

Newsletter June 2013

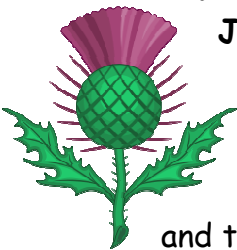
This year has been the shortest in memory for me - between a wee health scare and the loss of my dad



I feel the months have whizzed by. As always, the children

keep you grounded and the lighter nights help too. Onwards and upwards!

The run up to Easter was a busy time for the school with a few "whole school" projects on the go.



Jock Tamson's Bairns gave everyone the opportunity to look at aspects of Scotland and then join together to showcase what they had learned.

The work was enhanced with songs and music and our Primary 6/7 pupils

excelled themselves by introducing each performance in Gaelic.

Trips to **Edinburgh Castle** for the P1-P3 pupils and to the **People's Palace** and the **Riverside Museum** in Glasgow, for P4 -P7, rounded off our work on Scotland.



Financial Education was also tackled - a life skill we all need! Let's hope the lessons

learned will be remembered and acted upon in the future.



Using the **Creed** as a focal point was the final piece of work

undertaken.

This declaration of our faith was broken down into sections and each class considered the part they had chosen. They explored what it meant



to them and in turn presented their findings through praise

and song.

It was a very fitting and moving way to end the term.



Two of our Primary 6 pupils got off to a flying start this year with the **K'Nex**

Challenge. Daniel S. and Alexander impressed the judges in the initial stage with their planning and design techniques and so won a place in the next round. Accompanied by Mrs. Harrison they attended the Nautical College in Glasgow where they were in competition with children from all over Scotland. The quality of work on show was excellent and despite not being selected to progress further, the boys had a great time. We may have two engineers for the future. Well done!

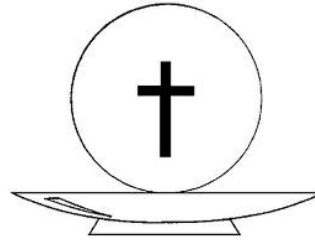


Our **Primary 7** pupils are working hard at being

tri-lingual! Mama Mia! Sacre Bleu! Jings! Crivens! Help Ma Boab! (you can see my Gaelic is up to speed - not!!)

One of the modern languages teachers from St. Ninian's worked with the children over a four week period to refresh their skills and knowledge. This will be helpful when they start in August.

The month of May saw our Primary 4 pupils looking resplendent as they waited to receive the **Sacrament of the Eucharist** for the very first time. The pupils in both parishes



were a credit to everyone - behaving in an

appropriate and reverent manner. Thank to Fr. Milarvie for officiating at both masses.

I've never seen such a crowd at St. John of the Cross - it was standing room only. It's wonderful to see a church filled to capacity - hope it continues.

The **Thanksgiving Mass** gave the children another opportunity to fully appreciate and understand their faith. Thanks to Mrs. Peters for



preparing the children so well.

To round off their year of faith formation the Primary 4 pupils will be going to **Schoenstatt** to continue the celebrations.

Having three Green Flags carries a big responsibility! With that in mind



Mrs. Ellis and her trusty band of helpers organised a

Big Spring Clean - wish they had included my house!

The grounds around the school were cleared of litter and the areas were swept clean - everything is looking lovely. Thanks to all who helped. Their next big venture is the Bring and Buy Sale.



We have our colourful "mural" back thanks to the skill of Mrs.

Stewart. The pupils and staff (and Gran Anderson) have been working under her instructions and once more we have butterflies and bees adorning the area beneath the huts. It certainly cheers up a dull day.



Pupil/Parent Dialogue
Meetings took place over three afternoons and

the feedback tells us that the majority of parents find it helpful. The pupils love having the full attention of their parents and are proud to show off their work and their classroom environment. They are beginning to recognise their strengths in learning and also their development needs. Any parent who

requested further input met was offered an appointment.

Health and Wellbeing is the responsibility of all who work in school and staff on a daily basis promote the social, emotional and physical wellbeing of pupils.

Health Week allows us to focus on specific aspects of health and this



year the pupils enjoyed **Tae Kwondo, street dance and sports' day** to support their physical

health. A **guided walk** around the Merkland Nature Reserve allowed for both social interaction and the development of biodiversity skills.

