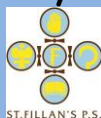


St Fillan's Primary School and Nursery Class

NEWSLETTER

Term 3

January 2017



Dear Parents/Carers

Happy New Year and welcome to Term 3 Session 2016/2017. It's lovely to see the children back to school, looking well and ready to do their best. Once again this will be a busy term with lots happening.



At present, we continue to make steady progress through the School Improvement Plan 2016/2017. As previously stated raising attainment in writing is one of our main targets for this year and this has resulted in a thorough evaluation and review of practice. It is envisaged that the development undertaken will impact on standards and pupil attainment in writing over time.

In February, we will begin development in numeracy and mathematics for the purpose of raising standards, attainment and achievement. Class Teachers will engage in professional reflection, dialogue and debate in relation to research which is designed to be a useful starting point for the purpose of ensuring learning and teaching methodology enables all children to achieve their potential and as a result raises attainment for all.

We will update you on our progress at the end of Term 4.



World of Work Day - Parents in Learning

In Term 4, on Friday 28th April, we will be having our annual '*World of Work Event*' as part of the children's Broad General Education Experience. This event aims to help children make connections with what they are learning at present and the skills required for the future in the work place. The best way to achieve this is by presenting opportunities for children to meet with real people, doing real jobs, and have opportunities to discuss and ask questions about different aspects of the workplace and specific job skills.

In school session 2015/2016, this event was a great success due to significant parental involvement together with the involvement of other businesses.

Once again we are very keen to involve our own parents/carers as we are very fortunate to have parents/carers who work in a wide variety of professions. Also, we would welcome any contacts parents might have with other professions that would further enhance this experience for the children.

If you are able to share your expertise or provide contacts - please phone Marie Fraser in the School Office to give your name and an idea of how you can help. We will be in touch with those of you who are able to take part to discuss how we can work together to make this another exciting and worthwhile experience for our children.

SCHOOL BUSINESS

Parking Again!!! - Road Safety

As you are all aware parking outside our school continues to be a major issue despite continuous appeals from the school community 'begging' all vehicle users to be mindful regarding the safety of our children. Prior to the Christmas Holiday the Parent Council highlighted their grave concerns in their newsletter. Sadly and frustratingly this has fallen on deaf ears as there has been no improvement.



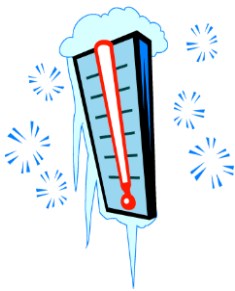
It could be your child!

Determined to succeed in resolving this issue, Police Scotland are supporting us to take forward possible improvement strategies for the purpose of avoiding a serious accident outside our school.

As part of this effort Police Scotland and the Junior Road Safety Team will visit the children on Wednesday 1st February to undertake a number of activities to help our children be more aware of the dangers in the hope that they will influence parents/carers to listen and support this much needed improvement.

Our school community police officers from Police Scotland attended the Parent Council Meeting on Monday 16th January 2017 at 6.30pm.

Heating Breakdown



We would like to take this opportunity to apologise for any inconvenience caused as a result of the recent breakdown of the heating system on the first day back after the Christmas Holiday. Under no circumstances could we have our children sitting in classrooms with temperatures of eight and nine degrees - well below the recommended temperature for learning bases and corridors.

May we also take this opportunity to thank all our parents/carers/grandparents and other contacts who responded so quickly. This was a great support which was very much appreciated.

Janitors' Industrial Action

During this time the back gate will remain closed for security reasons - Apologies for any inconvenience.



Huge Thank-you to our PTA

Once again, our fantastic PTA demonstrate the 'enormous support' they continuously give to our school. The children had a fantastic time at the PTA Christmas parties and we are eternally grateful for all their hard work and dedication - *Grateful thanks from staff and children!*

The PTA meet on the first Wednesday of every month - There is always a warm welcome to new members - please come along!

Parent Council Meeting

Next meeting - Monday 20th March at 6.30pm.

Health Promoting 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 that snacks/packed lunches promote healthy choices.

Homework Workshops - Parents in Learning

This term, as part of our on-going efforts to involve our parents/carers in their child/children's learning, we are offering parent/child homework workshops for P1-P3 every Tuesday from 3.15pm-4.15. These workshops will operate on a drop-in basis therefore, it is not necessary to attend each session. The session will aim to address any on-going or discrete homework issues and will hopefully be beneficial in helping parents support their children more effectively with homework at home.

All parents/carers with children in P1-P3 are very welcome to attend.

