



St Matthew's Primary School Newsletter

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LETTER FROM THE HEAD TEACHER

Dear Parent/Carer

Relax Kids



A six week trial of the Relax Kids group programme began in January with Mrs Devenney. All children involved reported that they found the programme both helpful and enjoyable. Each class in the school also took part in a 21 day Relax Kids calmer classroom programme. The children participated in a two minute relaxation exercise every day to create a calm atmosphere. The Relax Kids programme will continue in the final term.



First News

The children in the upper school have been working on a reading project called First News. Weekly newspapers are delivered to the school. The children read the newspapers and are then required to complete a number of literacy tasks related to the newspaper articles. This has enabled the children to further develop their reading skills with non-fiction texts.

Ardmay



At the beginning of January our Primary 7 children travelled to Ardmay House on the banks of Loch Long. The children took part in a wide variety of outdoor activities including orienteering, abseiling, canoeing and forest walking. The children and staff who accompanied them, had a fabulous time. The children behaved extremely well and were a credit to the school and their families. Well done to all!! A huge thank you to the staff who gave up their time to accompany them!!

Primary 5 Swimming



Primary 5 began their swimming lessons at the Leisuredrome in January. This went on a little longer than expected due to the weather! The children made very good progress with their swimming skills. Well done to Primary 5!

Photographs



George Carroll, photographer, was in school during last term. George photographed individuals and siblings as requested by each family. The photographs have now all been distributed and look great.

Play



Over the course of the year the Primary 1 approach to the curriculum has been evolving. The implementation of the Play 2 Learn process, a priority within East Dunbartonshire Council, was gradually introduced to both children and parents. Ms Lennon and Ms Gillon have worked tirelessly on this project for the benefit of our children. Recently we had a visitor from Education Scotland in school to see how Play 2 Learn had been implemented. She was absolutely delighted with the play, the interactions between the children and especially the learning opportunities that were available to the children. Education Scotland is currently producing a paper about St. Matthew's Play 2 Learn and this will appear very soon on their website. A massive thank you to both Ms Lennon and Ms Gillon for their dedication and commitment.

Catholic Education Week

This year Catholic Education week ran from Sunday 28 January until Sunday 4 February. Along with Turnbull High School some of the pupils of St. Matthew's Primary participated in the 11 o'clock Mass on Sunday 4 February. The theme Pope Francis chose for this year was "Working for the Common Good".



Reconciliation

On Thursday 15 March the pupils of Primary 3 received the Sacrament of Reconciliation. The children, staff and parents had been working very hard to prepare the children through their workbooks both at home and in school. Thank you to all who helped the children with the preparation for this Sacrament. A special thank you to the Catechists of the Parish who took the time to prepare the children in the Church and the Church Hall.



Lenten Masses

Once again we are very grateful to Canon Hill for coming to the school each Tuesday morning during Lent at 8.30am to celebrate Mass with the children, parents and grandparents. Thank you to all who attended.

After School Clubs



A number of after school clubs ran again last term. The children thoroughly enjoy attending these clubs. Thank you to the staff who facilitate these clubs in their own time. We continue to thank Mr Phil Reilly for his many years of football service to the school, 44 years and counting!



First Holy Communion

This year our First Holy Communions will be celebrated on 12 May and 19 May at 10am. Along with their parents, teachers and Catechists, the children have been preparing for this beautiful Sacrament with reverence. We continue to pray for the children as their preparation comes to a close.

World of Work Week



Thank you to all our parents and local businesses who contributed to making our World of Work week such a success. Thank you to Mr Kellegher and Ms Lennon for organising this event.



Stirling Castle

As part of their ongoing classroom topic work, our Primary 5 classes recently visited both the Wallace Monument and Stirling Castle. The children had a great day, albeit very cold!!! This helped the children to apply their knowledge and skills within a context. Thanks you to all who helped with this trip.

Open Top Bus Tour of Glasgow



Primary 4 Room 8 were given the opportunity to go on the Glasgow Tour Bus with Primary 4 children from Westercleddens Primary School. The staff, parents and children all had a fantastic time and thankfully the rain stayed away. The children in our infant department were absolutely thrilled to welcome them back when they returned on the open top bus during lunchtime. A very noisy welcome!!!

