

St. Helen's Primary School

Our vision, as a Catholic School, is that St. Helen's Primary School will be an ambitious Community of Faith and Learning where mutual respect and tolerance are expected and encouraged.

Tel.: 0141 955 2286

email: office@st-helens.e-dunbarton.sch.uk

website: www.st-helens.e-dunbarton.sch.uk



ST HELEN'S PS
6TH DECEMBER, 2023

Dear Parents and Carers,

As we start this Advent season I would like to thank you for your continued support throughout this session so far. We are so grateful for your kindness and generosity in helping others particularly in this Advent season when we are preparing for the great celebration of the birth of Christ. We are currently gathering foodstuffs for the EDC Foodbank to support those individuals and families in need within our East Dunbartonshire community. The foodstuff is being collected on **Friday 8th December at 10.30am** from the school so if you are still wanting to send some items in please do so as soon as possible as they will be collected in a few days time. Thank you



Staff News

I am sad to let you know that Miss Lynn will be finishing with us this week. She has been teaching Primary 1, Rm 2 on a supply basis while Mrs Hill has been off. While we are so pleased to have Mrs Hill back and well, we are also so sad that Miss Lynn will be moving on. Miss Lynn has been part of the school staff since August 2022 and she has been a fabulous addition to our staff. Our best wishes go with her as she moves to the next stage of her career. Good Luck!



Bishopbriggs Christmas Lights Switch-on

On Thursday 23rd November several of our children sang at the Bishopbriggs Christmas Lights switch-on. Well done everyone!



Scottish National Deaf Society

One of our children, Ruaridh, attends a club run by the Scottish National Deaf Society, who arrange various activities for the children who attend. Ruaridh's sister Orlaith and three of her friends Orlagh, Lexi and Isabella decided to raise money for this charity and organised a 'Guess the number of sweets in the Jar' and 'Guess the Doll's Name' They raised an amazing £61.40. Well done, girls!



Christmas Fayre - 2nd December 1-3pm.

On Saturday 2nd December St. Helen's Parent Association held our annual Christmas Fayre in the school hall from 1-3pm. This is one of our main fundraising events within the school calendar. All monies raised at these PA events are provided to the school to enhance your

children's school experience - most recently funding the inflatable obstacle course and silent disco when we celebrated St. Helen's Day.

There was a range of activities and products available. Santa and Mrs. Clause were in the grotto to welcome the children, a Tombola, Teddy Tombola and Bottle Stall as well as face painting, glitter tattoos, card making for children, to name a few. There was also a number of stalls selling crafts, Christmas gifts and baked goods.

The children in each class had created their own Christmas craft which was on sale at the Fayre. This is part of our Advent Charity fundraising. As a Catholic school we are committed to serving the common good and so during this Advent season we try to raise funds to support others in need.



Thank you for your generous donations for the Fayre donated at our Dress Down Day on Thursday and finally thank you for turning out, despite the weather, to support our Fayre. Our thanks also to our PA and all parent/former pupil helpers for the fabulous job they do in providing such enjoyable events and raising funds for our school You are amazing and we really appreciate you all!

Christmas Discos



The PA have organised Christmas discos for Thursday 14th December.
P1-4 disco will take place from 6.15-7.30pm
P5-7 disco will take place from 7.45-9.00pm

Tickets costing £3 will be on sale in the school at lunchtime from Monday 11th December or will be available at the door.

EDC Christmas Concert



Eight of our Primary 7 pupils performed at the EDC Christmas Concert at the Royal Concert Hall in Glasgow on Monday 4th December. They were really excited about this experience and had a fabulous time!



Nativity and Christmas Concert

The children in Primary 1, 2 and 3 have been very busy preparing for the school's presentation of the Christmas story. The Nativity and Concert is taking place on Thursday 14th and Friday 15th December at 1.30pm in the school hall. Details to purchase tickets have already been sent out to Primary 1-3 parents. We have very excited children who are so looking forward to performing for their families.



