

St Fillan's Primary School and Nursery Class

NEWSLETTER

Term 1

August 2017



Dear Parents/Carers

It is with great pleasure that I welcome you to School Session 2017/2018 and look forward to working with all parents/carers to provide our children with a positive educational experience which enables them to achieve their potential. All children are looking healthy and rested after their summer holiday and have settled exceptionally well, ready to embark on the challenges ahead.

SCHOOL ROLL 2017/2018

This year the new Primary 1 Intake was capped at 66. The school roll continues to change on a day to day basis as very often circumstances change unexpectedly for children and families in relation to moving in and out of the catchment area. The next census will be September and we will update school roll information in the next newsletter.



TEACHING STAFF

Staffing is still working to fill a number of vacant teaching posts across the city. At the moment we have been unable to fill 0.7 teacher post (3.5 days). However, thankfully, we have been able to independently source a teacher to fill the post on a temporary basis for a short period of time. This supply teacher will cover 'class teacher non-class contact time'.

As previously communicated we were hoping to have a teacher in place to backfill Mrs Igoe, in order to release her from a class committed role to enable her to undertake the Support for Learning role in relation to the *Pupil Equity Funding*. We have been informed that posts have been advertised and we await appointments. Mrs Igoe will be the class teacher for Primary 2b until this appointment is made. Mrs Gibb our Principal Teacher will job-share with Miss Callaghan in P3a.

Ms Callaghan 4 days - Monday -Thursday

Mrs Gibb 1 day - Friday

Standards and Quality Report 2016/2017 and School Improvement Plan 2017/2018

Please find attached a summary of the School Improvement Priorities for this academic session. A copy of the Standards and Quality Report 2016/2017 is also available for parents to view. If any parent/carer would like to see these documents then you are very welcome to obtain a copy from the school office. The Parent Council are also provided with a copy of both documents for their information.



Meet the Teachers Evening

The annual 'Meet the Teachers Evening' will be held on Tuesday 29.8.17 (6.00pm – 7.00pm)

6.00-6.30 (P1-P3) 6.30-7.00 (P4-P7)

The purpose of this meeting is to present you with the opportunity to meet with your child's new class teacher. We believe that this is a great way to commence the school year in partnership with home and school. In particular, **P1 -P3** teachers want to take the opportunity to explain changes regarding how homework tasks will be undertaken and how parents can support children in their progress.

On arrival at the school you are asked to make your way to your child's classroom for an 'informal meeting'. The teacher will give you information on how best to support your child throughout the year and there will be an opportunity to ask any questions you have in relation to 'supporting learning'.

If you have any concerns regarding your own child then please do not hesitate to make an appointment and we will be very happy to discuss this confidentially.

It is recognised that a number of parents have more than one child at the school and obviously want to visit all classes. It may be helpful for yourself to be accompanied by another adult. However, because the evening is 'informal' it will still be possible to visit all classes in order to meet with the teachers.

We look forward to meeting those of you who can manage and hopefully this initiative will continue to be a great success in relation to the continuous development of home-school partnership working.

PARENTS OF PRIMARY 7 CHILDREN - PLEASE NOTE



BLAIRVADACH MEETING

We invite the parents of Primary 7 children to a meeting regarding the residential visit to Blairvadach in January 2018. This meeting will follow 'Meet the Teachers' at 7.00pm in the Assembly Hall conducted by Blairvadach Staff

Nursery Class Parents

We also invite our parents of children in the Nursery Class to a 'Welcome Meeting' at the slightly later time of 6.30pm - 7.30pm. Hopefully, this will enable parents who have children in both the school and the Nursery Class some flexibility.

'Please do not bring children to these meetings as they are for parents only'

Thank you for your support

SCHOOL BUSINESS

Welcome New Staff Members:

Miss Victoria Benson (Class Teacher P6b), Mrs Caroline Craig and Miss Laura Costello (Support for Learning Workers), Ms Mary Connor (Child Development Officer -Nursery Class) and Ms Elizabeth Norton (Modern Language Teacher - French - one morning per week).

We wish them well and hope that they will be very happy at St Fillan's Primary and Nursery Class.



Welcome Our New Primary 1

A very special welcome to our new Primary 1 children and their parents/carers. The children are looking splendid and have settled very well. We wish them every success and happiness for the years ahead. We are delighted at how the 'little ones' have adapted so quickly in getting themselves organised into their lines in the morning. It is now important that parents leave children at the gate and let them walk to the yard by themselves as there will be staff there to ensure that they are just fine!

Thank you parents for your support!

School Uniform

As Headteacher, I take great pride in the way our children are presented. I want to take this opportunity to say a **'big thank you'** to all our parents for supporting our uniform policy. The children are looking very smart and a credit to themselves and their families - **Thank you!**

Please ensure that all items of clothing are labelled and your child knows where to find their name.

