



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

Please note that this newsletter can be  
found on the website

[www.st-ninians.edin.sch.uk](http://www.st-ninians.edin.sch.uk)

Twitter: StNiniansRCPS



## Thank you

I would just like to take this opportunity to again thank you all for your support given to the school during these difficult times.

Normally you would have met teachers, spoken face to face during parents evenings and had the opportunity to come into the school on a couple of occasions as well. I am so sorry this has not been allowed to be the case and that we are unsure when it will be again!

While most of our families have been in the building please spare a thought for our new P1 parents. Never have they been inside St Ninian's, not even for a tour.

During normal times we would also have after school clubs and PE specialists coming in to work with the children, but in order to preserve bubbles this sadly cannot be the case.

We would also have had a school photographer in to take class pictures, individual and family as well as for those starting Primary 1. As this is also not possible Miss Murray and myself will do our best David Hockney impressions and take our own versions of pictures. We will get everyone in the school as well as families and send those out to you. If you are happy with the picture you can let us know and we will send you the digital version via email.

Some children in the Primary 5 class will be making their First Holy Communion on the 5th and 12th December and we would like to wish them all a happy and holy day. Due to restrictions we are only allowed a certain amount of people in the parish, but the service will be shown on a live stream which we will post on our twitter and website pages closer to the time. All the congregation will also be given a limited edition St Ninian's RCPS face covering on the day as a small memento to hold on to by way of remembrance.

The last piece of news for now is that Mrs Brack will continue on her sabbatical at Leith Primary School and the plan will be to return to St Ninian's in the summer. She passes on her best wishes to everyone at St Ninian's for the Christmas Holidays.

I will save my Christmas wishes for now as for me it seems still so far away and we still have much to do at school. Please take a look at the important dates and information below and get in touch via email or phone call if you feel we can support you in any way.

Best Wishes.

**Mr McCann**

**Acting Head Teacher**

## PRIMARY 1

Wow, what a start to a new school year. Things have been exciting, amazing, fun and challenging with the added restrictions, but your children have been amazing and adapted so well. We are very proud of them and I know you will be too.

The children have been progressing well with learning to say and write the alphabet sounds and with their counting and recognition of numbers. Thank you all for your help in bringing your children on.

As you are aware play is an integral part of our learning practise which the children are responding to with great enthusiasm. This has helped them to settle and become confident in their learning and relationships with each other.

We have just had another amazing week both indoors and outdoors with loose parts. It is great to see the children's imagination and cooperation with each at work as they design and play.



Dare I say it's getting close to C.....! We will not be having a traditional school Nativity, but we are starting to work on a Nativity which hopefully we will be able to video for you and your family to see.

Please remember to check on Teams and Twitter every now and then for posts about what is happening in Primary 1.

**Mrs Merry**

## PRIMARY 2



It has been an exciting time in P2. Mysterious things have been happening in our classroom. To solve the mystery we have had to write lots of adventure stories. Hopefully P2 have been coming home and telling you all about it.

We have been learning about time in maths, looking at how long a second and a minute is. We are learning to tell the time, specifically o'clock and half past. We have learnt the months of the year and the days of the week and have been creating our very own P2 calendar.

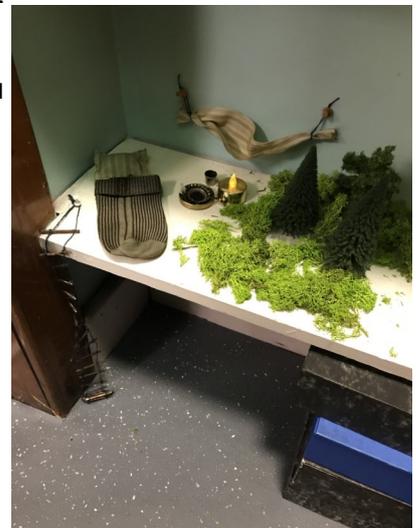
We are learning about hockey in PE and the pupils have worked hard to understand how to hold the hockey stick and pass the ball. Our PE day is a Thursday. It would be great if all children could come to school with a change of clothes and shoes, ready for outdoor PE.

We have recently finished learning about Cavemen. The children enjoyed learning about Stone Age homes, cave paintings and finding some Stone Age tools here at St Ninian's! Our next topic is going to be focused around winter.

Thank you for your continued support with your child's learning. If you have any questions please get in touch.

**Miss Purnell**

P.S. Could you ask your child about this picture on the right. You should get some interesting stories from them.....



