will develop skills for learning, for life and for work. Each topic will be led by a particular area of the curriculum although there will be lots of opportunity to foster links across our learning and to make connections. To begin with, we will learn about the famous Scottish Poet, Robert Burns and our Scottish cultural heritage. As part of our whole school equality and diversity learning, we will be researching the country and culture of Turkey. Expressive Arts, including music, drama and art activities will be related to our topics. The children will also be taking part in a costume making workshop run by Start Theatre group on the 27th January - please note the p5 children will not be going swimming that day so they can attend the workshop.

RE

The Gospel of Mark is a focus in P5. We will learn through a series of themes this term including relationships with God and others; Living the light of the Gospel. We will go on to study some bible passages in detail and relate the moral and give meaning of the story to our own lives. We will also study Islam and Judaism and look for the similarities and differences between them, as well as how these other world religions compare to our own Catholic Faith. The P6's will also be aiming to achieve their Pope Francis Award.

Miss Hancock



Primary 6

Happy New Year to everyone, we hope you all had a nice time over the holidays.

We are all glad to be back and excited about the year ahead in Primary 6!

We are glad to welcome Mrs Wallace into our classroom on a Thursday. Mrs Wallace will be teaching pupils Mathematics, French, PE and Art and Design.

We are also happy to Welcome back Steve Macara who works for Total Craigroyston. He delivers a Health and Wellbeing Programme entitled 'Health/Hope and Happiness.'

We are settling back into our working routine in class and are going to be learning many new things this term starting off with lessons on The Scottish Wars of Independence. We are enjoying exploring this past event and we are using our iPads to support this learning.

Within Literacy we will continue to read and study our class novels as well as working on our spelling and grammar. Report writing will be a big focus this term to allow the children to transfer their learning from other Curriculum areas into Literacy. For example, the children will be writing reports based on science experiment, Scotland's history and newspaper reports liked to our class novel the Iron Man.

Within Numeracy and Mathematics, we will be working hard to increase our mental agility based around the 4 operations. We will also be learning about data handling through reading graphs and creating various graphs to display information we have collected and collated.

This year, we are enrolling primary 6 pupils within the Pope Francis Faith Award. This prestigious new award which recognises young people putting faith into action and showing "signs of love" to others. It is named in honour of Pope Francis because of the good example he gives to everyone. Starting this term, all Primary 6 pupils will be involved. They will learn about the Gifts of the Holy Spirit and how they can use these in good ways. More information will follow through letters and leaflets.

Feedback from the children showed that they enjoyed the 'Snow White' Pantomime and are looking forward to going to the theatre to see Mary Poppins. This children will also be taking part in costume workshops and pantomime classes to develop their understanding of the theatre. This Programme is called the Start Project and the children learn many new skills throughout this programme.

Please note that P.E. Days have changed to **a Monday and a Thursday**. Both indoor and outdoor kits should be brought to school on these days.



Thank you for your continued support!

Miss Fallon

PRIMARY 7

P7 is an awesome, confident and responsible learning team! These are few of the things that we have done in P7 so far!

Interdisciplinary Learning (IDL)

Through a variety of contexts, we have developed skills for learning, for life and for work. Particular areas of the curriculum have given us lots of opportunity to foster links across our learning and to make connections. To begin with, we learned through *The Secret Garden* about life in Victorian times. This was a book we knew well and this helped us to arrange our classroom to demonstrate the rich learning that we gained from this. We invited the rest of the school and P7 from Pimiehall to visit our exhibits and displays.

A day at Dynamic Earth kicked off our IDL with a tour and a Shake, Rattle and Roll workshop, thanks to our Golden Ticket. Expressive Arts and Outdoor Learning are related to all our topics but especially in the Changing Face of the Earth.

We completed this study with a fabulous trip to the National Museum of Scotland for the Food Heritage Trail

We entered a few competitions because they give us a purpose for our learning and an opportunity to share our learning with a greater audience.

Green Pencil Award - a poetry writing competition. Entries were amazing!

Stained Glass Window – art completion for windows in Princes Street Gardens.

Royal Mail Letter Writing Competition – the letters were perfect!

We continued work with the rights that we should live by in St David's and working out our place and responsibility for the world we live in. We are taking part in the Smart project again and this involved a fully paid trip to Snow-White at the

Curriculum Areas

Early in the term we had a visit to the Book Festival to see and hear Francesca Simon, which led to us reading *The Sleeping Army* and *The Lost Gods* as class novels. Interesting!

Using the school library and choosing our own novels has deepened some of our love for books and reading.

We have written in a variety of genres including poetry, news reports, personal responses, letters and functional posters.

Speaking confidently in a variety of situations, taking time to consider our audience and how to both ask and answer questions has been a priority and developing our listening skills in a variety of situations, using our new talking and listening approaches.