Very often valuable teaching time, clerical and support staff time is 'swallowed' up when children mix-up or lose items of clothing because names are not written on labels. It is always a good idea to show your child where their name is written and check after washing just in case it requires to be rewritten. Another good idea is to place a little (safety clip) badge or brooch onto blazers or jackets in order that the younger children can easily identify their own. Once again at the end of last term the Lost Property bags were full of items which cost a lot of money and already the pile is starting to grow!!! Please encourage your child to take full responsibility for their belongings.

Special Homework from the headteacher - Children to learn to tie their ties!!



IMPORTANT INFORMATION

Reminder - PE Kit

Physical Education is an important part of your child's development and therefore, it is not acceptable that children are unable to do PE because they have forgotten their PE kit. **Please ensure** that your child has their kit with them on the correct days. It is acceptable for Primary 6 and Primary 7 girls to wear black leggings under their shorts if they wish to do so. **Primary 1 and Primary 2 only** are permitted to wear their polo shirts on PE days to speed up the changing process in order that children benefit from their full allocation of PE time.

Indoor shoes

All children are asked to bring into school **black indoor shoes**. This enables us to preserve and keep the flooring around the school clean and in an acceptable condition for children working. Please could parents ask children to bring their indoor shoes home from time to time in order that the condition of shoes can be checked. Very often children are walking around in shoes that are far too small or are badly worn causing them to trip and fall.

Health and Safety

During School Hours

Your child's health and safety is paramount. School rules aim to ensure that children play safely in the school yard supervised by designated adults. We instruct children to stay away from the perimeter fence and gates at these times and not to go to the fences to talk to adults. We ask adults to refrain from doing this during school hours. **May I also remind everyone that adults are not permitted in the school yard at any time. Support staff are present in the school yard from 8.45am to ensure the safety of 'all' our children. Please do not be offended or feel unwelcome when they ask you to leave as they are just following GCC policy and procedures.**

Please be aware that it is also Glasgow City Council's Health and Safety Policy that dogs are not permitted in the school grounds at any time either walking, on a lead or being carried.

Nursery Class

You may already be aware that the Nursery Class hours have been increased and this means that the children in the Nursery Class will be in school until 4.00pm. As a result it is necessary for the gates at the side of the Nursery building to be closed by 3.20pm.

Teachers have been instructed to ensure that all classes are dismissed on time in order that the yard and front area of the school are completely cleared by 3.20pm as these gates will be closed. This will enable the children in the Nursery to partake in outdoor activities safely.

Class Teachers remind children every evening to check that they have packed their belongings and homework. On occasion, should your child forget to pack something then they will not be able to return to the building once they have been dismissed - *Fire/Health and Safety regulations!*

Safety at 3 O'clock

We ask that pre-school children **do not play** in front of the building after school is dismissed. The children in the school have also been instructed regarding this matter. Although the children leave just after three o'clock staff is still working and meetings are very often taking place in the classrooms and offices at the front of the building. In addition, please remember not to allow children to play in the car park or on the grass area in front of the cars. Unfortunately, children continued to do this last session despite being instructed not to and as a result we are concerned that a child is going to get injured.

Jewellery

It is Glasgow City Council's Policy that jewellery is not allowed to be worn during PE lessons. I ask that children leave jewellery at home on PE days to avoid upset should an item of jewellery get damaged or lost. We ask that you do not get children's ears pierced during term time as the earrings require to be removed for PE. It is unacceptable for children not to take part in PE lessons for six weeks.

Wet Mornings - Information especially for new parents

Primary 3 - Primary 7 children will come into the school as before - via the double doors into the Assembly Hall where they will be supervised by Senior Leadership and a member of Support for Learning Staff until 9.00am. Children in Primary 1 and Primary 2 are asked to make their way to the sheltered area where they will be supervised by the Janitor and a member of the Senior Leadership Team until 9.00am. Children who attend the breakfast club will continue to stay indoors.

There will be adult supervision in the school yards from 8.45 am every morning

Please do not drop children off at school too early as there will be no supervision until 8.45am

Health/Medical Issues

Please ensure that the school is notified of any health issues that your child may suffer, in order that we can make necessary provision to provide support. If your child requires to be allowed out to the toilet frequently please put this in writing for the new class teacher. In addition, please ensure that essential medicines and inhalers are not out of date. We have noted that a few require to be replaced. This is the responsibility of parents/carers and not the school.

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!!**

We also ask that parents/visitors respect '**the no entry signs**' on the gates at the entrance to the car park. Anyone with special needs should inform the janitor and we will ensure that personal needs are met.

