

St Fillan's Primary School and Nursery Class



NEWSLETTER

TERM 2
NOVEMBER 2017

Dear Parents/Carers

Welcome back to Term 2 Session 2017/2018. 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 developments outlined in the School Improvement Plan.

Priority 1 - Raise attainment in Literacy

Throughout Term 1 teaching staff have undertaken professional development in relation to the introduction of new resources and teaching methodology to support raising attainment in Literacy and English. Our main focus is - reading comprehension, correct use of grammar and improving spelling skills.



Priority 2 - Raising attainment in Numeracy and Mathematics



Throughout Term 2 we will continue to develop '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. We have purchased a variety of resources to support this development.

Priority 3 - Raising attainment in Health and Wellbeing



On INSET Day 3, teaching staff revisited Health and Wellbeing Policies to ensure all aspects of the Health and Wellbeing Curriculum are being included in planning for learning and teaching. Our focus for School Session 2017/2018 is Food Technology and we have identified and purchased necessary resources to support learning and teaching and children's experiences. Staff also refreshed their 'Respect Me' training taking a close look at the impact of pupils' behaviour. This is particularly relevant leading up to Anti-Bullying Week 2017 (13-17 November). The final staff session looked at 'All Behaviour is Communication' and how this links to the principles of nurture.

Priority 5 Religious and Moral Education

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.



From November 2017 - November 2018 we will be marking 100 years since the 1918 Education (Scotland) Act together with Catholic schools across Scotland. In learning about the historic significance of this unique act, our children will be exploring the Past, Present and Future of Catholic schools.

SCHOOL BUSINESS

Meet the Teachers Evening

The annual 'Meet the Teachers Evening' was held on Tuesday 29th August 2017. There was a lovely turn-out and parents reported positively regarding the opportunity to meet their child's 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 **£1462.70**. Children have chosen to send some of the money to SCIAF and UNICEF. The remainder of the money raised will enable us to purchase sets of new novels.

Thank-you parents and PTA 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 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 label items of clothing. The lost property bags are once again full of blazers, jackets, jumpers, cardigans and items of PE kits which all adds 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 rather careless!

Reporting to Parents Evening

Will take place on Thursday 9th November 2017 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 should now have received 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 as teachers will use timers to keep them on track in order to help avoid running over time and keeping other parents waiting.



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

The children had a great day in school celebrating Halloween. All children and teachers looked fantastic with creativity in abundance. A fun day was had by all.

M&M Theatre Company

On the first day back to school after the October week holiday the children were visited by the M&M Theatre Company who performed Jack and the Beanstalk - A quality performance enjoyed by all children.

Parking - Continues to be 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!!**



Safety - School Car Park

Please ensure - When entering the school at any time of the day, everyone must walk through the main pedestrian gates and not through the gates at the car park. We are becoming increasingly concerned regarding the number of parents who are walking children through the car park - especially parents of children in the Nursery Class - **This has to stop before someone is injured!**

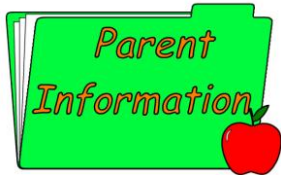
The gates at the car park are closed at **8.50am - 9.05am and 2.50pm-3.10pm** to ensure that there are no moving vehicles while the children are entering and leaving school premises. Please support us in keeping everyone safe.

Parent Council

Please visit the Parent Council website in order to keep up to date with current newsletters and matters which the Parent Council is taking forward on behalf of the School Community.



Communication



Parents who have been in the school reception area recently may have noticed the new information monitor that has been installed to the right of the reception desk. Continuously seeking innovative ways to improve links of communication we would welcome your ideas in relation to helping us use this resource creatively. We have invited the PTA and Parent Council to make good use of this additional form of communication.

Parent Concerns

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

On occasion, parents inform that other parents are unhappy regarding something that has happened in school. I am sure you will appreciate that if parents don't contact us directly regarding any concern/issue then we are unaware and unable to address/resolve matters.

We are here to help at all times!

Regards

Yours sincerely

Mrs Catherine Penman

Headteacher

DATES FOR DIARIES

TERM 2 UPDATE

- 1.11.17 Cross Country P6/P7
- 9.11.17 Reporting to Parents Evening (1) 3.30pm-8.30pm
- 13.11.17 NHS Visual Screening P7
- 16.11.17 Public Speaking Competition Holyrood Secondary 4.30pm (P7)
- 20.11.17 NHS Flu Vaccination Programme (P1-P7)
- 23.11.17 Swimming (Block 2)
- (Week beginning)**
- 4.12.17 ADVENT - Morning Prayers 8.45am - Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday
All welcome!
- 4.12.17 PTA Christmas (Evening) Disco P1 & 2; P5 & 6 Times to follow
- 5.12.17 PTA Christmas (Evening) Disco P3 & 4 Times to follow
- 8.12.17 P4a and P4b Displays of Knowledge 2pm (Information from children to follow)
- 12.12.17 P1 Christmas Nativity 10.00am
- 13.12.17 P1 Christmas Nativity 2.00pm
- 15.12.17 Nursery Class Nativity 10.00am
Christmas Café P6 & P7 at 2pm
- 18.12.17 P5a and P5b Displays of Knowledge 10am (Information to follow)
- 8.1.18 Primary 7 Venture Week at Blairvadach
February 2018 Catholic Education Week (Date TBC)
- 22.3.18 Reporting to Parents Evening (2) 3.30pm-8.30pm
- 30.5.18 Sacrament of Confirmation (Primary 7) at Christ the King Church 7pm
Primary 7 School Show (Dates TBC)
- 8.6.178 Reporting to Parents (Written Reports)
- 12.6.18 Primary 7 Thanksgiving Mass and Graduation Ceremony (Provisional TBC)
Information to be confirmed for each class for Christmas Parties for Nursery Class - Primary 7

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

Please refer to [school website](#) for holidays and INSET dates

School closes for Christmas Holiday on Wednesday 20th December 2017 at **2.30pm**

See next page

Newsletter

Parent/Carer Comments

October 2016



ST.FILLAN'S P.S.

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 2017/2018.

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.....