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ST.FILLAN'S P.S.

Weekly Newsletter

Friday 7th February 2025

Dear Parents/Carers,

I am sure you are aware that Fr Peter will be retiring at the end of the month from his position as Parish Priest in Christ the King. I would like to take this opportunity to extend our deepest thanks to him for being a loyal friend to the school over the last 26 years and send him our best wishes for the future. Fr Peter has shaped the spiritual journey of thousands of children in that period, and it is extremely important for us to recognise what a positive contribution he has made to helping St. Fillan's maintain its unique status as a strong faith school.

Good luck for the future Fr Peter.

Confirmation

We extend our sincere congratulations to the P7 pupils who received the Sacrament of Confirmation last night in the Parish of Christ the King. Grateful thanks to Parents/Carers, Staff and the Parish who helped prepare the pupils for their final sacrament of initiation. Thanks to Archbishop Nolan and Fr Peter who led such a beautiful and prayer celebration. The pupils were an absolute credit to themselves, their Parents/Carers, their school and parish. We also extend congratulations to Owen and Nicholas who were Confirmed in Holycross Parish on Tuesday evening.



Please continue keep this wonderful group of young people in your prayers.

All P7 children also enjoyed their annual retreat in the church hall on Wednesday. Many thanks to our PTA who provided a pizza lunch. We can assure you that it went down well! Thanks also to Parents/Carers who kindly volunteered to assist with the retreat.



First Communion

Some Parents of P5 pupils have very generously and thoughtfully offered to pass on First Communion dresses that are in excellent condition for girls in our current P4 class. If you are interested, please contact Mrs. Hamilton via our Forms system.

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Industrial Action

You may be aware that one of the teachers' unions, the EIS have planned industrial action for Thursday 20th February. At the time of writing, I have not yet received any official notification from Glasgow City Council and do not know the implications this may have for our school.

Staffing update

We are delighted to welcome our Principal Teacher Mrs McAvoy back to our staff team after her absence. We would like to extend our thanks to Mrs Martin who has been our Acting Principal Teacher during this period. Mrs Martin will continue in her substantive post as P7 class teacher. We also have to say goodbye to Ms. Duffy who has been working in the school since August in the Hive. We would like to thank Ms. Duffy for being such a valuable member of the team during this period. Ms. Duffy will be working in St. Michael's in Parkhead from next week.

We are also welcoming back Ms. Cohen after her maternity leave. Ms Simpson who has been covering Ms Cohen's maternity leave will be leaving us for a new post in Shawlands Primary School. We would like to wish Ms Simpson all the very best for the future and thank her for her hard work across a range of stages during her time in St Fillan's.

Local Parking in Crompton Avenue

We have continued to appeal to Parents/Carers (and family/friends who you ask to support you at arrival/dismissal times), to adhere to the 'School Safe' parking regulations. This week we had the Police attend the school to address the increasing number of vehicles that are continuing to park on Crompton Avenue outside the school. We have been made aware that some Parents are continuing to park at the very end of Crompton Avenue and Carmunnock Road - where you cannot be seen by school staff and/or our JRSO Committee. I have also tried to engage directly with parents and carers to implore people to adhere to our request not to park anywhere outside the school in the Safer Streets Area. All information relating to St. Fillan's 'School Streets' is available [here](#).

New parking regulations have come into force across our city from Glasgow City Council. Pavement parking is now banned in many streets around our school. I urge you once again to update yourself on [these changes](#) to pavement parking. I have been informed that fines will be issued to those who fail to comply.

Makaton

Thank you to our Makaton Committee. Here is the word all pupils in school will learn next week.:

https://youtu.be/EyqjStX-Ez8?si=IGiJOZVsjNVx_5I



SFA Trials for Holyrood

JD Performance Schools Applications for the 2025 intake of Scottish FA JD Performance School pupils are now open.

The next intake is open to Primary 7 pupils entering S1 in August 2025 with the programme for players who are eligible to play for Scotland. All information is available [here](#).

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Social Media Update

There have been several queries around our use of the social media platform X (previously known as Twitter).

As we navigate the ever-changing tech scene and the complexities of social media, now seems like the time for schools to critically assess their engagement with platforms like X and consider safer, more supportive alternatives for the benefit of our school community.