Christmas Charities

Baby Warehouses - Children of Bethlehem £833.00

Sister Annie (Aid to the Church in Need) Children of Aleppo £600.00

Cancer Research -£100.00

British Heart Foundation £655.00

Well Done Everyone and Thank you for your kind support!

Lost Property

Items of clothing, lunch boxes, jewellery, purses etc. continue to go unclaimed from 'lost property'!

Please check that your child has all their belongings with them when they leave school.

Questionnaire Feedback - November 2016

Please see attached feedback from questionnaires returned to school following our first Reporting to Parents' Evening in November.

Some parents commented that they feel we do not send out enough notice regarding events. At the beginning of every term we update the diary which is attached to the newsletter. However, as the term progresses we are often presented with unplanned opportunities which we generally

embrace as we do not want our children to miss worthwhile experiences and therefore, notification is short.

A small number of parents commented that they do not like the idea of letters being uploaded to the school website and would rather have a paper copy. I am sure you will appreciate that we are trying to be responsible in relation to the environment and reduce the amount of paper we use.

If any parents/carers prefer to receive a paper copy of the newsletter then please contact the school office and we will organise this for you - no problem!

Parent/Carer Concerns

If you have any concerns/questions 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. We also operate an open door policy for **urgent matters**.

Regards

Yours sincerely

Mrs Catherine Penman

Headteacher

Diary Reminders/Updates - Term 3 January 2017

- Friday 13.1.17 P6 Mass at Christ the King Church
(Children involved in The Pope Francis Award - Enrolment Service)
- Monday 16.1.17 Parent Council Meeting 6.30pm
- Friday 27.1.17 Robert Burns - Whole school activities
- Monday 30.1.17 Parents Meeting - Religious and Moral Education - God's Loving Plan **P1, P6 and P7**
Followed by short information meeting regarding Venture Week for both P6 and P7
- Friday 3.2.17 Whole school House Activity - *Wear Your House Colour Day*
- Monday 6.2.17 Meeting Parents of Primary 3 Children - *The Sacrament of Reconciliation*
Christ the King Parish Hall at 7pm
- Sunday 12.2.17 Catholic Education Week - 'Developing as a community of faith and learning'
- Thursday 2.3.17 Meeting Parents of Primary 4 Children - The Sacrament of First Holy Communion -
Christ the King Parish Hall at 7pm
- Wednesday 1.3.17 Ash Wednesday
- Monday 6.3.17 Morning Prayers start for Lent (**Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday 8.45am**)
- Friday 10.2.17 Mid Term Holiday
- Monday 13.2.17 Mid Term Holiday
- Tuesday 14.2.17 Mid Term Holiday
- Wednesday 15.2.17 In-service day (Children return to school Thursday 16.2.17)
- Monday 20.3.17 Primary 7 Venture Week at Lockerbie Manor
- Thursday 30.3.17 Reporting to Parents' Evening (2)
- Friday 31.4.17 Onesie Fun Day
School Closes for Easter Holiday at **2.30pm**
- Tuesday 18.4.17 School re opens for Term 4 at 9.00am

TERM 4

The following dates for Term 4 are provisional and still have to be confirmed - Just to help you forward plan!

Monday 24.4.17	Parent Council AGM
Wednesday 26.4.17	Primary 1 2016/2017 Induction Day 1 (Information to follow)
Thursday 28.4.17	World of Work Day Children can dress-up re Career Aspirations - Information to follow later)
Monday 1.5.17	May Holiday - School Closed
Thursday 4.5.17	INSET DAY School Closed for Children
Sunday 6.5.17	The Sacrament of First Holy Communion
Monday 8.5.17	Parent Council Meeting
Wednesday 24.5.17	Primary 1 2016/2017 Induction Day 2 (Information to follow)
Friday 26.5.17	May Holiday
Monday 29.5.17	May Holiday
Wednesday 31.5.17	Primary 7 School Show (Provisional)
Thursday 1.6.17	Primary 7 School Show (Provisional)
Monday 5.6.17	Parent Council Meeting
Friday 16.6.17	Pupil Reports to Parents
Tuesday 20.6.17	Primary 7 Mass and Graduation
Wednesday 21.6.17	Nursery Class Graduation
Tuesday 27.6.17	School Closes - Summer Holiday 1.00pm

We will continually update as Terms 3 and 4 move forward

Newsletter

Parent/Carer Comments

January 2017



**We very much welcome your comments/opinions/views as these
are valuable in relation to continuous school improvement.**

Thank you for your time!

Please return your comments addressed to - Senior Leadership

Parent's/Carer's signature

Date.....