



# St Ninian's R.C. Primary School Newsletter

Week ending  
4th April 2014

Please note that this newsletter can be found on  
the website [www.st-ninians.btck.co.uk](http://www.st-ninians.btck.co.uk)



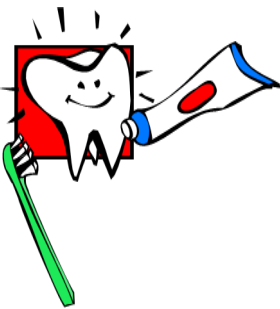
Dear Parents and Guardians,

I would like to begin by saying thank you for all the good wishes and cards that I have received. It is very kind of you and much appreciated.



It was lovely to see so many parents over the three days of the 3 way conferencing earlier in the term. From chatting with the pupils I know that they are enjoying the opportunities to meet and discuss their learning with the teacher and their parents. With the introduction of the "Sharing My Learning" jotter I hope that you are feeling more informed about the work that your child is doing in school. Next term we will again be looking to hear your views about how you feel our reporting to parents process has been and how we can improve this in the future.

Next term will be a busy one with lots of things to look forward to including Health Week, International Week, the pupils preparing for the Sacraments of Reconciliation, Confirmation and Communion will receive them, Summer trips, P7's 3-day visits to their new secondary school, our new P1 pupils visiting with their parents to list just a few.



Between the 28<sup>th</sup> May and the 3<sup>rd</sup> June the Dental Team will be in school to fluoride varnish some of the pupils teeth - you will know if your child is having this done. Can I please urge you to ensure that your child is brushing their teeth regularly and attending for regular check ups at their dentist. If you are not registered with a dentist the dental team will be able to provide information about your nearest Dental Practice.

There are a few holidays in May which are listed at the back of the newsletter so that you can add them to your diary.

I wish you all a very happy Easter and look forward to seeing all of the pupils back after the break full of energy and ready for a busy term of learning and fun.

Angie Brack  
Head Teacher



## NURSERY

Dear Parents and Carers

We have had another very active and exciting term. Now Spring is here (yes it is!) we have been busy looking for signs in the garden. We have been planting vegetable and flower seeds. We already have a few parent volunteers to help us get the garden up to scratch. The children enjoy their families coming in to help so please consider helping, even if it's only for half an hour or so. Every little helps. We are keen to have any joiners or handy people to help repair our vegetable beds.



We all enjoyed our Easter Fun Day and thank you to all the families who helped make this day fun for all the children.

Enjoy the Easter break and we will see you back with the warm sunny weather!

Nursery re-opens on Tuesday, 22nd April at 12.30p.m.

Love from

Margaret Merry & the Nursery Team

## PRIMARY 1

Hello from Primary 1,

We are coming to the end of our second term and so this week the children will be thinking about their targets and gathering evidence of their learning.

We have now learned all of our new vowel sounds and will be practising them some more before moving on. Don't worry at home if your child still finds these sounds quite difficult to remember. It can be confusing when some look and sound quite similar.

We have been making good progress with our reading this term and the children are becoming more confident about reading words and sentences about the Duck Green children by themselves.

In maths we have been learning more about money and have had a toy shop in class to practise using the correct coins to pay for things. We are now all very good at counting up 2p coins.

We have enjoyed learning about maps and the weather this term. We had a great afternoon out in the wind and have had fun pretending to read the weather forecast. We have enjoyed stories about journeys and have made maps to go with them. You can find our favourites on Youtube - "We're going on a Bear Hunt" and "Rosie's Walk". We have practised words about travelling in the gym hall and have been going over, under, around and through. Some of us are getting good at knowing left and right.

We have also been thinking about ways we can help look after our world. We hope to reduce our school's waste by challenging everyone to bring in a rubbish free packed lunch. Some of our class are very good at this already. We made posters to help children in other classes and will display them around the school.



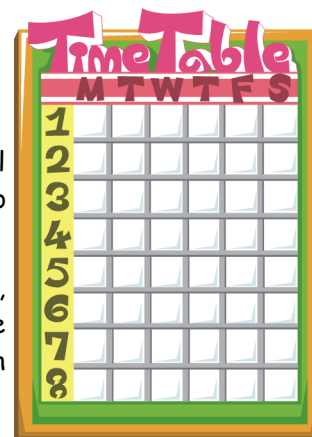
During Lent we have been learning more about the life of Jesus. The children have loved listening to stories from the Bible. This week we will learn about what happened on the very first Easter.

Hope you all have a very happy Easter holiday.

Caroline Howie



### PRIMARY 3



We have come to the end of another fun filled and eventful term in Primary 3.

The children have worked hard at their times tables in recent weeks and we are all excited to take part in our **Multiplication Party** this week where we will get to apply our learning of our 2,4,5 and 10 times tables, all while having a little fun!

After completing our information handling Math topic, we have moved on to shape, learning about the properties of 2d and 3d shapes. After the holidays we will be doing a short Maths topic on weight and measure before going into more depth on money and then time before the end of the year.