ALERT! - ALLERGIES



It is important that everyone in our school community is fully aware that we have children who have serious nut allergies. Therefore, foods or snacks containing nuts are not permitted at any time. We ask that our parents/carers check labels to ensure that there are **no traces of nut products** in food items given as snacks or in lunch boxes. As you are aware this could be extremely dangerous for allergy sufferers.



Late coming

Although, we understand that on occasion there will be acceptable and unavoidable circumstances which cause children to be late, we ask that you ensure your child is in their class line for 9.00am. Late coming very often disrupts learning for the rest of the class. Commencing - Monday 28.8.17 late coming will be once again carefully monitored.

Reporting Absence

Please phone the absence line on **0141 287 0039** if your child is going to be off school for any reason.

If at any time there is a confidential reason for your child's absence which you would rather discuss with myself or our own clerical staff then please do not hesitate to contact the school directly.

Absence - Family holidays

It is important that family holidays **are not taken** during school time as these absences impact on children's progress and greatly affect the overall percentage of absence for the whole school which is recorded centrally.

After School Clubs

Once again throughout this school session we aim to continually improve our provision for After School Clubs, The clubs will commence in September and run in Terms 1, 2 and 3. Mrs Gibb our Principal Teacher did a fantastic job co-ordinating the programme last session and in St Fillan's that means you are given the job to do once again!!

Parent Council and Parent Teachers' Association

Extend a warm welcome to all parents/carers to join them at meetings/events and get involved in the fantastic work that they do on behalf of 'all' children.

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.

Twitter

St Fillan's Primary School and Nursery Class have active Twitter accounts. Most days we share different kinds of information to keep our school community informed e.g. real-time updates, pupils' success, details of school events and school news. The username for the school Twitter account is **@StFillansPS** and the username for the Nursery Class account is **@StFillansNursery**. We often post photographs or names of pupils (e.g. celebrating success, impressive work etc.). However, photographs and names will not appear in the same tweet without parent/carer consent. Please follow us - Check out some of the lovely 'First Day at School' pictures posted for this term.

Apologies - the first Newsletter is always a lengthy one to remind everyone of important information!

PLEASE NOTE

Newsletters and updates will be on the school website. We will send a text to inform you when to check new communications. Please inform the office if you require a paper copy and this can be arranged.

Please find attached dates for your diaries to help you plan ahead - these are always provisional as circumstances can change.

Working in Partnership

Regards

Yours sincerely

Mrs Catherine Penman

Headteacher

email: headteacher@st-fillans-pri.glasgow.sch.uk



DATES FOR DIARIES

- 17.8.17 Primary 7 Swimming Block 1 (17th August- 16th November)
- 29.8.17 Meet the Teacher Evening (6.00pm-7.00pm) See Newsletter for details.
Primary 7 Parents Meeting regarding Blairvadach 7.00pm
Nursery Class Welcome Meeting for Parents (6.30pm-7.30pm)
- 4.9.17 Parent Council Meeting 6.30pm
- 4.9.17 Primary 1 children commence full day.
- 2.10.17 October Month of the Holy Rosary – Prayers
Mon, Tues and Wed at 8.45am.- All Welcome!
- 20.11.17 NHS Flu Vaccination Programme (P1-P7) – Further information to follow.
- 9.11.17 Reporting to Parents Evening (1) 3.30pm-8.30pm
- 4.12.17 ADVENT – Morning Prayers 8.45am – Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday
All welcome!
- Christmas Parties Nursery Class – Primary 7 *Information to be confirmed*
- 12.12.17 P1 Christmas Nativity 10.00am
- 13.12.17 P1 Christmas Nativity 2.00pm
- 15.12.17 Nursery Class Nativity 10.00am
- 8.1.18 Primary 7 Venture Week at Blairvadach
- 22.3.18 Reporting to Parents Evening (2) 3.30pm-8.30pm
- 30.5.18 Primary 7 School Show (Provisional TBC)
- 31.5.18 Primary 7 School Show (Provisional TBC)
- 8.6.178 Reporting to Parents (Written Reports)
- 12.6.18 Primary 7 Thanksgiving Mass and Graduation Ceremony (Provisional)

New information will be added/amended as we progress through the session.

Please refer to school website for holidays and INSET dates



SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT PLAN

2017/2018

Priorities for development

1. Raise Attainment in Literacy – Reading and Writing (Grammar, Spelling and Reading Comprehension)
2. Raise Attainment in Numeracy and Mathematics – Glasgow Counts
3. Health and Wellbeing - Respect Me / Food Technology / Family Learning
4. Learning Teaching and Assessment (Quality in Teaching and Engagement)
5. The Curriculum - Religious and Moral Education / Digital Learning



IMPORTANT

Dear Parents and Carers

We welcome your comments, views and ideas as part of our school self-evaluation. This enables us to strive for continuous improvement.

Thank you
Catherine Penman Headteacher