Mental Maths, Problem Solving and number processes have kept us occupied, with making the links we need and applying our mathematical skills in a selection of situations. We have been working on our tables and will continue to do so!!

We have been following the themes of Fresh Start, Friendship and Anti-bullying and building up organisational skills. Miss Spence has helped us to play basketball and to take part in sports hall athletics and social dance.

Food Technology, Science, RME, Expressive Arts have all been a large part of our curriculum.

We all have the ability have our 1:1 devices at home, leading to increased opportunities for research, recording and learning in different ways. We will look at fundraising and business contexts whilst using enterprise and design and enjoyed an Eco workshop on Waste and what to do with it!

Ethos and life of school as a community

At St David's we are very proud of the many ways that we help other people, develop awareness of our world and learn to be responsible citizens.

In P7 we have all been chosen as prefects after a challenging interview process. They fulfil duties and volunteer for extra tasks constantly. We have been given a new design school tie, for P7 only. This includes being buddies to P1 and helping them to settle into the school and being House Captains and Vice Captains, to take the school forward with counting house points and presenting the results at assemblies. We all have responsibilities, which we take seriously.

There are new Dens. We are represented in each one of them and we are getting to know children from other classes very well. We have represented the school at the Legacy Games at St. Augustine's and Broughton High School Games and came back with accolades!

Opportunities for personal achievement

We have learned in lots of different ways – by making, saying, writing and doing and had the chance to learn through different experiences.

We record our achievements in our Personal Learning Plans, share our learning with parents and feel proud of what we achieve both as a class and as individuals. We participated in Active Schools activities and attended the Homework Club.

We contributed to the ribbon art installation in the playground and the snowflake displays at the shopping centre. We are working towards our Junior Award Scotland Scheme (JASS) and have almost completed our Bronze Level.

Our fundraising has helped our camp to be cheaper and we have enjoyed a lot of support and links with others, including local businesses. This included organising the school Hallowe'en Party

St. David's Dens

The Dens have now met on a number of occasions and feedback from staff and pupils has been very positive. Lots of work has already started including the Community Den walking around the local area to identify and familiarise themselves with amenities in the area. The Charity Den has been busy writing to local businesses to ask for help to support our Lenten Mary's Meals Backpack campaign (more information to follow to parents). Please check the school website for updates on all the St. David's Dens.



Parent Volunteers

A big thank-you to all the parent volunteers who help the school in many invaluable ways. If you are interested in helping the school in any way please contact the school office in the first instance.

Thank-you to the Parish of St. Margaret's Davidson Mains

We would like to thank Fr Peter Kelly and the parishioners of St. Margaret's who very kindly donated Christmas food items to the school. They were very much appreciated by the families who received them. Thank-you also to Fr Peter for setting up an art exhibition in the Church hall and to those who bought paintings, that were kindly donated by Mrs Hamilton, our P7 class teacher. This raised the fantastic sum of £115.00 for school funds.

VACANCY SUPERVISORY ASSISTANT, DINING ROOM, ST DAVID'S RC PRIMARY SCHOOL

If you are interested in the vacancy below, then please pick up a job pack and application form from the office. All completed applications need to be returned by Friday 5th February 2016.



Message to all Parents:

Emergency Action (as recommended by the Royal Life Saving Society UK)

NEVER VENTURE ONTO FROZEN RESERVOIRS, NO MATTER HOW SAFE IT LOOKS

If you see someone fall through the ice

Shout for assistance and call the emergency services using 999.

Do not walk or crawl onto the ice to attempt a rescue.

Shout to the casualty to keep still.

Try and reach them from the bank using a rope, pole, tree branch, clothing tied together or anything else, which extends your reach.

When reaching from the bank lie down to avoid being pulled onto the ice.

If you can reach them slide something that floats, like a rescue buoy.

If the casualty is too far away, do not attempt to rescue them. Wait for the emergency services while calming and reassuring them.

After the casualty has been removed from the ice:

Make sure the ambulance is on its way.

Lay them flat, check breathing and pulse and begin resuscitation if necessary.

Prevent them from getting colder by putting them in a sleeping bag or

Covering them including their head, with blankets or spare clothing.

Get them under shelter out of the cold.

Do not remove any clothing until the casualty is in a warm place.

Do not rub their skin, apply hot water or give an alcoholic drink.

Keep them wrapped up so that they warm up gradually.

If you fall through the ice:

Keep calm and call for help.

If no help is available spread your arms across the surface of the ice.

If the ice is strong enough kick your legs and slide onto the ice.

Lie flat and pull yourself to the shore.

If the ice is very thin, break it in front of you and make your way to the shore.

If you cannot climb out, wait for help keeping as still as possible.

Once you are safe, go to hospital immediately for a check up.



