



St Matthew's RC Primary



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4th June 2021



Dear Parents and Carers,

At long last the sunshine that has been appearing on our weekly updates has started to appear in the sky! The children have been enjoying taking some of their learning outdoors this week and will hopefully continue to do this for the final 3 weeks of term. Please can I ask that you put sun cream on your child before school and that they have a bottle (should be min of factor 30) in their bag to re-apply at lunchtime, P1-3 will be given support where required. All children should have a named water bottle in school which they can top up throughout the day. Sun hats are also encouraged for children to use at break and lunch time.

COVID Update

As you will be aware, Midlothian remains in Level 2.

Please continue to maintain a 2m distance from other adults at pick up and drop off and limit pick up/drop off to one adult per household. All adults should wear a face covering in the playground. If you are collecting your child then please enter the playground and do not stand outside this gate as it causes obstruction and does not allow for social distancing. Cones have been used to remind parents and carers not to stand at the railings. Thank you for your support in helping keep everyone safe.

Park Smart

Once again thank you for all your support throughout our campaign. The JRSO's will be putting cones out each day to prevent parking opposite the school. This ensures that the road is clear for children to cross safely. Please continue to walk/scoot/bike to school where possible or use Whitehill FC car park.

Whitehill Football Club

Whitehill football club have kindly given every child in the school a season ticket to their games. These were sent home this week. What a great way to support local sport in the community!

Parent Consultations

Parent consultations will take place on Thursday 10th June.

If you have requested a consultation, you will receive a confirmation text early next week.

Reports

All pupils should have received their end of year reports by now. If you did not receive a report or would like an additional copy, please contact the school office.

Thank you to those of you who have completed the 'Parent Comments' section and returned it to school. Your feedback is always very welcome and we appreciate you taking the time to complete this.

Sacramental Preparations

Some of our P4 and P7 children have been working hard to prepare to receive their Sacraments of Communion and Confirmation in the coming weeks. Thank you to parents and carers for supporting the home activities each week.

Sacraments will take place as follows:

Saturday 5th June - P4 First Holy Communion 2pm (Communion attire)

Saturday 12th June - P7 Confirmation 2pm (Full school uniform please)

Unfortunately it is a closed event to the children receiving the sacrament and a limited number of family only. We wish all our children lots of love at this special time in their faith journey.

Nut-Free Snacks

Due to severe nut allergies at our school, please do not send your child to school with snacks or lunch items containing nuts. This includes, but is not limited to, Kinder Buenos, Nutella, Daim bars and peanut butter. Please note that any snacks with nuts in them will be sent home with the child.

PE:

Next Week P.E will be delivered by Mrs Tait as follows

Mon – P6-7 and P4-5

Tues – P6/7 and P1-3

Fri – P4/5

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.

Classes for Next Session

We know that you are all waiting to hear about the classes and teachers for next session. We are awaiting final confirmation from Midlothian and as soon as we have it, we will let the children and yourselves know.

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:

This week P1-3 have been learning about and making Ladybirds with Mrs McCready in our Minibeast topic lessons. They have also been learning about the Holy Trinity in RE and made a little craft to remind them of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. In literacy this week we have all started on a new level of RWI reading books which the pupils were very excited about. We are continuing to learn set 2 and set 3 sounds with a focus on fluency when reading aloud. We also practised some of our spelling words outside in the sunshine this week, taking advantage of the lovely weather we've had. In numeracy we have had a focus week on Fractions and P1-3 have enjoyed completing a short fractions booklet. It has been lovely to see groups of pupils working together when solving fractions questions they are unsure of.

Next week:

We will continue to practise and learn set 2 and set 3 sounds with a focus on fluency when reading aloud. We will be continuing our work on our writing targets this term by completing a story about a Minibeast character using capital letters, finger spaces, full stops and joining words (and, but or because). In numeracy we will be going back to doing place value, addition and subtraction, multiplication and division over the course of the week. We will be focusing on revision of the concepts we have learnt this session. Mrs McCready will also be continuing our learning about Minibeasts. We are also looking forward to PE with Mrs Tait on Tuesday.

P4-5:

Following on from last week's assessments, we will continue to evaluate our learning and discuss some targets for next year.

As well as focusing on our class novel - Tracey Beaker, we will continue through our literacy group to write our own autobiographies, focusing on recounting times that have made us nervous, excited, ecstatic or thankful! We will work on our spelling strategies within class and will investigate clauses in grammar.

In maths and numeracy, we've been enjoying the opportunity to conduct surveys and analyse our data in the form of bar charts. We will focus on our presentation skills over next week, making sure that we are following the criteria for data handling.

After a crash course in golf from Mr Dey this week, we're looking forward to PE on Monday and Friday with Mrs Tait to continue to develop our skills!

P6-7:

In Literacy we have been continuing our novel study. We have used our novel to learn more about Denmark and the Second World War, specifically the treatment of Jewish people in Nazi-occupied territories. We will continue and finish our novel study next week. We have also learned a bit about the fairytales of Hans Christian Andersen, and will look to write our own ones next week.

In Numeracy we have been carrying out data analysis based on the upcoming European Championships. We have looked at statistics such as height and date of birth, and have practised working out averages. We will continue to look at averages next week.

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