### PRIMARY 2/3

Hello from P2/3,

We have been working hard during the last few weeks and have all made good progress in Read Write Inc. As a class we have loved learning all about the Stone Age and have spent Thursday afternoons outside learning about Stone Age tools, hunting and building caves.



We are looking forward to our new topic of Space after our Christmas break. In Maths we have been learning about time. We have been focusing on days of the week and months of the year, as well as telling the time on analogue clocks using o'clock, half past, quarter past and quarter to. Recently we have read the story 'Have You Filled a Bucket Today?' We then made our own buckets and our friends filled them up with compliments. We are continuing to work on being kind to one another.

We will continue to have outdoor PE on a Tuesday and Outdoor Learning on a Thursday. Please make sure your child comes on to school on these days with a change of clothes and footwear.

### PRIMARY 3



Primary 3 have had a great term this year. They have been learning all about the Ancient Egyptians for their topic and have enjoyed bringing what they have learned into their play.

Our Egyptian Movie is now in the final stages of editing and is due to be premiered before Christmas so keep your eyes peeled on Teams and our school Twitter!

The next few weeks will be busy for Primary 3. We are going to be doing lots of fun, festive and creative activities coming up to the holidays.

### PRIMARY 4

We are looking forward to a festive month ahead in primary 4. We have been learning about time in maths and as part of this, we are making our own calendars for December to plan our busy weeks ahead!



This term the children have explored new topics and expanded their learning on our water project. I hope your family at home studied hard for their big water quiz!

Recently, we have just started our Scottish project on castles and we are looking forward to delving deeper into this topic in December and January.

The children were excited to finish our class novel and watch the movie version of Charlotte's Web last week. In January we will start a new class novel. Book Club has proved successful in class and I am very impressed with the children's enthusiasm for reading more both at home and at school.

It has been a different start to a new school year with new rules and guidelines but Primary 4 have all settled in well and are working hard together, this term has flown by!

Over the coming weeks, I will keep families updated via Teams about all of our festive fun so keep your eyes peeled on the classroom channel to see how we are enjoying our December together in class.

**Mrs Hayes**

## Primary 5A

Christmas has come early this year for P5A. We have had a very exciting couple of weeks, thanks to our management team.



First of all, we were delighted to receive a big box of playground equipment including bats, balls, hoops and ropes. Lunchtimes have been so much more fun and the class are working well as a team to look after everything.

Then, last week, we had an even more exciting delivery – 21 brand new iPads! It was such a wonderful surprise; the class could hardly believe it. We are having a few teething problems with the Wi-Fi signal at the moment, but everyone is looking forward to all of the creative ways we can use the iPads to further our learning. A huge thank you to Mr. McCann, Miss Murray and Mrs. Choat for this amazing resource.

Our First Holy Communion group have been preparing well and are eagerly awaiting their special day on Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> December. We look forward to a joyful and holy celebration with their families. The group attended Mass this week and were very happy to meet Father Ephraim. We also had time to visit the lovely parish Eco garden that the class helped decorate earlier in the term. The group were amazed at how much the plants in the garden had grown since they were last there.

As we approach the end of Term 1, P5A have a lot to be proud of:

- how well they have coped with a return to school life with its different rules and routines.
- a completed "Lockdown Journal" that everyone in the class helped to compile, which describes what life was like during lockdown, and offers insight and advice for children of the future.
- links made with the Parish community through our recycled artwork for the Eco garden.
- how well every member of the class has worked towards their learning targets in Maths, Language and Health and Wellbeing.
- how well the whole class have supported our First Holy Communion group in their preparations.

Many thanks for all your support at home.

**Mrs Howie and P5A**

## PRIMARY 5B

Primary 5B have been working very hard in maths this year to extend our number understanding with larger numbers and negative numbers. We have been focusing on addition, subtraction, multiplication and division, using these in problem solving questions. Our maths topic recently has been time, with a focus on planning and using time in real life. Everyone has worked very hard to improve their time knowledge and are excited to move onto our next maths topic, shape.



In literacy we have been working this term on using ambitious language to describe a setting and character. These skills will be very helpful in our next writing focus, which is story writing. We will use what we have learned to plan and write interesting stories.

Everyone has shown fantastic body and object control in football this term and have worked so well as a team together. We will be focussing on fitness and hockey in the coming weeks.

In class we have been working to prepare for First Communion on 12<sup>th</sup> December which the children are very excited for. Everyone has been so engaged in our preparations which is fantastic to see.

Recently we have been so delighted to use the iPads we have in P5b! It has been great to use them in class and we are so excited to keep using them in fun and creative ways.

