



EDUCATION RESOURCES

Executive Director Jim Gilhooly

St.Hilary's Primary and Nursery Class - Head Teacher Mrs. M.Reid

Dear Parent / Guardian,

We are enjoying a very busy first term in the school. The children are continuing to work hard in their new classes and it is hard to believe we are fast approaching the start of our second term already!

Staffing

I would like to extend a warm welcome to Mrs Currie who is with us on supply and will be working in P7 until Mrs McCabe's return in October. I would also like to extend a very warm welcome to Mrs Margaret White, the newest member of our support staff and also to three student teachers who will be on placement in the school over the course of the next term. Ms Anderson will be in the nursery, Mrs Donnelly in P5 and Ms Magee in P6. I am sure that their time in St. Hilary's will be both fulfilling and enjoyable.

School and House Captains

I am delighted to announce that our school and house captains and vice-captains are as follows;

School Captains- Finn Buckman and Cara Gilbride

School Vice Captains- Jonah Garcia and Holly Sweeney

Ogilvie House Captain- Catey Armitage, Vice-Captain- Niamh Greig

Columba House Captain- Toni Jean Cliffe, Vice-Captain- Mackenzie Berry

Bosco House Captain- Mahdiah Sarwar, Vice-Captain-Finlay Muldoon Rae

Sinclair House Captain- Ryan Gallacher, Vice- Captain- Eve Lindsay

Pupil Council

Pupil Council Representatives are elected by their peers and are responsible for being the voice of their classmates. The Pupil Council will be asked to meet regularly with the Head teacher along with the school and house captains. The Pupil Council will also be given the opportunity throughout the year to meet with our Parent Council to share pupil views. Our Pupil Council this year are:

P1- Orla Dickson

P2-Kirsten Lees and Luke Connor

P3- Isla Gibb and Sean Lynch

P4- Molly McCulloch and Ashton Howarth

P5- Lewis Cresswell and Debby Gbemudu

P6- Elizabeth White and Harris Kerr

P7- Thomas Krawinkel and Clara McWilliams

Personal Learning Plans

In consultation with the class teacher every child has identified their own learning targets for literacy, numeracy and health and wellbeing for the term. These will be sent home to be shared with parents next week. Targets identified in the PLP should be relevant and manageable to the pupil. In order to develop our children as responsible and effective learners, taking ownership and leadership in their learning is essential. Please take the time to discuss your child's targets, and how these can be achieved. The children will evaluate their targets towards the end of next term.

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Interim Reports and Parent's Night

An interim report will be sent home to parents on Friday 28th October. These brief reports will give you an indication of how your child has settled into school this year and how they are progressing in their learning. Parent's Evening is on Tuesday 1st November when you will have the opportunity to discuss any comments or concerns arising from the report with the class teacher.

Official Re-Opening of St. Bride's RC Church

Fr. Rafal has extended an invitation to our school to attend and contribute to the re-opening celebration of St. Bride's on Saturday 8th of October. **I am looking for approximately 20 pupils to join me there for mass at 6pm which will be celebrated by Bishop Toal. This will be followed by a ceremony from 7pm with light refreshments being served at 8pm.** Children would need to be at the church for 5:50pm, in full uniform. Children do not have to be in St. Bride's Parish to attend. If your child would be willing to attend please complete and return the slip attached with this letter. I am eager that St. Hilary's is well represented at the event and would appreciate your support in this matter. Parents are not required to remain throughout the evening but are very welcome to do so.

Dates for Sacraments

Mass of Commitment for Reconciliation and First Communion will be on the 29th January in St. Bride's Church. The dates for our P3 reconciliation is Wednesday 22nd March in St. Leonard's Church. The date for First Holy Communion this year is Saturday 20th May and it will be held in St. Bride's Church at 10am.

Contact details, medical information and medicine

All parents are reminded to update the school with any changes to parent or emergency contact details or to their child's medical records. If your child requires medicine to be administered in school, please hand this in to the school office and complete the appropriate paperwork. Parents are reminded that under no circumstances should children keep medication in their school bag.

Allergy reminder

Thank you for your support in ensuring no nut products are sent into school. Your cooperation in this matter is much appreciated. I would also ask that parents refrain from sending birthday cakes and treats to school to avoid these being distributed to children with allergies.

Time Keeping

An increasing number of children have been arriving late for school. The morning bell rings at 8:55am and children should be ready to line up at this time. Late arrival to school, even if only a short time, will have an impact on your child's settling into school and readiness to learn. Please make every effort to ensure your child is in school on time every morning.

Mobile Phones

Children should not be using mobile phones within the school, this includes in the playground in the morning. Any child bringing a mobile phone to school should hand this in to the school office in the morning and this can be collected again at the end of the day.

Road Safety

We are continuing to work with the children in school to remind them of the importance of road safety. We have appointed a Junior Road Safety Officer for each class who will help to ensure that Road Safety remains a priority within our classes and across the school. At the Parent Council AGM some parents raised concerns about the business of the car park and our entrance being used as a turning point. This is being monitored.

