



Education Resources
Executive Director **Jim Gilhooly**
St Mark's Primary School
Mrs Caroline A. Campbell

Dear Parents and Carers,

JANUARY NEWSLETTER

Happy New Year!

Happy New Year to everyone and a very warm welcome back. It was a joy, on a dark January morning, to see all pupils returning on time ready and eager to learn. Please ensure that all children continue to wear their full uniform and take home their packed lunch boxes, hats, scarves and gloves every day.

Infant Enrolment

At close of today we have enrolled 19 children to start with us in August. If you know of anyone who has still not registered their child please ask them to contact the school as a matter of urgency.

Credit Union

The Credit Union has begun again and takes place on Wednesdays. This is a wonderful opportunity for your child to save their pocket money and start to develop the habit of putting a little money away regularly. Financial education starts at a young age and is a skill useful though out life.

Catholic Education Sunday 31st January - 10.30 Mass at St. Peters

As part of our celebration of Catholic Education I would appreciate it if families would come together for Mass on Sunday 31st January in St. Peter's Church as a symbol of our belief in Catholic Education. We hope to join with our friends and colleagues in St. Peter's School as members of St. Peter's Parish.

I would appreciate it if all of our children would wear their school uniform including their blazer for those who have it.

Health Committee

Congratulations to the following pupils on being elected to represent their class on the Health Committee.

Primary 1	Lewis Thomson	Primary 2	Charlie Lafferty
Primary 3	Keeley Brown	Primary 4	Eilidh Hussey
Primary 5/4	Sophie MacFarlane	Primary 5/6	Claudia McKeown
Primary 6/7	Orla Halligan	Primary 7	Rebecca Munro

The Health committee meets to promote the social, mental, physical emotional and spiritual well being of the school community

Parent Helper Tea

The Parent Helper Tea, which celebrates the invaluable work of our helpers, is on Thursday 25th February 2016 at 2.00pm in the Staffroom. Without the support of our parents, grandparents and helpers our pupils would not be able to access the rich variety of educational opportunities available to them in the community. Individual invitations will follow.

Curriculum Information Leaflet

The next Curriculum Information Leaflet will be sent out on 10th February 2016 following the

teacher's planning. The teachers have been sharing this information to support the partnership between parents and teachers; this relationship solely benefits our children. We plan to survey parents about the Curriculum Information Leaflets and the survey will be distributed with the leaflet. We would appreciate it if you would give your opinions.

Rag Bag Bin

As part of the recycling encouraged by the Eco Group, the PTA have organised a 'Rag Bag Collection Box' for the school. It is situated in the playground near the drop off zone. I hope that all of you who are clearing out in this New Year will use it to recycle any clothing or material items rather than add them to land fill.

Eco Committee

Primary 1	Sophie Davidson/Euan Quinn	Primary 2	Eva Harvey
Primary 3	Hannah Posselwhite	Primary 4	Isla MacLeod
Primary 5/4	Stefan Keaveny	Primary 5/6	Grace Quigley
Primary 6/7	Cadia Jaconelli	Primary 7	Amy Harvey

The Eco Committee have just completed their annual environmental review and are in the process of writing their action plan for the new school. More to follow!

Primary 4 Assembly

We appreciate the support of our parents and families in coming along to the Primary 4 pupils Assembly on the Rainforest. This showcase of their learning took place on Friday and was very well received by all. The extended audience encourages our pupils to show off their learning and keeps our community informed about the work of the school. Congratulations to Primary 4 pupils and their Class Teacher Mrs. Smith.

Primary 3 assembly is on Friday 12th February, at the usual time of 2.15pm. All parents and families are most welcome.

Pupil Led Lunch Time clubs

Our children are enjoying leading lunchtime clubs on a Thursday. If any parent, grandparent or carer has an hour to help please contact the school office. It is the most fun!

Parent run Clubs - Singing Club

The popular Singing Club meets every Monday, 3.00 – 4.00pm. They are currently challenging themselves in new ways. Very many thanks to Alison who leads this enthusiastic group and to Heather who gives invaluable support. We are still on the lookout for more boys although we are very pleased that we are up to 5!!! Please give some encouragement.

