



St Ninian's R.C. Primary School Newsletter

Week beginning
25th August 2014



Please note that this newsletter can be
found on the website www.st-ninians.btik.co.uk

Dear Parents and Guardians,

Meet the Teacher Evening—Wednesday, 27th August—6.00-7.00p.m.

I look forward to meeting you all at the Meet the Teacher Evening on Wednesday, 27th August—6.00-7.00p.m. Please do your best to attend—this not only gives you a chance to meet your child's teacher but also to look at the topics, themes and subjects that your child will be learning about this year and to find out about "home learning" that we will be starting this term.

Scooters and Bikes in the playground

It is great to see so many of the children coming to school on their bikes and scooters. Can I please remind you that whilst in the playground the children push their bikes and scooters and not ride them to ensure the safety of everyone including themselves.



Breakfast - the most important meal of the day

It is very important that your child gets breakfast every day. Eating breakfast helps children to concentrate at school, maintain a healthy weight and makes them less likely to snack on junk food. It has come to our attention that there are a few children who are having high sugar foods before they come to school in the morning that may give them an initial burst of energy but this will not last for long, not to mention the effects on their teeth. Sweets/crisps/cakes may be an occasional treat in the morning but it is not advisable for this to be a regular breakfast. There are many websites and organisations offering advice to parents with many different breakfast ideas - a couple of which I have included for your information.

<http://parentsforhealth.org/balanced-diet>

<http://www.netmums.com/family-food/breakfast/brilliant-breakfasts>



School Uniform

Thank you to all of the pupils who are coming to school each day looking so smart in their uniform and all ready for work with all the tools that they need. Your child's class teacher, I am sure, will have included PE times in their entry and when they need their gym kit with them. Physical Education is such a vital part of your child's development and without their proper kit is hard for them to be fully involved safely.



Please check that your child is remembering to bring their kit to school on the required days. Most pupils bring their kit in on a Monday and take it back home on a Friday and then it is there for any P.E. sessions during the week.

Gaelic Football

For the past 3 years now we have been very lucky to have Niall Considine coming into school to work with some of the classes on Gaelic Football. I am very pleased to say that this will continue again this year. Niall will be in school every second Tuesday. The dates for this term are:

2nd September

16th September

30th September

As you may be aware we are required by the Scottish Government to ensure that the children receive 2 hours of PE per week. As we have 9 classes this year the hall timetable is very tight with little time when it is not in use. This means that the classes that are in first thing in the morning have very little time to change so that they can use as much of the time as possible for physical exercise.

On the days that Gaelic Football is on, when we have a specialist teacher in, it would be very helpful if the children in P5/6 could come in to school ready for PE so that they can get started straight away or have their PE kit on underneath their uniform so that little time is wasted and the class can begin their session as close to 9am as possible. Thank you very much for your co-operation in this matter.

I look forward to seeing you during the course of this year and as always please do not hesitate to be in touch if you have any concerns about your child. We are here to help.

Mrs. Angie Brack

Head Teacher

NURSERY

A huge Welcome to all our children and families, those who are returning and to those who will be joining us for the first time.

I hope you all enjoyed the summer break. I know the staff did. We are all rested and ready to go!

I can feel already that this is going to be an exciting and fun year in our nursery.

The children have been very busy helping in the garden and so have many parents. A huge thank you to you all. The garden area is one of the nursery's best resources and it is only with the support from parents, friends and families that we have been able to offer the children so many activities in the garden. So please remember if you have any spare time - even half an hour makes a big difference.

I'm sure summer isn't over completely but we have had some very wet weather recently. As you know the children are out in all weathers so can I ask you to please check that your child has waterproofs (jacket, trousers, wellies, slippers etc.) in their bag so that they don't get too wet when they go outdoors.

Please also check that your child's clothing/shoes etc. are labelled. Staff will be happy to give you a marker pen if you haven't already done this.

Can I also remind you that children should not bring toys to nursery. Thank you.

Our new nursery hours are being used well and the staff are already enjoying that little bit extra time to spend with the children.

a.m. session 8.30a.m.—11.40a.m. (parents should arrive by 11.35a.m.)

p.m. session 12.20p.m.—3.30p.m. (parents should arrive by 3.25p.m.)

Please remember to speak to myself or a member of staff if you have any questions. We are always ready to help.

We look forward to the first term having fun and working with you and your children.