Christmas Parties

Christmas parties within the school will take place as follows: -



Monday 18th December - Rooms 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, & 6

Tuesday 19th December - Rooms 8, 9, 10 and 15

Wednesday 20th December - Rooms 11, 12, 13 and 14

These are class parties taking place within each classroom, however, each class will spend some time in the school hall taking part in social dancing. We are hoping that Santa won't be too busy to visit our children in the lower school!

Children will be able to wear clothes of their choosing - party or dress down. (No football/sports tops please)

Christmas Lunch

Christmas lunch will take place on Tuesday 19th December. Children from Primary 1 - 5 are in receipt of free meals and can choose to have this lunch by ordering through the system. Children in Primary 6 and 7 pay for school lunch unless in receipt of free school meals. Thus if children in P6 and P7 wishing to have Christmas lunch they would order and pay for this through the Cashless Catering system. Please see the menu below: -



Mass 22nd December

On Friday 22nd December we hope to attend Mass with Fr. Chido so that we can focus on the importance of this liturgical season.



The last day of this term is Friday 22nd December when we finish at 2.30pm for the Christmas holidays.

Catholic Education Weeks



Our annual celebration of Catholic Education started on Thursday 16th November - the feast day of St Margaret of Scotland and finished on Thursday 30th November - the feast day of St. Andrew.

We started our celebration with a lovely Prayer Breakfast which was so well attended. Our thanks to everyone who was able to attend, to Miss McIntosh and the staff and children who led us in prayer.

Catholic Education Mass took place on Sunday 26th November at 10am Mass in St Dominic's Church. We would like to thank all the children who attended Mass wearing their school uniform. It was lovely to see our school- St Helen's PS and Turnbull HS- so well represented and our thanks to all took part in presenting the Mass.

Liaison with Turnbull HS

Our children in Primary 7 enjoyed an interesting and informative day at Turnbull HS on 24th November when they attended a Developing the Young Workforce Event.



Our children in Primary 6 also had a very exciting time when they visited the Science department this week on 4th December to experience and carry out a science lesson. Some budding scientists evident!



Today, Thursday 7th staff from THS Modern Languages department visited our P5 children to engage in a Spanish lesson/experience.

It is so good to give our children these early experiences of secondary education and opportunities to link in with staff at pupils at our associated high school - Turnbull HS.

HEALTH AND SAFETY

Parking around the school

Can I remind you that the parking spaces at the flats at Palmer Court are private parking. Please avoid parking in this area and park responsibly with consideration for our neighbours.



Returning to school after illness



Please bear in mind that children should not return to school until they are free of symptoms (**sickness and/or diarrhoea**) for at least 48 hours as we have been advised by the Public Health Department.

St Vincent de Paul Association- St Dominic' Parish

SVDP group from our parish of St Dominic's have contacted the school to ask us to remind our school community that they are able to provide practical help - we have access to a small monetary fund - for anyone in need at this time. You can contact them directly through Fr Chido or by contacting me - Mrs O'Connor.



On behalf of the staff of St Helen's PS, I would like to wish you a blessed Christmas and a happy and healthy New Year.

Take care, stay safe and God bless

Maureen O'Connor

Head Teacher



Dates for the diary:



- 11.12.23. Reindeer Walk - P1
14.12.23. Nativity Play P1-3 1.30pm
14.12.23. Disco P1-4 6.15 - 7.30pm P5-7 7.45 - 9pm
15.12.23. Nativity Play P1-3 1.30pm.
18.12.23. Parties Rooms 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6
19.12.23. Christmas Lunch
19.12.23. Parties Rooms 8, 9, 10 and 15
20.12.23. Parties Rooms 11, 12, 13 and 14
22.12.23. Mass 9.30am St. Dominic's Church
22.12.23. School closes 2.30pm for Christmas Holidays
- 08.01.24. School re-opens 9am
11.01.23. Dental Checks P1 and P7