Mrs. McHugh's input on **cycling** helped to encourage road safety awareness to our younger pupils.

Board games were used to develop communication skills, turn taking and

build resilience. And last but not least our annual

Teddy Bears' Picnic was again well supported

by parents, grans, and siblings. This is a good opportunity to share food and have a blether.

What more could you ask for?



We were blessed with the weather this year and everything was voted a success.

The Primary 7 pupils have had their **Induction Days** at St. Ninian's.

Mrs. Ellis was very proud of their conduct and the contribution they made in each class. I know they will all do us proud there.



We also had a lovely afternoon when all 17 of our **new intake** for Session 2013-2014 came for a visit.



They were very well behaved, keen and eager to meet Mrs.

Milgrew their teacher and to explore their classroom. The current Primary 6 pupils who will buddy them next year were supportive - helping them to settle in and encouraging them to mix and make new friends.

Mrs. Henderson and her **JRSOs** -



Bethany and Morgan - will be visiting Kirkintilloch

Police Station with the prize winners of a recent competition they organised.

Ian, Louise, Leah, Caitlin and Aidan H. will have a great time I'm sure.

Hope they let them out againmmmm????



As a seasoned runner Mrs. McHugh has been encouraging pupils to become involved in the **athletics events** which form part of Kirkintilloch

Gala Week. These will take place at Merkland at 7pm on 6th of June.

Why not come along?

As if there isn't enough noise in



school I've arranged a **Samba**

Workshop

for our P6 and P7 pupils.

Any spare cotton wool?



The **PTA** have organised a **film night** for June 7th -

hope you can support this by bringing your child along.

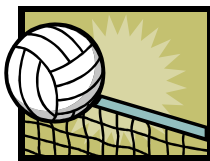
4-8pm - details in the PTA letter.



Football Tournaments

- Soccer Sevens at Lenzie Astro Pitch - June 10th 1 o'clock
- 7- aside at St. Ninian's/Kirkintilloch High School - June 18th from 9.30am

Thanks once more to Stephen Rundell for giving his time and knowledge to allow us to participate in these.



Our **Primary 6** pupils will once more be meeting up with their peers from St. Ninian's associated primaries to take part in a **Sports' Day** - fingers crossed for a dry day please.



Our **Primary 7 Leavers' Mass** will take place on Monday June 17th - at 6.45pm - always a very emotional experience. The end of one phase and the start of the next - they'll do well.



The annual **House Rewards' Day** is scheduled to take place on the afternoon of Friday June 14th. A bouncy castle as well as a water slide and paddling pool will be on offer. There will also be some nibbles and drinks to add to the fun. Let's hope your child's house wins!



Our **final trip** of the year will see us all off to **Adventure Planet** and then on to **Palacerigg Country Park**.

We've done this trip a few time but the children enjoy it and requested that it be repeated - how can I deny them?



The school **closes** for the summer break on Wednesday June 26th at 1pm.

Pupils **return** on Wednesday 14th **August** (new Primary 1 pupils between 9.15 and 9.30am please to allow for traffic etc)





p.s. quick mention for Mrs. Milgrew, Mrs.

McLaren and Mrs. Harrison - our intrepid **zip sliders** who "flew" across the River Clyde on Sunday to raise money for Ronald McDonald House - I'm dizzy just looking at their pictures - think they are on our website too! What a worthwhile cause and a generous thing to do. Go girls!! Well done.



And finally - this will be my last newsletter. As you know I am "putting down the chalk" after almost 35

years in teaching. It's all interactive whiteboards now so that tells you the time is ripe for me to go! I came here as the interim head for a few months in October 2004 but the minute I stepped through the door I knew it was the place for me. I was very fortunate to have been officially appointed in January 2005 and I've loved every minute of it. The children have been a joy, the staff hardworking and committed and you as parents, extremely

supportive. What more could anyone ask for?

It has been a privilege and a pleasure to have been part of your children's education. The



happy memories and treasured moments I have will sustain me for many a year.

St. Agatha's will always hold a special place in my heart.

God bless each and every one of you.

Thank you.