Love

Mrs. Merry and the Nursery Team



PRIMARY 1A

Hello from Primary 1a,

All of the boys and girls in Primary 1A are settling into school very well. We have been getting to know one another and have been playing games to help us learn one another's names. Our buddies in P7 have been to visit us in class and have been helping us at playtime. We have been very quick to learn the symbols on our class timetable so that we always know what will be happening next.

Now that we are in school full-time, we will have gym time every Monday and Wednesday afternoon. Everyone will need to remember their gym kit on a Monday. It can be left in school on our peg until Wednesday. Our gym kit should be: a t shirt and shorts (or jogging bottoms) and soft gym shoes.

In class we will be learning more about one another - how we are the same and how we are different, our likes and our dislikes. We will have lots of opportunities to play and talk to one another so that we can all become good friends.

We will learn about The Golden Rules - a simple set of rules which will help us all to get along and to learn together.



We will also be learning about pattern. We will look for patterns in the environment and will create our own with colours, shapes and lines. Hoping to see you all at "Meet the Teacher" evening on Wednesday, 27th August.

Mrs. Howie

PRIMARY 1B

Welcome to Primary 1B.

The class have quickly settled into school life and the children have enjoyed getting to know their classmates. We have been playing lots of games to introduce ourselves to the class and find out more about each other. This week we have been focusing on learning how to write our own names.



We will have P.E twice a week this term, on a **Monday and on a Wednesday** so children should bring in their **gym bag each Monday** and keep it in school for the week ahead. The gym bag should consist of a t-shirt, shorts or joggers and trainers or indoor shoes.

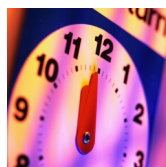
I am looking forward to a fantastic Term 1 with Primary 1B. If you have any questions about your child's new class then please don't hesitate to contact me.

Miss Hayes

PRIMARY 2

Primary 2 have settled in quickly this year and are looking forward to lots of exciting learning opportunities.

They have already helped to plan the first topic 'Living Things'. They will be learning lots about plants, how they grow and how they get food and water. We will be making great use of the outdoor classroom for this. They had lots of questions about birds, so we will be learning about how they live.



In Numeracy the class are improving in their knowledge of number bonds, we will be continuing this as well as working with bigger numbers to 50. They will also work on time in maths, talking about days, months and seasons. They will be learning to tell the o'clock and half past time.

In literacy we will be focusing on tricky words and developing on the children's ability to blend sounds, both sounds they already know and new sounds they will learn this year. They will also be developing and extending their writing to short paragraphs.

I am very excited to work with Primary 2 this year and am sure we will have lots of fun together!

Miss Denning

PRIMARY 3

Hello from Primary 3.

This is always an exciting time for the children returning to school, starting a new year and meeting a new teacher. It has been lovely meeting the team at St Ninian's, along with getting to know P3 and being greeted by such a warm and enthusiastic class! The children have settled in well and everyone looks very smart in their uniforms, a big thank you for your support with this.

We are very lucky this year to be taking part in Gaelic football, as well as our other PE sessions and so I would ask that the children bring the PE kits with them on Monday and take it home on a Friday. This will ensure that the children are always prepared for PE (on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday). Thank you.

The school encourages the children to bring a water bottle with them that they can use throughout the school day. Could you please ensure that you provide your child with a non-spill water bottle for this purpose and that the bottle is filled prior to the start of school. Thank you. Also we will be doing activities outdoors this term, in the garden and in the meadow, so if it is possible to provide your child with outdoor shoes that they can change into for such activities that would be great.



We have found that some children are bringing their snack for break time in their school pack lunches and this is taking up some time at break to get them organised. If your child does take a snack for break time could they please have this in the school bag and not in their lunch box, this would help us all to start the morning quickly and with less interruption.

Finally, I look forward to getting to know you all better and look forward to our Meet the Teacher event. Please feel free to get in touch if you have any questions, you can catch me in the playground at the end of the day, or via the school office. I know this will be a great year with P3 and all your support with that will be gratefully appreciated. Thank you.

Miss Murray/Mrs. Stevenson

PRIMARY 3/4



P3/4 have P.E on a Tuesday and a Thursday so please ensure that your child has full gym kit for these days. Children are advised to bring their gym kit in on a Monday, keep it in school all week and take it back home on a Friday for it to be laundered.

P3/4 class are delighted to be learning about our new topic The Celts. We will be working in cooperative learning groups to learn

about jewellery, clothing, artefacts and houses.

I look forward to meeting you all at the Meet the Teacher evening.