Parent run Clubs - Athletics

The Athletics Club meets every Thursday at 3.00 - 4.00pm for Primaries 6 & 7. I am very grateful to Donna Magee for the sterling work she does in encouraging our children in athletics. Our athletes have enjoyed events at Blantyre Sports Centre since August 2015.

Teacher run Club - Football

The Football team trains every Friday 3.00 – 4.00pm and the Football Club meets every Thursday at 3.00 - 4.00pm for Primaries 4 – 7 boys and girls. I am very grateful to Mr Brownlie for taking the long awaited Football training.

School Uniform

Our children go out into the community often and groups of children represent the school at many community events e.g. Primary 6/7 are attending the Holocaust Event at Hamilton Grammar on Tuesday 26th January. The uniform is a long sleeved blue shirt and when going out as a group, it is essential that our children wear the same uniform. This session we are encouraging all pupils to wear a blazer. If you have any blazers that your child has grown out of please send them in to the school so that we can pass them on or lend them out.

School Uniform can now be purchased on line at:

www.border-embroideries.co.uk

Caring for the Environment - Caring for our Children

We are now reaching that time of year when there is greater temptation at school pick up times to keep the engine running due to the cold temperatures. Such activities can however negatively impact the quality of air – the air our children have to breathe in. The Council through officers from Fleet and Environmental Services will be undertaking patrols during the winter months of December, January and February. Engine idling that is unnecessary is an offence. Officers will distribute information and advise drivers about the harmful effects of engine idling. If a driver fails to turn their engine off they may be issued with a £20 fixed penalty notice. All drivers are asked to note this and to take heed of the advice on engine idling.

Dates for your Diary

January

Tuesday	26 th	Holocaust Memorial evening at Hamilton Grammar 6.30
Sunday	31 st	Catholic Education Week begins – all pupils and their families Please attend 10.30am Mass in St Peter's Church. Pupils should wear full uniform. in school uniform

February

Thursday	4 th	PTA & Parent Council Meetings	7.00pm
Friday	5 th	In-service Day	School closed to pupils
Monday	8 th	Holiday	
Tuesday	9 th	Holiday	
Wednesday	10 th	Ash Wednesday (Ashes to be confirmed) Parent Information Leaflet	
Friday	12 th	Primary 3 Assembly	
Thursday	18 th	Sacramental Meetings	Reconciliation 7.00pm First Communion 7.30pm Confirmation 8.00pm
Thursday	25 th	Parent Helper Tea	2.00pm

March

Thursday	3 rd	World Book Day, <i>dress as your favourite Book Character</i>	
Thursday	3 rd	PTA & Parent Council Meetings	7.00pm
Tuesday	8 th	Primary 5 swimming lessons begin	

Thursday	12 th	Parents as Partners Banqueting Hall	7.00pm
Friday	11 th	Primary 6/7 Assembly with Fairtrade & Daffodil Tea	2.15pm
Monday	21 st	Talent Show	
Thursday	24 th	Easter Bonnet Parade Primary 1- 3	
		Dress an Egg Competition Primary 4-7	
Friday	25 th	Good Friday holiday	
Monday	28 th	Easter Monday holiday	
Thursday	31 st	Parents Evening & Book Fayre	3.30 – 5.30 6.30 – 8.30
April			
Friday	1 st	School closes	2.30pm
Monday	18 th	School reopens	9.00am

Parents:

You said... You asked about preschool and afterschool care.

We... attached a slip on the last newsletter for you to demonstrate your interest. The response was 11 families expressed an interest.

Pupils:

You said... we would like electric hand dryers instead of paper towels as the towels fall out and lie on the floor and hot air would be more hygienic.

We... have priced them at £3200 for 4, including fitting. We are still in negotiations about these.

Yours sincerely,

Caroline A Campbell
Head Teacher

Please note that for your information we have sent out with this newsletter:

- the prayers for all pupils at each stage;
- God's Loving Plan, a guide for parents
- Curriculum for Excellence in a Nutshell, Career education, A World of Possibilities