After School Clubs

The attendance at our after school clubs has been excellent this term. **Parents are reminded that handball, basketball and dance clubs all cost £1 per week.** I would like to express my continued gratitude to Mr Binnie, Mr Jolly, Mrs Ramsay, Ms Robertson and Luke Kirwan for continuing to volunteer with our football, athletics and netball clubs.

If your child is unable to attend an after school club on a certain day, please notify the school in advance so the club register can be marked accordingly.

Parents are reminded that athletics club will change from a Wednesday to a Friday 3-4pm beginning on Friday 30th September.

Athletics- SSAA Road Relay in Grangemouth

This event will take place on Saturday 21st October. Some parents have expressed an interest in putting forward a team however due to the cost of supplying transport, and the fact that this event will be held during the October holidays, the school are unable to accompany the children to the event. I am happy to enter a school team but parents would have to take responsibility for transporting children to and from the event. A letter will be distributed to the parents of selected team members next week.

Pupil Voice in St. Hilary's

In order to continuously develop and encourage pupil participation every child in the school is given the opportunity to have their ideas and opinions listened to. We have different ways in which we will achieve this including our pupil council, learner conversations, our comments and suggestions display and our pupil voice groups. These groups give children the opportunity to contribute to the planning and decision making within the school. Every child will have the opportunity to attend a Pupil Voice Group meeting throughout the year. Pupil voice groups will discuss topics including fundraising, school improvement plans, citizenship, Eco and safety.

Forest Schools

In partnership with East Kilbride Community Trust, a group of our P6 children have been enjoying weekly visits to Peel Park to participate in Forest Schools. The children are having a wonderful experience and I look forward to being able to extend the forest school experience to more of our children later in this school year.

Sponsored Read-a-thon

Our sponsored read-a-thon will take place over the September weekend. This fundraising event has been organised to help support the purchase of books and materials for our library and sensory room. I would remind parents that only one sheet need to be returned per family if this is preferable. For younger children the number of pages read include those that parents have read to their child. Happy reading!!!

Home Shared Learning

I have been overwhelmed by the quality (and size!) of some of the Home shared learning projects that have come back to school already. There will be a drop-in display of HSL for parents in school on Friday 30th September from 2:30-4pm.

School Improvement Plan Update

A leaflet explaining this year's school improvement plan is available from the school or online via the website. In order to raise attainment in our school this term we have;

- Introduced 'Big Writing' across the school.
- Created a new library that the pupils can visit with their class.
- Been working with St. Leonard's library and have created a calendar of visits and will be working in collaboration with Libraries' Children's Team to develop our own lending library.
- Celebrated the joy of reading daily during fruit break.
- Had fun raising the profile of books and reading on our Dahlicious day.
- Introduced Personal Learning Plans.
- Reviewed and adapted our approaches to planning for learning in line with current education advice in order to make learning and teaching within our classrooms more creative and responsive to the needs of our pupils.

Uniform

- The children continue to look very smart in their school uniform. The high standard and consistency of school uniform gives an excellent first impression of our school and we have been getting many complements from visitors. Parents are reminded that our school uniform is black trousers or skirt with a white shirt and school tie and a **red** jumper or cardigan. Children are asked to wear black shoes to school, black trainers are acceptable. Similarly indoor shoes should be dark, ideally black plimsolls and not colourful trainers.
- **Uniform orders can now be made directly with our supplier Border Embroideries online.**
 - http://www.border-embroideries.co.uk/advanced_search.php?skl_id=109337&pager=view_all
 - Uniforms can be ordered and delivered to school free of charge. Alternatively, the Trutex uniform shop situated beside the St. Enoch Centre on Argyle Street in Glasgow will stock St. Hilary's Uniform.
 - The school office can also provide you with a uniform order form. Orders will be sent to the company from the school twice a year, at the end of November and in June.
 - School ties are available to purchase at a cost of £3 from the school office.

Dates for your diary

23rd-26th September- Sponsored Read-a-thon

Friday 23rd September- School Closed

Monday 26th September- School Closed

Friday 30th September- HSL 2:30-4pm

Wednesday 5th October- Parent Council Meeting 7pm (Agenda on Website)

Thursday 6th October- Childsmile (Fluoride Varnishing) Visit to Nursery, P1 and P2

Saturday 8th October- Reopening of St. Bride's Church 6pm

Thursday 13th October- P7 Artsnet Meeting for parents 11am

Monday 17th-Friday 21st October- School Closed

Wednesday 26th October- Mass for the Sick in St. Leonard's PS 1:45pm

Monday 31st October- Halloween Disco/Parties 3-4:30pm

Tuesday 1st November- Mass for All Saints 11:15am

Tuesday 1st November- Parents' Evening

Monday 21st November- School Closed

Saturday 3rd December- School Christmas Fair 11am-2pm

Thursday 15th and Friday 16th December- School Nativity 1:45pm

Monday 19th December- Nursery Nativity 11am/2pm

Tuesday 20th December- Flu Vaccinations

Thursday 22nd December- School closes 2:30pm

Thank you for your continued support and contributions for our school.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs M Reid

Head Teacher

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