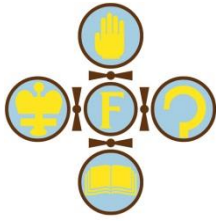


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ST.FILLAN'S P.S.

## Friday Update 20<sup>th</sup> November 2020

Dear Parents/Carers,

Following the governmental announcement of the elevation of restrictions in the Glasgow area, I wanted to thank you all for supporting the school and for your understanding of the challenges that we have in trying to ensure school is as normal as is practical despite the continuing significant changes that we have to implement.

### **Tier 4 Government restrictions**

As you are aware Glasgow is one of 11 Local Authorities placed into Level 4 of the current COVID-19 restrictions. Please see the link to the letter issued by the Education Directorate on our school website. <https://tinyurl.com/yykvn247>

The government guidance on level 4 restrictions is found here

<https://www.gov.scot/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-protection-levels/pages/protection-level-4/>

This also provides information and guidance on restrictions on meeting others indoors and outdoors, shared parenting, going into some else's home and extended households. As a GCC school it is our responsibility to ensure that all families, staff and the whole school community are adhering to the most p to date government guidelines

Tier 4 restrictions are significant in terms of the impact on our school. Our priority continues to be the safeguarding of the health and safety of all the children and the staff. This is of paramount importance. We have to limit the amount of movement within the school for staff in terms of delivering messages or speaking to individual children. In order to help reduce the risk of virus transmission we would ask that you do not contact the office to deliver a message to your child unless it is an emergency. Messages should not be left regarding packed lunches, water bottles etc. This will assist us greatly in helping safeguard all our staff and our clerical support team in particular.

Even under the current restrictions we are trying to ensure that your child experiences a 'normal' school day. However, please understand that a significant amount of work is being undertaken by all staff to ensure that this is possible.

If there is a **matter of urgency** that you wish to discuss or highlight to a member of the SLT please use the link below and the matter will be addressed as soon as possible.

[https://email.gsn.local/owa/redir.aspx?C=OCAwvqSK0e3VHZJtWNDly1B5Xc\\_65TDRiZxGISnLVe\\_8KPr aUUVYCA..&URL=https%3a%2f%2fforms.office.com%2fPages%2fResponsePage.aspx%3fid%3doyzTz M4Wj0KVQTctawUZKTFrmVCm7WIHt\\_dWm\\_si5J9UMFZHSjRRT0JWUjJINKpOVzhKMDc5TkxYRC4u](https://email.gsn.local/owa/redir.aspx?C=OCAwvqSK0e3VHZJtWNDly1B5Xc_65TDRiZxGISnLVe_8KPr aUUVYCA..&URL=https%3a%2f%2fforms.office.com%2fPages%2fResponsePage.aspx%3fid%3doyzTz M4Wj0KVQTctawUZKTFrmVCm7WIHt_dWm_si5J9UMFZHSjRRT0JWUjJINKpOVzhKMDc5TkxYRC4u)

**As we are now in Tier 4 it is important that we ensure that pick up and drop off is as efficient as possible and the minimum amount of contact should be made with other households.**

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### PE in schools

The advisory sub-group has indicated that advice on physical education in schools should remain broadly in line with advice in the community going forwards, in order to ensure consistency and better support compliance. Guidelines on physical education will therefore be reviewed and updated regularly to ensure appropriate alignment. **As we are in Level 4, PE will revert back to outdoors from Monday the 23<sup>rd</sup> of November.**

### COVID related absences

If your child or a member of your household develops symptoms of COVID 19 and **goes for a COVID test it is essential that this information is communicated directly with the school** so that we can update our records accordingly. Please arrange to collect your child from school if this situation arises **during the school day**. If a child displays any of the symptoms of COVID please do not send them to school. It is also essential that any siblings who attend school remain at home until the test results are confirmed as negative.

**Due to current circumstances, please phone the school office to report all absences both COVID and non-COVID.**

### Interim Reports

Your child's Interim Report will be sent to you by the end of next week. The reports will be quarantined for the requisite period of time before being sent home.

### Holiday Meal entitlement

The Scottish Government have provided Local Authorities additional funding for children **currently in receipt of Free School Meals (FSM)** to receive a food payment as part of the Holiday Hunger Programme over the following school holidays:

- Christmas 2020
- February 2021 Mid Term Break
- Easter 2021

The payment will be made in **December 2020** and will cover all **3 holiday periods** noted above.

**Please Note: Only children eligible for Free school Meals (FSM) will be entitled to this payment.**

As all **P1 to P4** pupils automatically receive Free School Meals as part of a national and local initiative it is important to note that **only** those families in receipt of a qualifying benefit are eligible for this additional payment. The Local Authority have undertaken an exercise to identify and 'auto-entitle' P1-4 pupils who are eligible via qualifying benefits but who have not yet made an application for Free School Meals via the CBS Grants Team. This auto-entitlement will continue until the pupil reaches the end of P4 at which point parent/carers must make an application via the FSM application process.

**IMPORTANT:** All payments will be made by bank transfer therefore if parents have not previously provided CBS Grants Team with bank details, i.e. for Footwear & Clothing Grants, they will now need to provide these details no later than **14th December 2020** via the online Enquiry Form at:

<https://www.glasgow.gov.uk/schoolsandlearning>

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There may be some families who qualify for this payment and have previously not done so. Full details of qualifying benefits and the application process are available here <https://www.glasgow.gov.uk/schoolsandlearning>

### Google Classrooms

A number of families are still reporting difficulties accessing Google Classrooms. **It is essential that all children are completing the set homework each week**, as homework is directly related to classwork and ongoing assessment. As we have stated previously, you must contact Mrs Gibb through the form system for digital support if you are still not able to access. Mrs Gibb has supported a number of families and will be able to help you.

### St Fillan's Loves Reading

Keep us up to date with your Reading Challenge **on twitter@StFillanPS #StFillan'sLovesReading #GlasgowLovesReading20**

It has been lovely seeing the children engaging in our whole school challenge and developing their love of reading. Keep up the good work everyone!!!

### Christmas cards

As we enter tier 4 we remind children not to bring in objects or items from home that could potentially lead to cross contamination. In order to help us keep everyone safe, unfortunately we will have to include Christmas Cards in this at this time. If you could please explain to your child that we are unable to allow the children to exchange cards we would be very grateful.

### Sumdog challenge.

Congratulations and well done to all the children who have become involved in the latest SUMDOG CHALLENGE. It has been wonderful to see the level engagement from our school once again with a total of 83,421 correct answers from St Fillan's pupils. In particular a special mention goes to Mrs Brennen and her P4c pupils for being top of Glasgow schools leaderboard on Tuesday and finished 7<sup>th</sup> overall in the whole city.



### In November We Remember

As we have done for the month of November we remember the friends and family of our school community who have gone to their rest. We ask once again for our Patron Saint to bring comfort to those who need it most.

Dear St. Fillan

You lived your life studying God's word and bringing His love to others.

Help us today to listen to God's voice, to hear His special message for us

And to show His love to everyone we meet.

We make this prayer through Christ Our Lord. Amen

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I would like to thank you all for your continued support of our school.

Kind regards,

Mr Brian Bourke

Headteacher.

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