



# St Martha's Primary

*Ready, Respectful, Safe*

August 2023

## School Vision

- With Jesus and the Gospel Values at our core, each child's learning and experiences are purposeful, enjoyable and prepares them well for life.

### • Welcome

A warm welcome to all of our children, families and staff to a new school year and especially to all of our new children throughout the school. All the pupils look really smart in their school uniform and their PE Uniform.

### • School Uniform

We have invested heavily to purchase everyone a black T-shirt for the third year. We will keep a small stock of PE T-Shirts at the school office for you to purchase. They will cost £6. We have over 90% of our children wearing black with their black T-shirt on gym days.

Can I *urge everyone* to do this please. Please avoid football tracksuits and overly labelled sports wear over the PE T-shirt. You are invited to buy a school hoodie to make it even easier on PE days.

We want our PE clothes to look like a uniform otherwise other children will copy those children not complying.

### • Teaching Staff

#### Teaching Staff Team

We currently have 12 permanent Teachers including our Principal Teacher, Depute Head and myself and 3 temporary staff members.

I would also like to welcome, Miss Webb and Miss Heggarty who have joined our staff this year.

### • Classification

#### Classification

P1: Miss Monaghan

P3: Miss Gregory

P5: Ms Balmer

P7/6<sup>M</sup>: Mr Maguire

P2 : Miss Heggarty / Mrs McAulay

P4: Miss MacFarlane

P6: Miss Webb / Mrs Donlon

P7/6<sup>D</sup>: Miss D'Agostino

Mrs Woods - Non Class Contact Time Teacher

Mrs Reynolds – Challenge Leader of Learning

Miss McCoid: Principal Teacher and Nurture Teacher

Mr Keenan: Depute Head Teacher

Mr. O'Donnell: Head Teacher

- **Support Staff**

### **Support Staff Team**

Mr Anderson – Janitor

Mrs Wallace – Clerical                      Mrs Herbert – Clerical

Support for Learning Workers

Mrs Kenna, Mrs Henvey, Mrs Collins, Mrs Brereton, Mrs Hyatt, Mrs McKay, Miss Campbell

- **Meeting Parents**

### **Meet the Teacher Event – Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> September**

This year we will continue to engage with our parents in a variety of ways. This will begin with the Meet the Teacher Event after school on Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> September. This is very important and we encourage all of our parents to attend.

Meet the Teacher provides a good opportunity for you to hear some of the basic routines in place at St Martha's including homework and how you can support your child's learning every single day. Please note that this event is not a progress report evening. This will occur in October.

- **School Improvement**

### **School Improvement**

As mentioned in June we need to continue monitoring levels of attendance in our school as attendance across Glasgow including our school has fallen in recent years.

- **Attendance**

**Target attendance is 95%**

**5% absence due to sickness is equivalent to 10 days / 2 weeks**

1 day off school per week is equivalent to just **80%** attendance

2 days off school per week is equivalent to just **60%** attendance.

1 day off school per week plus 2 full weeks off results in only 75% attendance

2 days off school per week plus 2 full weeks off results in only 45% attendance

When required, we will be asking parents to come into school to find ways to support them to improve their child's attendance.

Also, this year we will be continuing to improve in these three areas:

The Curriculum – Pupil Voice

Laudato Si (Religious Education)

Writing (Talk for Writing – Non-Fiction)

- **Pupil Equity**

### **Pupil Equity Fund**

Similar to other years we will be using the funding to support children in class and beyond the classroom to reach the required levels in numeracy and literacy. As in previous years we have invested this money with staff. This finance pays for our probationers (newly qualified) and increased a role from 3 days to 5 days.

## **Annual Data Check – Parent Portal**

All pupils from P1 – P7 have now been issued with the Annual Data Check form via Parent Portal. Please find a few minutes to check over these vital details so that we can update our systems where required.

- **Parent Portal**

### **Parent Portal**

All of this can be completed using the Parent Portal. The Parent Portal is a fantastic system, once you are signed up to it. We can help you to do this and we are really willing to help you to do it. It can be clunky to get started and we are willing to help you to do this face to face. In fact, we have set aside **Tuesday 12th September 1.15 til 3.00** as a Parent Portal Workshop. During this time our admin team will support you to get on.

Our main source for communicating with parents will be email. We have the email addresses of 98% of our school population which is brilliant. Emails may be sent out everyday depending on the circumstances therefore I need you to check for them to prevent you from missing information.

- **Parent Council**

### **Parent Council – Friday 8<sup>th</sup> September**

The Parent Council Annual General meeting (AGM) will take place at 9.30 on Friday 8<sup>th</sup> September. As part of this process we are encouraging as many parents as possible to come on board. Again, your voice matters and this council is the main platform for doing this. Please contact Cheryl or Natalie to note your interest.

- **Social Media**

### **Social Media**

We currently have a Facebook Page for our school which will have photos uploaded from time to time. Mrs Brereton will manage this for the school. It is always her intention to include as many children as possible on the site as we do know that you enjoy seeing your child and the work of the school.

We also have a Twitter site which is useful for a range of messages including emergency messages if the school needs to close suddenly.

Mr Maguire is continuing to update the content on the school website. We would encourage you to visit and like this page from week to week to see updates. You will be able to read the school's Standard and Quality Report from each year.

- **Music (Create)**

### **Music -**

All Primary 1 children will be beginning a 8 week block of music lessons from a specialist music tutor organised by 'Create', which is part of Glasgow City Council's Education programme, on Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> September. This is a very important part of the pupils' linguistic development.

- **Determined to Dance**

### **Dance**

The Determined to Dance initiative is scheduled to returned to our school during September until November. These high energy dance lessons are being delivered to children in Primary 3 and Primary 4 during PE.

- Kayaking

### Kayaking

Pupils from P5s will be enjoying two half days of Kayaking and Team building at Pinkston basin on Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> September and Friday 15<sup>th</sup> September. **There will be no cost to the pupils for this experience.** As well as learning the skills of kayaking they will also be learning about water safety. Pinkston basin is available all year round in our community and I would encourage you to give it a go as a family.

- Primary 7 Buddies

### Primary 7 Buddies

Primary 7 will be starting their leadership work as buddies. They will be connecting and supporting our P1 pupils. Miss McCoid will be organising this for our pupils within the next week. The P7 pupils are very excited about this.

- Blairvaddach

### Blairvaddach

We are delighted to let everyone know that most of our P7 group will be experiencing Blairvaddach Centre on Friday 15<sup>th</sup> September til Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> September for a two night, three day outdoor adventure. With school subsidy we have managed to keep this cost very low. We require all parents to submit the payment to the school office or online. The pupils are very excited for this outdoor residential and will be accompanied by school staff.



- Fame Friday

### Fame Friday

We will be making a return to Fame Friday very soon. This is a strategy to encourage our pupils to go 'Over and Above' with their learning out of school and 'off their own bat'. Several children submitting entries will receive a small treat plus a reward card to take home and perhaps even a phone call.

### Scottish Government Survey

The Scottish Government would like to hear directly from mums, dads, parents, and carers to help tackle vaping and e-cigarette use amongst children & young people.

Have your say about children & young people vaping - complete the survey by Monday, 28 August: <https://shorturl.at/giCWZ>

The survey takes less than 10 minutes and is completely anonymous - your name or any other contact details will not be taken.

### CONTACT US

<http://www.st-marthas-pri.glasgow.sch.uk/>

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Kindest Regards,  
John O'Donnell  
Head Teacher

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Many thanks for your continued support!