Our priorities for 2018/2019

Raise attainment in Literacy through the restructuring of the teaching of phonics P1 – P3, spelling P4 – P7 and reading P1 – P7.

Through ‘Reflective Reading’ and ‘Synthetic Phonic approach’ pupils will have a better understanding of strengths and development needs in literacy and can talk about the strategies they use.
How well did we do in 2017/2018?

We were consistently high in Attainment of Literacy & Numeracy Curriculum for Excellence levels 2015/16, 2016/17 and 2017/2018 (teacher judgement).

As part of our World Book Day celebrations, P7 received a visit from author Barbara Henderson thanks to a successful Scottish Book Trust application. P7 studied Barbara’s novel, ‘Fir for Luck’, based on the Highland Clearances and relished the opportunity to ask questions to find out her inspiration when creating her characters and storyline.

As a school community, we celebrated the 60th Anniversary of St. Mary’s Primary School in December 2018. Pupils enhanced their knowledge of the history of our school and were involved in various activities to celebrate, including a very successful school show.

All pupils belong to a house – Chatelherault, Douglas, Hamilton or Marian. Each house has a Captain and 3 Vice Captains who have the responsibility of leading their house and setting an example to others. All pupils can receive points for their house by demonstrating our school values. In their respective houses, pupils participate in COGS, (Collecting Opinions to Grow our School), meetings led by Captains and Vice Captains, where they discuss important school issues, such as homework, sports day and school lunches. Staff and pupils decide on the issues to be discussed. Pupils, staff and parents are informed of the results of the meetings and any actions arising from them. Our COGS meetings demonstrate that pupil’s voice is recognised and valued in St. Mary’s Primary.

Almost all children in Primary 6 and Primary 7 volunteered to take part in the Pope Francis Faith Award and have willingly given of their time and talents to become Prayer Partners for younger children and be present at the Sacrament of Reconciliation and enrolment services. The award recognises and values the work the pupils do in school and in their parish.

Successful grant applications to Awards for All and The Gwen Mayor Trust resulted in the creation of extra curricular clubs supported by parents. We also received a grant fromTESCO after submitting an application in order to improve our school garden.

Our Lego Club was organised and ran by parent volunteers after their successful Awards for All grant was used to purchase iPads and Lego WeDo equipment to develop programming and coding skills. In June, the parents and pupils of the club organised a Lego showcase to which parents and the wider community were invited to demonstrate what the children have learned and to inform guests of the history of Lego.

Our Photography Club was formed by money from the Gwen Mayor Trust. Pupils received a digital camera for the duration of the club and various parents and professional photographers visited to explain ‘tricks of the trade’. There was a competition for the best photographer, who took into consideration the advice given, and all entries were displayed in the school.

Our ‘Skills for Work’ week was extremely successful in developing children’s knowledge of skills necessary in different careers. Over 40 parents volunteered to talk to pupils from Primary 1 – 7 to raise awareness of careers in medicine, local government, retail, STEM, emergency services and hospitality.

We have a wide range of after school/lunchtime activities offered to pupils, including netball, girls’ and boys’ football, gymnastics, dance, multi sports, hockey and tennis. All stages are involved in either an after school or lunchtime club.