

St Mary's Primary School

Newsletter

October 2018



Dream, Believe, Achieve

Please keep this newsletter in a safe place as it contains vital information regarding the school and remember that information is also available on our website.

Website: www.stmarysprimarylarkhall.co.uk

Twitter: @stmarysml9

Email: office@st-marys-larkhall-pri.s-lanark.sch.uk

Parent Council

The Parent Council recently held their AGM and the following parents were re-elected as officials:

Chairperson: Louise Mackie

Secretary: Tracey Martin

Treasurer: Stephen Brotherton

Two further members were sworn in as formal members of the Parent Council Committee, giving us a grand total of 10 members. I would like to thank all officials and parent council members for all your hard work and commitment to our school. I would like to take this opportunity to remind everyone that parent council meetings are held monthly and all parents are welcome to attend.

The date of the next meeting is Wednesday 7th of November from 6:30-8:00 pm.

School Website , Primary School App and Twitter

Remember that there is a wide range of information posted on our website regarding the school and I would like to thank Aimee Canavan for her hard work in keeping the website up to date and relevant to the life of the school. Our Primary School App is being put to good use. Anyone who has not yet signed up for our App, please let us know. This is an excellent form of communication which gives all up to date information. As you are aware we also have a Twitter account which is a great way to share the achievements of your children.

Halloween Arrangements

Many thanks to our Parent Council for hosting our Halloween Disco on Thursday 25th of October. We had a very good attendance this year with approximately 58 pupils coming along to join in on the tremendous dancing and halloween party games. We will also host a Halloween afternoon on Wednesday 31st of October-each room will be involved in games and activities.

Curriculum Evening

The Curriculum Evening held on Wednesday 12th September was a great success. Thank you to everyone who attended. Parents were able to meet their child's Class Teacher and engage with our new approaches to literacy. Parents and carers were asked to evaluate our Parental Engagement and the results are as contained in the attachment.

Homework Policy Audit

We last consulted parents/carers on our Homework Policy in November last year. The Scottish Government have produced research into Learning at Home which gives the first Scottish definitions as being :

Learning at home is the learning which happens in the home, outdoors or in the community. It can take place through everyday activities that families already do and can overlap with aspects of organised or active learning activities'.

(Scottish Parental Involvement Officers Network, 2018)

This new research then would indicate a need to revisit our Homework Policy. Further information will follow regarding changes to our Homework Policy.

Credit Union

As part of our financial education, our Credit Union volunteer Mr Reid comes to the school one morning a week. He is now retiring and I would like to take this opportunity to thank him for volunteering his time over the years. I am now looking to see if someone would be able to volunteer to take this role on. Please contact the school office if you feel you can lend a hand.

Lunches

As you may be aware, we have a pupil in the school who is allergic to nuts and therefore pupils are not allowed to have snacks containing nuts. This included sweets such as Nutella, Kinder Beauano, Snickers, Reese's and Peanut M & Ms. Please ensure that packed lunch sandwiches do not contain nut spreads such as peanut butter or Nutella. We appreciate your co-operation with this very serious matter.

Pupils may bring a water bottle to school to drink throughout the day in class and during break times. Pupils are only allowed water in these bottles not juice. Fizzy juice and energy drinks are not allowed in school.

Sacramental Celebrations

I have confirmed with Father Rooney the dates and times of sacramental celebrations. We will have a short Sacramental meeting on Thursday 15th of November at 6:00 pm in the Church together for First Reconciliation and First Eucharist. We will then have a Mass of Commitment for both sacraments on Sunday 27th of January at 10.15 am. The Sacrament of First Reconciliation will be celebrated on Thursday 21st of February at 6:30 pm and the Sacrament of First Eucharist will be celebrated on Saturday 11th of May at 11:00 am.

Pope Francis Faith Award

How beautiful it would be if each of you, every evening, could say: "Today at school, at home, at work, guided by God, I showed a sign of love towards one of my friends, my parents, an older person!"

(Pope Francis, addressing young people, April 2013)

The Pope Francis Faith Award is an award of the Bishops' Conference of Scotland, designed to help children to show "signs of love" in their daily lives and to be active members of their local Church. It invites young people to use the Gifts of the Holy Spirit and to see how they can bear fruit in their homes, schools and parishes. Our Primary 6 will be taking part in their enrolment ceremony as part of our First Friday Mass on 2nd of November.

Coffee Mornings

We will be holding a coffee morning each month after our First Friday Mass. Each class as well as our Mini Vinnies will take responsibility for hosting the coffee morning on a rota basis and will be serving our parishioners and parents teas/coffees and home baking. There will be a collection bucket for any donations you wish to make that will go to our school fund and our charities that we support. As always we rely on the kind generosity of our parents to hand in biscuits, cakes, baking etc. to be served. I hope that this will be well attended as our pupils will benefit from learning invaluable skills for learning, life and work.

Sportathon

In order to raise money for our school fund, the children will take part in a Sportathon on Thursday 8th of November. Children can wear sports clothes to school and will take part in a number of sporting activities throughout the day. Each child will be issued with a sponsor form that can be completed per child or per family.

After school Pick up

I would like to thank parents and carers for the responsible use of the car park and drop off/pick up points. I would encourage all parents/carers to continue to use these areas responsibly to ensure the safety of our pupils. Please remember that we do not encourage children to walk across the car park in front of moving traffic as accidents can so easily happen.

Parents' Night

Our Parents night will be held on Wednesday 21st of November. There will be changes to the timings this year. Parent interviews will take place between 4:00 pm- 7:00 pm and in line with other schools will last for 7 minutes. A letter will be coming out for you to indicate your preferred time and we will try to accommodate your preference.

Bingo Night

As is the tradition here in St Mary's the school will be hosting a Bingo Night on Thursday 15th of November from 6.30 pm- 9:00 pm. Bingo games will start promptly at 7.00pm. Once again, we rely on the generosity of you our parent body by handing in raffle prizes, cakes and biscuits to ensure the success of the evening. Tickets are available from the office at £1.00. Please come along and bring some friends so that we can have a wonderful community event.

Important Dates for your Diary

1st November- Mass for All Saints Day

2nd of November- First Friday Mass: All Souls Day/ Pope Francis Faith Award Enrolment

2nd of November-r Coffee Morning- Room 4 hosting

7th of November -Parent Council Meeting

8th of November- Sportathon

15th of November- 6:00 pm Room 2 Sacramental Meeting at Church
15th of November- 6.30-9:00 Bingo Night
16th of November -Room 4 Assembly on Scottish Wars of Independence
19th of November- In-service Day
21st of November -Parents' Night
25th of November- Education Sunday
28th of November- Room 1 Visit to Library