



St Matthew's RC Primary



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Dear Parents and Carers,

Another busy week here at St Matthews with lots of learning, preparations for Sports Days and planning for end of year events. Class teachers are finalising the end of year written reports, these will be sent out by the end of next week. We are also finalising our class structure and staffing for next session, this will be communicated with all families as soon as everything is confirmed.

School Office

Mrs Hogg will continue to cover the office Mon-Thurs from 9.15m-1.30pm, for the rest of the time the office will remain unmanned. In order to contact us, we strongly encourage you to continue to email in the first instance. School emails will be checked regularly throughout the school day by Miss Chidgey. We will also check the voice messages left on the school phone periodically throughout the day and endeavour to get back to you as soon as possible. Due to the office cover we no longer require an emergency number, please continue to use the office number. We have also placed a new doorbell at the front door to the school, please use this for access.



PE:

Due to Sports Day next week, **P4/5 only will have P.E on Friday 28th May with Mrs Tait.**

We are unable to provide changing facilities so your child must come dressed for P.E. You may wish to provide an extra snack and a water bottle on these days and if it is forecast to rain a change of socks and shoes to keep feet dry.

Sports Day

Please note that our sports day will take place on **Tuesday 25th May**, weather permitting.

During this day, classes will be allocated a slot to attend sports day, which will be facilitated by Mrs Tait and the staff team. Pupils will be split into house groups within their classes and will work together to get as many house points as possible. Pupils are encouraged to wear house colours to school on this day. A labelled water bottle is also advised.

Following the Scottish Government updated guidance, parents are **not** allowed to attend. Due to this, we will be taking as many photos and videos as we can to upload to SeeSaw.

Walk to School Week

Thank you to those of you who have been taking part in our Walk to school week this week, especially those who continued to walk even in the poor weather conditions we've had. Please continue to take more care at pick-up and drop-off times with regards to where you park and how fast you drive. Hopefully the weather will continue to brighten and more children are able to walk/scoot or bike to and from school.

Fruit

Free fruit will continue to be provided at break time to any child who would like it until the summer holidays. This has been very popular among our learners and is very much enjoyed.

Breakfast

Please ensure your child eats a good, healthy breakfast before they come to school each day. Fruit can be available for those that do not have breakfast, however, we have noticed an impact on focus and behaviour when children come to school with an empty stomach. A good, healthy breakfast each morning will help to prepare them for the busy day ahead. Please get in touch with school if we can help support this in any way.

P1 Transitions

Our new primary 1 pupils for next session will begin their virtual transition over the coming weeks. Unfortunately, in line with Midlothian guidance, we have been unable to welcome them to our school building due to current guidance and all transitions will take place virtually. All pre-school children who are attending an early learning and childcare setting in Midlothian are participating in an authority-wide transition project called 'The Midlothian Mouse Project', in order to help support their transition during this time and to ensure they have some common transition experiences before moving to Primary School. We will be in touch again with all families transitioning into P1.

P7 Leavers Activity – Parents

P7 and Mr Clark has been busy organising and preparing for the end of term and an update on the leavers activities for P7 will follow in due course. Anything organised by parents must be done out with the school day and the school building.

Class Parties:

All classes will have the opportunity to have a 'class party' before the end of the session with party food (each child to bring their own food – no sharing permitted), outdoor games, and other activities that classes may opt for. More information on this to follow.

Contact with School

In line with our risk assessment, please note that no adults other than school staff or other essential staff are permitted into the school building. If you need to contact the school office, please do so via email to stmatthews_ps@midlothian.gov.uk. Please see above re emergency phone calls to the school. To report a pupil absence, please continue to use the messaging service provided via the school phone.

Class Updates

Instead of a monthly newsletter, classes will now share what they plan on teaching each week to help to support conversations at home and better inform parents of what their children are learning.

P1-3:

WE HAVE BUTTERFLIES! Some of our caterpillars who have been comfy in their chrysalises have emerged as beautiful butterflies! Check out seesaw for updates. We have continued to build on our fluency this week remembering to pause at a full stop when reading aloud and to use our knowledge of set 2 and set 3 sounds to help us read tricky words. We have been continuing to develop our independent writing skills by completing some writing all about a summer garden this week. We used a word bank to help us spell tricky words and were continuing to focus on full stops, capital letters and finger spaces. In numeracy we have been working on counting in sets of numbers. Some of us have been counting in 2s, 3s, and 4's and looking at the patterns of numbers when we count in sets or groups. Some of us have been working on multiplication and division fact families. With Mrs McCreedy this week we continued our RE learning about the month of Mary and we even made our own Rosary beads.

Next week we are going to be writing about butterflies using descriptive language. We will also continue to work on our sounds and fluency within our Read Write Inc reading groups. In numeracy some of us will be working on division in to groups of two, others will be working on division of groups of 2, 5 and 10. We have been working hard with Mrs Tait this week to prepare for Sports Day on Tuesday and are very excited to show off our skills and try each station!

P4-5:

As well as daily independent reading and independent spelling, we have begun our non-fiction block with a focus on biographies and autobiographies. By the end of next week, we will have written our own biographies using audio accounts and fact files. We will also be building on our use of paragraphs in grammar.

In numeracy, we will support our existing knowledge with daily recaps on fractions, times tables and place value, and we will also revisit statistics from the first term (bar charts and line charts), while beginning our block on chance and certainty.

We are continue to explore art in the outdoors alongside our John Muir Topic this week, as we look forward to creative writing about our Forest Folk that we created last week!

P6-7:

This week in literacy we have been learning about persuasive texts. We have been learning how to write a convincing persuasive argument using techniques such as rhetorical questions, exaggeration and pre-empting the other side's arguments. Next week we will be starting a novel study that is linked to our topic.

In numeracy we have been learning about data handling. We have practised gathering data from our classmates and displaying the data in a variety of graphs and charts. We have linked this to our topic by comparing the climates of Edinburgh and Copenhagen. We will be continuing data handling for the next few weeks.

In health and wellbeing we have continued to learn about nutrition and think about the food we consume over the course of a week. In P.E. we learned about cricket with Mrs Tait and continued to learn about handball with Mr Clark.

We would like to thank you once again for your continued support. We will keep you updated with any further information via our usual channels of communication.

Yours sincerely



Anna Chidgey
Headteacher

