

St Fillan's Primary School and Nursery Class

NEWSLETTER

Term 2
OCTOBER 2016



Dear Parents/Carers

Welcome back to Term 2 Session 2016/2017. We envisage an extremely busy term with Christmas approaching and we will keep you updated as we move along.

Curriculum Update

We continue to make steady progress undertaking the development outlined in the School Improvement Plan.

Priority 1 - Raise attainment in Writing

Throughout Term 1 teaching staff worked enthusiastically to review and update practice in relation to; learning and teaching, assessment and moderation for the purpose of further raising attainment in writing skills for all children. This involved careful consideration of the new bench marks set out by the Scottish Government.



Priority 1 - Raising attainment in Numeracy and Mathematics



Throughout Term 2 we will be embarking on 'Glasgow Counts' to ensure that learning and teaching in Numeracy and Mathematics across the school is in keeping with current research and practice for the purpose of raising attainment.

Priority 2 - The Curriculum

In addition, we will also be reviewing aspects of whole school overviews to ensure continued progression in; Social Subjects and Health and Wellbeing.

Primary 1 and Primary 2 teachers continue to develop the use of play in learning. We have recently developed and resourced the open area adjacent to Primary 1 and Primary 2 classrooms where children have the opportunity to further explore play and creativity.



As a Community of Faith and Learning, we continue our faith journey using the guidance set out in the documents - This is Our Faith and God's Loving Plan.

Space - The Nest

Last School Session we started the process of creating a 'soft space' for children who require either time away from the classroom or a time which focuses specifically on their individual needs in a variety of forms.

The Parent Council greatly supported this initiative by - sourcing donations from Anderson Maguire and Community Choice Care and by providing expertise in relation to ideas regarding resources.



On behalf of the school community we thank Anderson Maguire and Community Choice Care for their kind donations which will go towards purchasing further resources to complete this very worthwhile and much needed space. Thank-you also to the Parent Council for their effort in helping us take this development forward.

SCHOOL BUSINESS

Vandalism

During the summer holiday period and subsequently over a number of weekends our school has been hit hard by vandals who have destroyed; part of the Nursery Class mud kitchen, outdoor learning resources, smashed bottles, damaged bins, wrote graffiti on the wall at the side of the school and ripped out plants etc. As you can imagine we are all very upset that our school should be targeted in this way.

We have been in contact with Police Scotland and Community Security in the hope of getting this stopped.

In true St Fillan's style parents of children from the Nursery Class assembled a parents' group to discuss how they could help repair the damage to the mud kitchen. In addition, the Smiddy who have greatly supported the school over the years immediately donated money to help with repairs.

On behalf of the whole school community we say a 'huge' thank-you to the parents involved and the Smiddy for their outstanding support.

Meet the Teachers Evening

The annual 'Meet the Teachers Evening' was held on Thursday 25th August 2016. There was a lovely turn-out and parents reported positively regarding the opportunity to meet the new Class Teacher and find out how they could best support their child in the year ahead. *Thank-you once again for your fantastic support!*

Bring and Buy

Once again the Primary 7 Bring and Buy was a fantastic success raising the grand total of **£1185.74** which helps fund the coach for travel to Lockerbie Manor in Term 3.



Thank-you parents for your support in sending in supplies and helping to make the event so successful. Well done Primary 7 -Excellent example of developing entrepreneurial skills!

Health Promoting / Improving School

At St Fillan's Primary School and Nursery Class we strive to make children aware of the importance of healthy living through the Health and Wellbeing aspect of Curriculum for Excellence and through a positive school ethos which promotes health improvement.

Recently, we have observed that a number of children are bringing in a significant amount of sticky sweets, chocolate, fizzy drinks and juice containing high amounts of sugar and other additives for playtime snacks and in lunch boxes.

Research has firmly established that when children consume high levels of sugar and other additives not only does it result in obesity and increased levels of dental decay and other conditions - it has a definite effect on learning, behaviour and how children perform generally in school.

Please can I ask parents/carers to support us in being a **Health Promoting School** by ensuring that children bring **water** to drink during school hours and snacks/packed lunches promote healthy choices.