As we have now completed all ten units of our tricky words, the children are using this week to make sure they have learnt all the words they can. Our **big FAT tricky word quiz** is shaping up to be fun and challenging and will be a good way to end our final week of the term.

We have also been getting through our spelling rules for this term, focusing on *ing* and *ed* words most recently. We will continue work on these after the Easter holidays before moving on to our new spelling rules for the final term.

P.E has been a big hit with the class this term, developing our skills in golf and rugby. It was great to get outside to do P.E in the sunshine and the children enjoyed perfecting their kick of a rugby ball in the meadow each week. Next term we will be beginning with Athletics.

Farming has now been completed in Primary 3 and I know the children are looking forward to starting our big topic next term - the Egyptians!

In Primary 3 some of the class have been preparing for the Sacrament of Reconciliation which will take place after the holidays, on **Tuesday, April 29th at 6.30 pm**. The children receiving the Sacrament have put in a special effort to ensure they are ready for this. All children and families are welcome to come and support their classmates on the night.

Finally, the children continue to show a positive attitude to homework and I have been very impressed and pleased with their increased love and effort for reading, thank you for your continued support of homework, it makes a big difference to your child's learning.

Laura Hayes and Eileen McGlynn

### PRIMARY 4



Mrs Cole-Hamilton has been with most of our class since the end of Primary 2 and we will miss her but we are starting this term with the happy news about her new baby. We wish all the best to the whole family - especially big brothers Finn and Kit. Ms Morrison will be taking the class full-time until the end of the year.

The Summer term is always busy and our Primary 4's will be no different. We are just starting our topic on the water cycle and will get stuck in to the science experiments in this topic.

Our wonderful Niall will continue the Gaelic Football on Tuesday mornings and we will also have PE on Thursdays, please ensure that your child has their PE kit. As we will be doing Athletics for PE this term, it is especially important to have the proper footwear. Finally, our Sacramental pupils have begun their preparations for Confirmation and First Holy Communion and we are looking forward to these special celebrations in June.

Gill Cole-Hamilton and Janet Morrison

## PRIMARY 4/5

Hope you are enjoying the Spring weather. In Primary 4/5 we have been making the most of it by having our golf and basketball lessons outside. To further improve our golf we took part in the Ryder Cup Golf Festival where the class worked well as a team competing against other schools in Edinburgh.

We have been working hard on fractions and looking at how to be responsible with money. Our trip to the Museum on the Mound is coming soon, where we will get to learn more about money by taking part in various workshops.

Please remember that the second group of swimmers start their lessons on Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> April.

Wishing you all a Happy Easter.

Adriana Grant



## PRIMARY 6

Hello from Primary 6,

We have had a great Term, working very hard in class and with others in the school. Everyone in class has enjoyed participating in different skills groups, from knitting to joinery to creative writing amongst others. The class enjoyed working with other members of staff in the school and engaging with children in different classes. We have spoken in class about how we can use these skills in our learning.

Our Maths topic of 2D and 3D shape has gone very well, everyone achieved their Targets and some worked so hard that they exceeded their Target! The class have also enjoyed carrying out different types of surveys, interpreting the information and creating their own charts. Next term we will revisit some number work and that old favourite of Fractions, Decimals and Percentages!

In Language we have worked in small groups in class to think about more interesting openers to our stories. The class have supported each other in this and we have had some amazingly interesting and imaginative stories. Next Term we will be thinking about HOTS (Higher Order Thinking Skills) and creating our own questions about different types of text.

The class have also worked hard in Drama and are preparing to perform the Easter Play at Assembly, there are some beautiful drama skills on show, with one or two drama queens! We also have some beautiful singers in class and I am sure Primary 6 will ensure that the Easter Celebration is a huge success.

P.E. continues to be on a Tuesday and Thursday, once again my thanks for helping your child to be organised for this.

Have a very Happy Easter, enjoy the Easter Eggs and the holiday!



Mrs Laidlaw and Primary 6



## PRIMARY 7

Hello,

Primary 7 have had a very busy second term and have been working very hard! I think most people would agree that one of the highlights of the term was our trip to Lagganlia. Everyone had a ball and demonstrated an incredibly positive attitude towards their activities. Many of the children tried at least one new activity whilst they were away and did so with enthusiasm. A great experience was had by all.

I'd just like to thank everyone who was involved with the fundraising for camp. The time and commitment shown from the majority of pupils was admirable and we raised a fantastic amount to go towards covering the cost of camp.

Next term we will continue with our class topic on World War 2. We have made a great start on this so far and have learned about the background to the war, soldiers and the Allied and Axis forces. The children will also continue to write their own novel, set in 1939 and follows the lives of some very exciting and complex characters. These novels will reflect what the children have learned and highlight the impact of war on people's lives. As part of the class topic, Primary 7 will be set a Personal Project for their homework. I'd like to thank you in advance for your support with this task as you help your child to create a quality piece of homework which reflects their knowledge and skills.



After the holidays we will be welcoming Mr Harrison into our classroom. Mr Harrison is a trainee teacher who will be with us for 5 weeks.

I hope you all enjoy your Easter break and will see you after the holidays!

Louise Murray

## MILK MONEY



Milk money of £3.80 to cover the period 17/02/14-04/04/14 is now overdue. If you haven't already paid please send the money to the class teacher as soon as possible. The next date milk money is due is 22/04/14 to cover the period 22/04/14-23/05/14.

## SAINSBURY'S, MEADOWBANK RETAIL PARK

Many thanks to Yvonne and Mike at Sainsbury's, Meadowbank Retail Park for donating a Fairtrade Hamper to the school which was raffled amongst the staff. Diane O'Donnell was our winner and she was delighted with the hamper. £55.00 was raised for SCIAF.

Yvonne and Mike also came in to visit P2/3 to do a Fairtrade Session where they made fruit kebabs which the whole class enjoyed.

## SCHOOL HOLIDAYS

Please note that the school closes for the Easter holidays on Friday, 4th April—staff and pupils return to school on Tuesday, 22nd April—8.55a.m.

Monday, 5th May—school closed—May Day.

Monday, 19th May—school closed—Victoria Day.

Thursday, 22nd May—school closed to pupils. In-service day for staff.

Friday, 27th June 2014—12.00noon—whole school closes for the Summer holidays.

## NATIONAL EPIDEMIC OF HEAD LICE

Head lice is a common problem, which can affect the whole community, adults and children alike. However, head lice infection is most common amongst children.

The Scottish Executive have issued guidelines for all schools to follow. In this document they quote:

*'Head lice are not primarily a problem of schools, but of the community. Stigma and tradition, however, combined with inadequate public and professional knowledge continue to hold schools responsible.'*

Effective management depends on the ability of all relevant professionals/agencies to offer clear, accurate and impartial advice and support to parents on detection and treatment.

**"The control of head lice is not the responsibility of any one agency alone."**

### What are Head Lice?

Head lice are small, six-legged wingless insects which are pin-head size when they hatch, less than match-head size when fully grown and are grey/brown in colour. They are difficult to detect in dry hair even when the head is closely inspected. Head lice can cause itching.

Head Lice live on or very close to the scalp at the base of the hair, where they find both food and warmth. They feed through the scalp of their host. The female louse lays eggs in sacs, which are very small, dull in colour and well camouflaged. These are securely glued to hairs where the warmth of the scalp will hatch them out in 7 to 10 days. Nits are the empty egg sacs, which are white and shiny and may be found further along the hair shaft as the hair grows. Nits are often easier to see than the head lice themselves. Many people mistake the empty egg sacs—or 'nits' - for head lice or believe that it is evidence of an active head lice infection. This is not true; it is evidence of a previous infection. A head lice infection cannot be diagnosed unless a living louse has been found on the head.

During their life span of one month, head lice will shed their skin up to three times. This skin, combined with louse droppings, looks like black dust and may be seen on the pillows of people with head lice. Head lice cannot fly, jump or swim; they can only be contracted by direct head to head contact. Contrary to popular belief, the length, condition or cleanliness of hair does not predispose any particular group to head lice infection. Anyone with hair can catch head lice, meaning that the problem, whilst often more prevalent in children, is not unique to them.

Whilst cleanliness is not related to contracting an head lice infection, regular hair washing and combing does offer a good opportunity to detect any infection so that it can be treated. Head lice cannot be prevented, but daily brushing and grooming can aid early detection.

### Responsibility

The Scottish Executive states that,

*'The primary responsibility for the identification, treatment and prevention of head lice in a family has to lie with the parents, if only for reasons of practicality. Parents however, cannot be expected to diagnose current infection, or distinguish it from successfully treated previous infection or other conditions if they are not adequately instructed and supported by health professionals.'*

*'Regular checking of children's heads is important, but it is a parental responsibility.'*

## Detecting

The Scottish Executive advise that weekly checks, by 'wet combing', are the most effective method of detection.

What is 'Wet Combing'?

- Wash the hair and apply conditioner, then comb through with a wide-tooth comb to remove tangles.
- Taking a section at a time, a fine tooth detection comb is then pulled downwards through the hair, keeping the comb close to the scalp (where head lice are often located).
- The comb is checked for lice after each section.
- The comb must be fine enough to catch the lice and a pharmacist should be able to recommend a comb for this purpose, if parents are in any doubt.
- This process should be completed weekly.
- Checks should be continued following treatment to ensure that it has been effective and to detect any re-infection.

## Treatment

Once infection is detected there are two treatment approaches:

1. Use of insecticide lotions.
2. Removal by wet combing—sometimes called "bug busting".

Both methods require continued combing to remove any unhatched eggs. Re-infection can occur if a child has direct head-to-head contact with someone else who has head lice. It is likely that a child will become re-infected unless the whole family, and all those who have been in close contact with the child, have been checked and, if live lice are found, treated.

### **Please note:**

It is the responsibility of all parents to regularly check their children's head for infection and to treat them immediately should they find head lice.

It is the school's responsibility to advise individual parents when a head lice is seen on a child's head. We do this either by telephone or letter.

Should you receive a call or a letter from school advising you that your child has head lice—do not be embarrassed—staff get infected too, but treat your child immediately.

If you need further information about Head Lice contact your G.P.

