

# Holy Family Primary School



## Important Dates in February 2019

- 01.02.19 First Friday Mass 10:30am
- 03.02.19 P4 Rite of Recommitment 11:30am
- 04.02.19 Parent Council 7pm
- 11.02.19 P5 Handball Festival
- 12.02.19 Archbishop Cushley visits the school
- 18.02.19 School Holiday
- 19.02.19 Inservice Day
- 20.02.19 All staff and pupils return to school

## Christmas

Thank you for supporting our Christmas calendar of events. It was great to see so many families and friends of the school attending the Christmas Fair and the concerts and enjoying the work of the children and staff. All donations from the events go to the school fund to help families who need our support to manage the costs of the school year.

## New Staff

We are delighted to welcome Mrs Johnston to the school staff. Mrs Johnston will be following a diverse timetable which will see her teaching in P3 on Tuesday, Primary 1 on Wednesday and every class on Thursdays. Mrs Johnston will be involved in Learning Support on Mondays and Fridays and will also be able to cover classes to give teachers time out to work on their improvement projects.

Mrs Howard has started her new job and we wish her well in her new career. The office has been covered temporarily by Mrs Coyle and Mrs Murray. The recruitment process for a new admin assistant will be in February and the post will be advertised on the *myjobscotland* website in the near future.

## School Camp

We have an outdoor education programme for P4, P5, P6 and P7 and I am pleased to inform you that, in 2018, every pupil in each of these classes was able to attend school camp. That is an important achievement for the school as the children were able to access a range of activities that build their skills, independence and confidence (and they had great fun!)

This year we have set up the following programme:

- Mon 29<sup>th</sup> Apr – Wed 1<sup>st</sup> May - Primary 5 Lowport residential
- Wed 1<sup>st</sup> May – Thu 2<sup>nd</sup> May - Primary 4 Lowport residential
- Tues 30<sup>th</sup> Apr – Thu 2<sup>nd</sup> May - P6/7 Lowport Activity Days

## Archbishop Cushley

Archbishop Cushley will be visiting the school on the afternoon of Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> of February. He will have the opportunity to talk to the children and spend time in classes.

## School Gate Safety

The whole community was shocked by the accident at the school gates which resulted in a pupil from Winchburgh Primary School being injured. Ideas for how to improve the congestion at the school gate have been discussed at the Parent Council and also with representatives from the Community Council as well as West Lothian Council and the Elected Members for the Winchburgh Area.

One of the problems for Holy Family is congestion at the front door at the end of the school day as there are a large number of parents and carers in one, small area and some people have been stepping into the road to be able to pass groups standing on the path.

After consultation with Winchburgh Primary, we will now dismiss our children from the playground at the North side of the school. The gates at the Nursery entrance will open at **3pm** to allow Holy Family parents and carers to enter the playground at that end of the building to wait for the children to be dismissed out of the doors at the back of the school.

Access to the playground will close at **3:30pm** to allow the nursery children to utilise the play area again. By that time, all of our families will need to have cleared the playground area.

This new plan should move our families away from the narrow path at the front of the building to a safer area within the school grounds. **The new arrangement will start on Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> of January.**

## New School Building

Architects working on a design for our new school are in the very early stages of creating a plan. There will be opportunities for the school community to contribute their ideas to the planning process and to see the design as it develops. James Cameron (Head of Service) is the contact person at the Civic Centre for the design of the new school.

## Reduce, Re-use and Recycle

We are aiming to reduce the amount of paper we use in school whilst improving how we communicate with parents and families by moving our newsletters and notes home to the schools online system called Groupcall.

To do this, we need to have the email addresses of all of our parents. If you have access to Facebook, there is a link to a form you can use to share your information with the school. You can also access the form by typing the following URL into Google.

<https://bit.ly/2CEdsTN>