St Davids Out of School Club

Opening Times

Term Time: School bell – 5.45pm

School Holidays and some In-Service Days: 8.00am-5.45pm

Venues

Term Time: The club will be held in West Pilton Neighbourhood Centre. On most days the club will be based in large room with direct access to a small kitchen and large gym hall. Once a week when this room is unavailable the club will be based in a slightly smaller room within the centre. Outdoor play will take place in West Pilton Park which is directly adjacent to the building.

Holidays: The club will take place in Forthview Primary School during school holidays. We will have access to the gym hall for activities and the dining hall for snacks and lunch.

School In-Service Days: The club will be held in either the school or West Pilton Neighbourhood Centre on these days. This will be arranged in advance and will be dependent upon whether or not the teaching staff are based in St David's Primary School on these days.

Activities

Weekly activity programmes will be based on children's interests. A typical week will include activities such as arts and crafts, music, outdoor play, sports, construction and computer games. Trips out during school term times tend to focus on swimming and visits to local parks. During school holidays we incorporate lots of outings to places of interest in and around Edinburgh, e.g. museums, beaches, Dalkeith Country Park, ice skating and cinema, to name but a few.

We actively promote children's participation and children in the club will be invited to set up a Children's Council so they can have a real say in what happens in their club.

Staffing

North Edinburgh Childcare has a robust recruitment policy which enables us to appoint the most suitable people for our childcare positions. All of our staff receive regular ongoing training in key topics such as First Aid, Food Hygiene and Child Protection. All of our childcare team are registered with the Scottish Social Services Council and must meet their regulatory requirements in terms of achieving a relevant childcare qualification. We have two peripatetic team leaders who are registered as managers with the Care Inspectorate. They oversee the work in our clubs and ensure that all regulatory standards are met as a minimum.

Fees

Our Out of School Fees are as follows:

School Term Times (bell time-5.45pm)

Monday – Thursday: £10.72

Fridays: £14.89

Full week: £57.77

School Holidays and In-Service Days (8.00am-5.45pm)

Monday – Friday £23.82

Full Week: £119.10

Fees are payable in advance preferably by standing order. You may be eligible for a grant to support you with your fees depending on your circumstances. For more information please call our Finance Team on 0131 332 8001 or email info@northedinburghchildcare.co.uk.

For more information or to book a childcare place please contact **Kieran Gallagher; 0131 311 6927** kieran.gallagher@northedinburghchildcare.co.uk

Please note that childcare places are limited.

NORTH EDINBURGH CHILDCARE OUT OF SCHOOL CLUB

We currently have spaces available in our out of school clubs for children attending: **St David's Primary School.**

The club is held at West Pilton Neighbourhood Centre ;

After school care is provided from bell time until 5.45pm Monday - Friday.

Full day holiday care is available from 8.00am-5.45pm Monday – Friday.

Our qualified staff offer a wide range of activities and a healthy snack each day.
Fees are chargeable.

For more information please contact:

Kieran Gallagher on

0131 311 6927 / 07957823325

kieran.gallagher@northedinburghchildcare.co.uk

Everyone Welcome!

Prayer for the Year of Mercy

Lord Jesus Christ,
you have taught us to be merciful like the heavenly Father,
and have told us that whoever sees you sees Him.
Show us your face and we will be saved.
Your loving gaze freed Zacchaeus and Matthew from being enslaved by money,
the adulteress and Magdalene from seeking happiness only in created things,
made Peter weep after his betrayal,
and assured Paradise to the repentant thief.
Let us hear, as if addressed to each one of us,
the words that you spoke to the Samaritan woman:
“If you knew the gift of God!”

You are the visible face of the invisible Father,
of the God who manifests his power above all by forgiveness and mercy:
let the Church be your visible face in the world, its Lord risen and glorified.
You willed that your ministers would also be clothed in weakness
in order that they may feel compassion for those in ignorance and error:
let everyone who approaches them feel sought after, loved, and forgiven by God.

Send your Spirit and consecrate every one of us with its anointing,
so that the Jubilee of Mercy may be a year of grace from the Lord,
and your Church, with renewed enthusiasm, may bring good news to the poor,
proclaim liberty to captives and the oppressed,
and restore sight to the blind.

We ask this of you, Lord Jesus, through the intercession of Mary, Mother of Mercy; you who live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit for ever and ever.

Amen.





Website address:

*[http://www.saintdavidsrc.
wordpress.com](http://www.saintdavidsrc.wordpress.com)*

CELEBRATING DIVERSITY EVENT

Tuesday 9th February

6:00PM – 7:30PM

Tickets: Adult £2/Child 50p



Available to buy at the office



Mid-Term Holiday

School Closed:

Monday 15th February 2016

Pupils Resume:

Monday 22nd February 2016