Additionally, recent changes in terms and conditions on various social media platforms have raised concerns regarding safety, privacy and the overall well-being of our pupils and families. We believe it is essential to prioritise these values in our communication efforts.

Moving forward, we have taken the decision to stop posting any information about our pupils on X/Twitter. We will continue to focus on more direct forms of communication, such as newsletters, emails and updates on our school website.

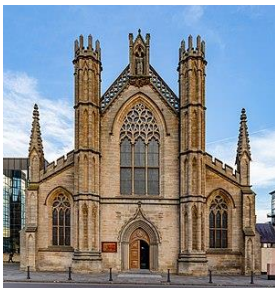
We have also joined Bluesky. It is a very similar platform to the early days of X/Twitter. The App is free and is available on Google Play, Apple's App Store etc. We kindly ask that you give consideration to downloading Bluesky and follow us [@stfillansps.bsky.social](https://bsky.social)

We appreciate your understanding and support as we make this transition. If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to reach out via the Forms system.

Communicating with the school leadership team

Please remember that we continue to use the form system to facilitate communication. If you need to get in touch or if there is something that you wish to discuss please use the link [here](#) and the matter will be addressed as soon as possible. This form should not be used to report absences as this should be reported to the school office. Our school office closes at 4pm so there is no facility to forward calls to the Leadership Team work beyond this time. However, Mrs Hamilton, Mrs Gibb and myself work beyond this time, so the MS Forms system is the best way to make contact.

Invitation from St Andrew's Cathedral, Glasgow



A letter from Very Rev. David J Canon Wallace:

Many people who are neurodiverse find it difficult to attend and take part in Sunday Mass. Often the sensory environment is too stimulating and sometimes people and families feel that they are not welcome, or judged, especially if they find it difficult to sit still or be quiet or if their behaviour is different from others in the congregation. This situation may apply to your family.

At St. Andrew's Cathedral we hope to offer an adapted Mass that will better meet the needs of the neurodiverse members of our community and their families. We hope it would be a stigma-free and less stimulating environment in which everyone would feel accepted for who they are. Initially we would plan to have one Mass a month, starting at Easter.

To help our planning we would first like to listen to people who might be interested in coming to this Mass and to their families. We will have a meeting in the Cathedral on Sunday 9 February at 2.30 and we would like to welcome you if you are interested or have something to offer that would help our planning. If you are unable to make this meeting or would prefer to speak to someone privately

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or to share your thoughts by email, you can contact Lisbeth Raeside on 0141 770 5055 or email lisbeth.spred@btconnect.com

Very Rev. David J Canon Wallace

St. Andrew's Cathedral House

90 Dunlop Street

Glasgow

G1 4ER

Have a great weekend!

Best wishes,

Mr Brian Bourke

Headteacher

Calendar Update

Please find attached an updated calendar of events for the next couple of terms which I hope you find useful. We will highlight in yellow any new additions of events to the newsletter when we announce them to help you keep track of dates.

Sunday 9th February	Parents' meeting with St Andrew's Cathedral for adapted Mass 2.30pm
Monday 17th February	February Holiday
Tuesday 18th February	February Holiday
Wednesday 19th February	February Inservice Day (school closed to Pupils)
Friday 28th February	Celebrating Success Assembly
Wednesday 19th March	Parents' Night #1
Thursday 20th March	Parents' Night #2
Friday 28th March	Celebrating Success Assembly
Monday 31st March	Reconciliation for P3 pupils; 7pm Christ the King Parish Church
Friday 4th April	2.30pm Close for Easter
Tuesday 22nd April	Return to school
Saturday 26th April	10am and 12 noon Masses First Holy Communion for P4
Monday 5th May	May Day Bank Holiday
Friday 16th May	Celebrating Success Assembly

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Thursday 22nd May	School Inservice
Friday 23rd May	Holiday
Monday 26th May	Holiday
Tuesday 10th June	Holyrood Day 1 Visit for P7
Wednesday 11th June	Holyrood Day 2 Visit for P7
Thursday 12th June	Holyrood Day 3 Visit for P7 Holyrood Information evening for parents of P7
Friday 13th June	Celebrating Success Assembly
Thursday 19th June	2pm P7 Graduation and Leavers Mass
Friday 20th June	Nursery Graduation
Wednesday 25th June	Close 1pm for Summer

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