Miss Healy

PRIMARY 4

We have gotten off on the right foot in Primary 4 and I can see a terrific year for us ahead. To introduce our class library, we read a short chapter book called Magic Tree House, which has really captured the children's imagination. The tree house takes children to other times and places which works well for us as our topic this term will take us back to Roman times.



Mrs. Stevenson will be taking the class on Mondays for science lessons. This term they will be turning their scientific minds towards Living Things and Life Processes. Also, we will be spending time out in our garden plot and using what we have grown.

For PE, our Gaelic Football coach has returned to us this year and our sessions will be on alternate Tuesdays. In addition, we will also have P.E. on Wednesdays and some Thursdays, so please have PE kit with you for those days.

Finally, we appreciate your support with Home Learning, especially as it is changing this year. Please feel welcome to ask questions any time.

Mrs. Morrison

PRIMARY 5

Primary 5 have been looking at Superheroes as part of their topic and language work. We have been researching well-known superheroes and their backstories as well as imagining what our self-created superhero would look like and powers they would have.

In maths we have been concentrating on addition and subtraction and will look to continue brushing up our summer rusty math skills over the next couple of weeks before moving on to money, decimals and then fractions.

P.E. is on a Monday morning first thing and Tuesday after lunch. We will be focusing on some general fitness for the first couple of weeks before moving on to indoor hockey and then basketball.

Mr. McCann (Mrs. Grant)

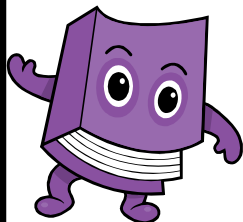


PRIMARY 5/6

Hello from Primary 5/6,

First let me introduce myself. I am Miss McGonigle and I am teaching the wonderful Primary 5/6 this year. I am delighted to be working with such an enthusiastic and hardworking bunch.

I moved to Edinburgh during the summer from a 'wee' town called Largs. Waking up to the city life is a bit different to waking up to my beach on the coast! I feel settled into the city life already, working alongside a fantastic staff and children. I was delighted to be offered the job of working here at St. Ninian's by Mrs Brack and Mr McCann. I am looking forward to seeing what this year brings and working with all the children in the school.



Primary 5/6 have got this term off to a flying start and are working very hard indeed. They have settled into their new class and having a new teacher. Our topic this term is 'Make a Book'. The children are excited to see what 'Make a Book' has in store for them... all will be revealed very soon.

Could I remind you that PE is every Monday and Tuesday, please ensure the children have their kit with them on those days.

I look forward to meeting you all on Wednesday at the 'Meet the Teacher' evening.

Thanks.

Miss McGonigle

PRIMARY 7

Hello,

We've had a great start to Primary 7 and have been kept very busy indeed! Everyone has taken part in the Primary 7 Conference and has had the chance to discuss what they would like to gain from their final year at Primary School. We have also met our new buddies and are enjoying getting to know them.

At the moment, our focus in class has been on our upcoming prefect applications. The children have been working hard in class on their first draft and have been thinking long and hard about which job they would like to apply for. The Primary 7's will soon be receiving their final drafts to complete. The deadline for Prefect Applications is Friday, 29th August. I'm sure the standard of applications will be very high and we will have a class full of Prefects before long!



There's a lot to maths - shape, position and movement, number, money and measurement and information handling. As a class we will be considering the relevance of place value, will work with money, look at bearings and ensure that we are confident with number bonds. We will consider the management of time and investigate maths in the world of work. There will be a lot of opportunity to participate in active maths learning to develop problem solving skills and speed.

PE this term will take place on a Wednesday morning, however, we will fit in any extra PE whenever we can! I would just like to emphasise the need for a complete, clean PE kit each week to enable the children to participate fully.

I am looking forward to meeting some of you at this week's Meet the Teacher evening where you will get the chance to see your child's new classroom and take a look at what we are going to be learning this year.

If you have any questions/queries throughout the year then please do not hesitate to get in touch.

Miss Murray

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.

SEASONS FOR GROWTH

This year, St Ninian's are very pleased to announce that we are able to run "Seasons for Growth". Thank you to the Parent Council who are funding the implementation and running of this very worthwhile group. More information on Seasons for Growth will follow later in the week.

MILK MONEY

Milk money of £4.10 to cover the period 13/08/14 - 19/09/14 is now overdue. If you haven't already paid please send the money to the class teacher as soon as possible. Milk money of £4.10 will be due again on 22/09/14 to cover the period 22/09/14 - 31/10/14.



