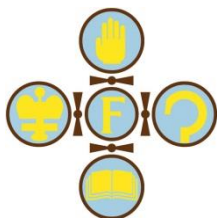


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ST.FILLAN'S P.S.

Newsletter

Friday 22nd January 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

We hope that you are all settling into remote learning as following the Scottish Government announcement on Tuesday we now know that we will be continuing this way of working for some time. As always we are here to support you and if you wish to contact us please do so through the usual form system by clicking [here](#) or from the school website.

Key worker's children attending school

The number of requests for keyworker provision is extremely high again this week. Scottish Government advice is that we should have a minimal number of staff and children present in the school building.

As per government guidance, you **must** only request key worker provision on days both adults (if applicable) are required to work outside of the home. **On any days where an adult is working from home in your household, even if they are a keyworker, your child must remain at home.**

Scottish Government definitions issued in March 2020:

Both parents must be key workers

Parents and carers should be aware that other family members, such as grandparents can provide childcare in the first instance.

Keyworkers:

- Health and Care workers directly supporting COVID response, and associated staff; Health and Care workers supporting life threatening emergency work, as well as critical primary and community care provision; Energy suppliers (small numbers identified as top priority already); staff providing childcare/learning.
- All other Health and Care workers, and wider public sector workers providing emergency/critical welfare services (for example: fire, police, prisons, social workers), as well as those supporting our Critical National Infrastructure, without whom serious damage to the welfare of the people of Scotland could be caused.
- All workers (private, public or third sector) without whom there could be a significant impact on Scotland (but where the response to COVID-19, or the ability to perform essential tasks to keep the country running, would not be severely compromised).

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We have also had a large number of requests for families looking to use key worker provision for childcare. These requests have been mostly from families who do not have key worker status but where they are struggling to support their child with remote learning.

While we want to be supportive in whatever way we can please understand that we are not able offer key worker provision if you do not have key worker status. As we have advised in previous communication we understand each family's circumstances are different and we know a large numbers of our parents and carers are currently working from home. Each family should try to find the balance of remote learning and working that is most appropriate for them.

Remote learning

We are very pleased with the high level of engagement from our children. The teachers are grateful for the kind and supportive messages that they have received from our parents. Please remember that when your child is at school they don't have one to one adult support throughout the school day and therefore you should continue to encourage them to work as independently as possible at home.

MS Teams

We are 'attempting' to engage the children though live assemblies via MS Teams on Thursdays for the infants and Tuesdays for the upper school. We are hoping that this will be a very positive experience for all the children and staff involved as it will be lovely to see the each other face to face. When children are downloading Teams, please ensure they end their Glow information with @glow.sch.uk

Please do not worry if you are not able to join the assembly, as hopefully we will resolve any issues over the coming weeks. Please also bear with us as we are training ourselves to use this technology and it might take some trial and error to get it right for everyone!

Best start grant

Some parents enrolling their children for school starting in August will be eligible for the [Best Start Grant School Age Payment](#). Click the link for more details and how to apply if you meet the criteria.

Our whole school community has been affected by a number of bereavements over the last few months and very sadly Mr Bourke's mother passed away in the early hours of yesterday morning. We know his family will appreciate your support and prayers at this time.

Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord; And let perpetual light shine upon them. May they rest in peace. Amen.

Thank you for all your support in these very difficult times.

Mrs Hamilton and Mrs Henderson

Depute Headteachers

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