Open Afternoon



On Wednesday 21 March we held our most recent open afternoon from 2 to 4 pm. The focus this term was on literacy. Parents and grandparents were welcome to come and work with the children and/or look at their work. There was a lovely atmosphere with children and their visitors enthusing about their work. Again, thank you to all who managed to attend.

Resurrection Rock



For the very first time St Matthew's Primary performed a play showing the passion and death of Our Lord. Primary 6 rehearsed, sang, dramatised an absolutely incredible re-enactment of this! They performed their dress rehearsal to the school and their actual performance on Wednesday of Holy Week was done in front of parents, grandparents, aunts, uncles and cousins. The show was liturgically accurate and beautiful. Such was its success that Primary 6 will be taking their performance to Turnbull High School. Well done to the children for their enthusiasm. Thank you to Mr Henderson, Ms McNulty and Mrs McBride for their input to this brilliant production.



Microtyco

Microtyco is a charity which helps third world countries start up their own businesses. To raise money for this worthy cause our Primary 7 children each donated £1. They then developed their enterprising skills in a variety of ways to help their pounds grow. The children worked in small groups organising little events over a two week period. This culminated in a final day event which raised the fabulous sum of £373.74. Great job Primary 7.

St Matthew's Parent Council

The final meeting this session, of the Parent Council will take place on **Wednesday 30th May, at 7pm, in the conference room of Turnbull High**. Any parent who wishes to find out more about the Parent Council may wish to attend this meeting as an observer and hopefully thereafter attend the AGM in June with a view to becoming a Member.

The only qualification for membership is to have a child at St Matthew's and actively seek to work in the interests of the school.

Mrs Brogan regularly consults the Parent Council on a variety of topics, from closing the attainment gap to homework policy. Members may also raise issues, or make observations on behalf of other parents and this parental involvement is important for the school to deliver teaching that meets the needs of all pupils.

If you would like further information please speak to a member of the Parent Council – details of members are on the school website, or provide Mrs Brogan with your details and a Member will contact you.

Due to children of existing members progressing to Turnbull HS next session we will have vacancies to fill and as such look forward to hearing from you.

Fred Smith Chair, St Matthew's PC



P.T.A. Disco Friday 20 April

Primaries 1 to 3 - 6pm until 7pm

Primaries 4 to 7 - 7:15pm until 8:30pm.

Twitter

For regular updates on our learning journeys please remember to follow us on Twitter @

stmatthewsrcps



Dates for your Diary



Wed 25 Apr	PI Transition Fashion Show	Tues 29 May	School re-opens 8:50am
Fri 4 May	First Friday Mass	Tues 29 May	P7 Induction Day for Turnbull High School
Sat 5 May	PTA Spring Fayre	Wed 30 May	P7 Induction Day for Turnbull High School
Mon 7 May	School closed May Day holiday	Thurs 31 May	P7 Parents Induction meeting Turnbull
Fri 11 May	PI Transition Meet your buddy & parental workshop	Thurs 31 May	Sports Day
Sat 12 May	First Holy Communion 10am Mass P4/R7	Fri 1 Jun	First Friday Mass
Fri 18 May	Pupil's work home prior to parents' evening	Fri 1 Jun	PTA Summer Disco
Fri 18 May	PI Transition Meet your teacher & Parental workshop	Wed 13 Jun	P7 Show Afternoon
Sat 19 May	First Holy Communion 10am P4/R8	Wed 13 Jun	PC AGM
Tues 22 May	Parents' Evening 5:30pm to 7:30pm	Sat 16 Jun	Turnbull High School Summer Fayre
Wed 23 May	Parents' Evening 3:30pm to 5:30pm	Mon 18 Jun	P7 Leavers' Mass
Thurs 24 May	In-Service Day - School closed for pupils	Tues 19 Jun	PI Transition Teddy Bears Picnic 1:30pm - 2:30pm
Fri 25 May	School closed - Holiday	Fri 22 Jun	P7 Leavers' Dance
Mon 28 May	School closed - Holiday	Wed 27 Jun	School closed 1pm