SCHOOL CLOTHING

Please ensure that if your child brings home any clothing which doesn't belong to him/her that it is returned to the school immediately. Regularly we have very upset children and parents who have lost items of expensive clothing which have been picked up in error by another child. Please also ensure that your child's clothing is clearly labelled with their name so that if misplaced can be returned to you. Thanks.

HOLIDAYS

We close for mid-term on Friday, 10th October—12.00 o'clock for P1 and P2 and 12.10p.m. for P3-P7. Staff return to school on Monday, 20th October. All pupils should return to school on Tuesday, 21st October at 8.55a.m.

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.

Headlice treatments can be expensive but can be supplied through the minor ailments scheme free of charge. Check with your pharmacist.

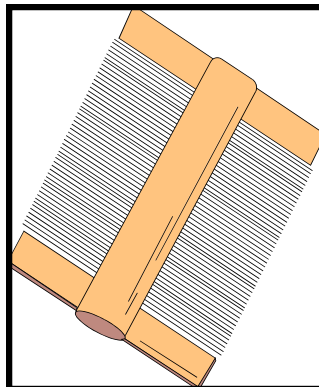
Please note:

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./Health Visitor.



IMPORTANT DATES FOR TERM 1

SESSION 2014/2015

Wednesday, 27th August	6.00-7.00p.m.	Meet the Teacher Evening
Friday, 5th September		Pupil's targets will be sent home.
Wednesday, 10th September	6.00-7.30p.m.	Musical Bingo Night (School Hall)
Monday, 15th September	Autumn Holiday	School closed
Thursday, 18th September	In-service day	School closed to pupils
Friday, 22nd September		Sharing my learning jotters will be sent home.
Friday, 3rd October	1.00-4.00p.m.	Parent/Teacher/Pupil—3 Way Dialogue
Tuesday, 7th October 2013	4.00-7.00p.m.	Parent/Teacher/Pupil—3 Way Dialogue
Thursday, 9th October 2013	4.00-6.00p.m.	Parent/Teacher/Pupil—3 Way Dialogue
Friday, 10th October 2013	12.00 (P1-P2) 12.10 (P3-P7)	Mid-term (all break)
Monday, 13th October-Friday, 17th October		School closed—holidays
Monday, 20th October		Staff In-Service Day
Tuesday, 21st October	8.55a.m.	Pupils resume
Monday, 16th December	p.m.	Panto in school— The Wizard of Oz
Friday, 5th December		Target evidence sent home
Friday, 19th December	12.00	Term ends — <u>whole school finishes at 12 o'clock</u>

School Session Dates 2014/15

Staff resume		Monday	11 August *	2014
Staff only		Tuesday	12 August *	2014
Pupils return		Wednesday	13 August	2014
Autumn Holiday	Schools closed	Monday	15 September	2014
All resume		Tuesday	16 September	2014
Scottish Independence Referendum	Primary and nursery schools closed	Thursday	18 September	2014
Mid-term	All break	Friday	10 October	2014
	Staff resume	Monday	20 October*	2014
	Pupils resume	Tuesday	21 October	2014
Term ends		Friday	19 December	2014

Staff resume		Monday	5 January*	2015
Pupils resume		Tuesday	6 January	2015
Mid-term	All break	Friday	13 February	2015
	All resume	Monday	23 February #	2015
Secondary pupils resume		Tuesday	24 February	2015
Term ends		Thursday	2 April	2015

The Easter break incorporates the following three holidays

Good Friday	Schools closed	Friday	3 April	2015
Easter Monday	Schools closed	Monday	6 April	2015
Spring Holiday	Schools Closed	Monday	20 April	2015

All Resume		Tuesday	21 April	2015
May Day	Schools closed	Monday	4 May	2015
All resume		Tuesday	5 May	2015
In Service Day	Closed for Pupils	Thursday	7 May*	2015
Victoria Day	Schools closed	Monday	18 May	2015
All resume		Tuesday	19 May	2015
Term ends		Friday	26 June	2015

* Five In-Service days for all schools.

Additional In-Service day for Secondary Schools only (6 in total)

In-Service Thursday 7 May coincides with date for General Election

Primary and nursery schools will be closed on Thursday 18 September for the Scottish Independence Referendum.

The above timetable allows for staff and pupil attendance as follows;

	Pupils	Staff
Term 1	86	89
Term 2	58 (57)	59 (60)
Term 3	46	47
Total	190 (189)	195 (196)

(Bracketed show Secondary position)