**Miss Gilhooley and P5B**

## PRIMARY 6

Dear Parents/Carers,

What a busy term we have had in Primary 6! We have absolutely loved becoming a 'digital class' and getting our own 1-1 iPads to use to help us learn.

We have created some fantastic videos, amazing pieces of writing, animations and audio books over the last few months.

Creativity is booming in Primary 6!



Excitingly, we have been working extremely hard on a project called 'In a New Light' where we are working with artist and director, Gudrun Soley, on a film which is being made for the Children's International Film Festival.

Over the last 8 weeks we have worked collaboratively with a school in Singapore and Bangladesh over Skype and created pieces of writing and movements relating to what climate change means to us. It has been so special working with children in other parts of the world. We are so excited to see the film when it is finished!

We are challenging ourselves in numeracy when learning about fractions, decimals and percentages and learning about time, area and perimeter in topic maths.

In writing, the children have become masters of debating this term and have written some very persuasive letters to Mr McCann and First Minister, Nicola Sturgeon. These were very impressive!

I want to take the opportunity to thank you all for your continued support with your child's learning in what has been a very challenging year. Please remember I am always available by phone or email for any questions and queries you may have. Hopefully, in the not too distant future, we will be able to welcome you all back into school. I look forward to that day!

Stay safe and I hope you have a wonderful Christmas when it comes.

**Mrs Choat**

## PRIMARY 6/7

Dear Parents/Carers,

I hope you are all well and starting to get excited about Christmas...we certainly are! For art we have started working on creating life size snowmen. It has been lots of fun working with different materials and making a mess!

For writing we have started working on instructional writing. We have looked at recipes and soon we will create our own Christmas boardgame and write instructions to go along with it.

In maths we have started working on fractions. We will be learning how to find a fraction of a number, a percentage of a number and the relationship between fractions, decimals and percentages. This will link nicely to the lead up to Christmas sales.. are you sensing a theme?!

Our PE lesson will continue to be on a Monday. Please check that your children have the appropriate PE kits for this on a Monday as all our PE lessons will continue to be outside. Thank you in advance for your support with this.

I hope you have all been successful in accessing Teams, viewing the Sharing Our Learning week photos and seeing your child's report. If you have had any issues with this please don't hesitate to contact me.

Best wishes.

**Mrs Healy**



## PRIMARY 7

It has been lovely to have the children back in school and to be able to teach my Primary 5 class again. They are a lovely, enthusiastic and creative group of children.



They have enjoyed running for Young Leaders and will soon be in the process of campaigning for House Captains. Although the jobs they can undertake within the school have to be different this year they have embraced the changes and added their own ideas to the process.

Primary Seven are currently painting a mural in the peace garden, renovating furniture, developing a Christmas boardgame and writing a Christmas book for younger children to read. This is enabling them to learn and work together in a variety of contexts.

I look forward to the sharing the Primary 7 journey with them and I know they will make the best of the different situation we find ourselves in.

**Mrs Grant**

## IMPORTANT DATES

During Advent, children will be celebrating Mass at St Ninian's church. Each class will be attending the church once during the season of Advent. Social distancing and enhanced hygiene protocols will be observed.

Friday 4 <sup>th</sup> December	Christmas Jumper Day
Saturday 5 <sup>th</sup> December	P5A First Holy Communions (11am)
Monday 7 <sup>th</sup> December	P7 Christmas Party (pm)
Tuesday 8 <sup>th</sup> December	P6 Christmas Party (pm)
Wednesday 9 <sup>th</sup> December	P6/7 Christmas Party (pm) P1—P3 Individual and Family Photos P1 Class Photo
Thursday 10 <sup>th</sup> December	P4-P7 Individual and Family Photos P7 Class Photos P5B Christmas Party (pm)
Friday 11 <sup>th</sup> December	P5A Christmas Party (am) House Captain Elections (P7)
Saturday 12 <sup>th</sup> December	P5B First Holy Communions (11am)
Monday 14 <sup>th</sup> December	P4 Christmas Party (pm)
Tuesday 15 <sup>th</sup> December	P3 Christmas Party (pm)
Wednesday 16 <sup>th</sup> December	P1 Nativity Video Released P2/3 Christmas Party (pm)
Thursday 17 <sup>th</sup> December	P2 Christmas Party (pm)
Friday 18 <sup>th</sup> December	P1 Christmas Party (am)
Tuesday 22 <sup>nd</sup> December	School closes for the holidays—time to be confirmed.

## 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 Government 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.

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.

