



# St Fillan's Primary School and Nursery Class

## NEWSLETTER

### Term 1

### August 2019

#### **Dear Parents/Carers**

Welcome back to everyone after our summer break. We are very excited to be back at the start of term and are looking forward to working together with our school community to ensure that our children are happy, safe and secure in school. The first day when our children return is always a day of mixed emotions when our Parents and Carers wave goodbye to their loved ones and our teachers receive them with enthusiasm and excitement in anticipation of the year ahead. We look forward to settling quickly, ready to embark on the challenges ahead. In particular, welcome to our Primary 1 children who will be with us for full days which is the first year of this arrangement.



#### **SCHOOL ROLL 2019-20**

Once again our new Primary 1 Intake was capped at 66. As in previous years our school roll continues to change, sometimes on a day to day basis, as very often circumstances change unexpectedly for children and families in relation to moving into or out of our catchment area. The next census will be September and we will update school roll information in the next newsletter.

#### **SCHOOL BUSINESS**

#### **Welcome New Staff Members:**

Welcome to our new staff members for this session. Mrs Rosie McBrearty, Mr Samuel Webb and Ms Mhairi Brady have been appointed to our staff for this session. We would like to extend a warm welcome to them from everyone in our school community and we hope they will be very happy in St. Fillan's Primary and Nursery Class.

#### **Meet the Teachers Evening**



Our annual 'Meet the Teacher Evening' will be held on Thursday 5.9.19 (5.00pm – 5.45pm) **A letter detailing the schedule of this event will be distributed shortly.**

It is recognised by us that a number of Parents/Carers have more than one child at the school and obviously want to visit more than one class. 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 to attend and hopefully this initiative will continue to be a great success in relation to the continuous development of home-school partnership working.

### **Nursery Class Parents**

We also invite our Parents/Carers of children in the Nursery Class to a 'Welcome Meeting' at the same time of

5.00pm – 6.00pm. Hopefully, this will enable Parents/Carers 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**

### **Welcome to Our New Primary 1**

Our new Primary 1 children commenced their first day in school last week and have settled extremely well. On behalf of all our staff we wish to extend a warm welcome to you all and to your Parents and Carers. We wish you all every success and happiness for the years ahead.

### **Please note that P1 children are in school full-time from Wednesday 14.8.19**

We are delighted at how quickly the P1 children have adapted to school life and can get themselves organised into their lines in the morning. It is now important that Parents/Carers leave children at the gate and let them walk to the yard by themselves as there will be staff there to ensure that they have a smooth transition. Children will be collected from the infant gate at the appropriate time until the children acclimatize themselves to the exit procedures as they have done for the first few days.

***Thank you to our Parents and Carers for your support!***

### **School Uniform**

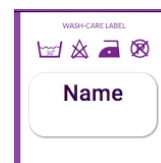


As Headteacher, I have been very proud of the children and their support of our uniform policy. I want to take this opportunity to say a **'big thank you'** to all our Parents and Carers for also being so supportive of this policy and ensuring children wear the correct shoes, jackets and P.E. equipment. In particular black or brown shoes must be worn as well as black, brown or navy jackets and of course no football colours. The children are looking very smart and are a credit to themselves and to 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 and clerical and support staff time is lost 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.

Attaching a little (safety clip) badge or brooch onto blazers or jackets in order that the younger children can easily identify their own could also be helpful. Once again at the end of last term the Lost Property bags were overflowing with items which cost a lot of money and we want to make sure that the pile doesn't start to grow!!! Please encourage your child to take full responsibility for their belongings. In the upper school especially it is useful to encourage your child to tie their own ties with minimal adult help.



## **IMPORTANT INFORMATION**

### **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/Carers 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 badly worn or damaged or are incorrectly fitting.

## **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**

The children in the Nursery Class will be in the school building and the school grounds until 4.00pm. As a result it is necessary for the gates at the side of the Nursery building to continue 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 are 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.

**NO RIDING OF BIKES OR SCOOTERS ON THE SCHOOL PREMISES PLEASE.**

### **Jewellery**

It is Glasgow City Council's Policy that jewellery is not allowed to be worn during PE lessons. We ask that children leave jewellery at home on PE days to avoid upset should an item of jewellery get damaged or lost. We also ask that you do not get children's ears pierced during term time as the earrings require to be removed for PE. As PE is a core subject any absence from PE for an extended period due to earrings is not acceptable.

### **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 our janitor, a member of the Senior Leadership Team and support staff 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 and in inclement weather your child will not be able to access the building. Children can attend breakfast club any morning whatever the weather.**

### **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!**

Unfortunately despite many interventions throughout the year there have still been instances of parking causing a variety of issues near the school. Last year Police Scotland worked closely with us on a variety of safety initiatives and will continue to be involved with us this session. They have asked us to remind Parents/Carers of the dangers of inconsiderate parking around the environs of the school as there have been complaints from concerned residents. In the past we had incidents which could have resulted in children and Parents/Carers 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/Carers/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 lunchboxes. 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 26.8.19 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. Absences must be reported by the named contact for the child. Absences should be reported on the 1<sup>st</sup> 2<sup>nd</sup> 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> day (if applicable) of illness before 09.30. Should there be difficulties getting through to the absence line Parents/Carers are advised that they can report absences using the **online form** by visiting <https://www.glasgow.gov.uk/pupilabsence> . This system has been in place since August 2018. Parents/Carers should register with 'myaccount' to access this. This will help address the difficulties accessing the pupil absence reporting line at peak periods, particularly if Parents/Carers don't have time to wait or redial. A pupil's sickness absence must be reported **prior to 09.30 am** on the day of the absence. Parents/Carers may receive notification from school if a pupil is not reported absent before 09.30.

If at any time there is a confidential reason for your child's absence which you would rather discuss with me, Mrs. Henderson, Mrs. Hamilton 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. It is contrary to Glasgow City Council's policy on attendance to remove your child from school for holidays during term time.

## **After School Clubs**

Once again throughout this school session we aim to continually improve our provision of After School Clubs, The clubs will commence in September and run throughout the year. Mrs. Gibb, our Principal Teacher, did a fantastic job coordinating 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 our children. Details of Meetings will be on Twitter and displayed in the school reception area.

## **Parent Concerns**

If you have any concerns regarding your child or other school issues then please do not hesitate to contact the school and an appointment can be arranged with Mrs. Henderson, Mrs. Hamilton or myself.

## 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! All our newsletters will be available on the website only and through a link on twitter in an effort to reduce printing costs.

## 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.

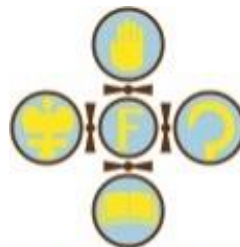
I will send dates for your diaries to help you plan ahead as soon as possible– these will, as always, be provisional as circumstances can change at short notice.

## Working in Partnership

Regards  
Yours sincerely,

Mr. Brian Bourke  
Headteacher

email: [headteacher@st-fillans-pri.glasgow.sch.uk](mailto:headteacher@st-fillans-pri.glasgow.sch.uk)



ST.FILLAN'S P.S.