Winter Approaching

Once again we ask that parents/carers please label items of clothing. The lost property bags are full of blazers, jackets, jumpers, cardigans and items of PE kits which all add up to a lot of money. Please check that your child has their belongings when they arrive home, especially now that the hats, scarves and gloves will start to be worn as the weather gets colder. Children at our school need to take more responsibility for their personal belongings as they can be very careless!



Reporting to Parents Evening

Will take place on Thursday 10th November 2016 3.30-8.30pm. Parents/Carers of P6 and P7 pupils are invited to bring their child to the reporting session in order that they can be part of the discussion - *if they wish to do so*.

Every family will be provided with one appointment per child. Each parent/carer is given an allocated time which the Class Teacher plans in relation to the number of children in the class. Should you require additional time to discuss any matter then we will gladly arrange a further appointment at a later date.

Please do not feel offended in any way as teachers will use timers in order to keep them on track to help avoid running over time and keeping other parents waiting.

PTA

Please support our PTA in whatever way that you are able. This group of committed parents are always ready to welcome new parents in their mission to ensure that 'all' children benefit from the help and support that their role provides. At present they are busy getting organised for Christmas parties which the children look forward to attending.

Halloween

We hope that parents will understand that we are not going to ask children to dress up this year on Halloween as we have just celebrated Roald Dahl Day and appreciate the effort parents put into making this a great day. We recognise that families may have other plans for Monday evening and therefore, we feel that it would be too much to ask!!



Children will have fun activities in their own classroom with their class teachers so they will not miss out on the occasion.

Parking - A Major Issue!

Police Scotland has asked us to remind parents of the dangers of inconsiderate parking around the environs of the school. In the past we had incidents which could have resulted in children and parents being injured. Please park your car appropriately and support us in preventing an accident happening outside our school - **IT COULD BE YOUR CHILD!!**

Parent Concerns

If you have any concerns regarding your child or other school issues then please do not hesitate to contact the school and I will arrange to meet with you as soon as possible.

Regards

Yours sincerely

Mrs Catherine Penman

Headteacher

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Diary Reminders/Updates - Term 2

- Friday 28.10.16 Flu Vaccination Programme (P1-P7)
- Thursday 31.10.16 Swimming Block 2 Commences - Primary 7
- Wednesday 2.11.16 P6/7 Cross Country Finals at Netherpollok Park
- Holyrood Public Speaking Competition (Primary 7) St Francis Primary at 6pm
- Thursday 10.11.16 Reporting to Parents' Evening 3.15pm -8.15pm

Primary 1 Registration 2016/2017 Tuesday 9.30-12.00 /Wed 9.30 -12.00 and 1.30-3.00)

- Wednesday 16.11.16 Mr L Byrne HT Holyrood Secondary to Visit Primary 7
- Monday 21.11.16 Parent Council Meeting 6.30pm
- Monday 1.12.16 PTA Christmas Parties (Information to follow)
- Friday 9.12.16 P4 Display of Knowledge (Information to follow)
- Tuesday 13.12.16 Christmas Nativity - Primary 1 and Primary 2 (Performance 1) **10.00am**
- Wednesday 14.12.16 Christmas Nativity - Primary 1 and Primary 2 (Performance 2) **1.30pm**

Week beginning Monday 12.12.16 - Friday 16.12.16 Class Christmas Parties (Information to follow)

- Friday 16.12.16 Christmas Nativity - Nursery Class **9.30am**
- Monday 19.12.16 Christmas Carol Concert for Pupils
- Wednesday 21.12.16 **School Closes for Christmas Holidays at 2.30pm**
- Thursday 5.1.17 School Re-opens for Term 3 at 9.00am

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Newsletter
Parent/Carer Comments
October 2016



Committed to working in full partnership with parents/carers, it is therefore, extremely important that we present a variety of opportunities to seek your views, thoughts and opinions which will enable us to ensure continuous improvement. Please add any comments you wish to make, sign and return to the school. These comments will form part of whole school evaluation processes for 2016/2017.

What do we do well?

What would you like to see us do better?

Thank you for your time!

Parent's/Carer's signature:

Date: