

St Fillan's Primary School and Nursery Class

NEWSLETTER

Term 1
August 2015



Dear Parents/Carers

It is with great pleasure that I welcome you to School Session 2015/2016 and look forward to working with all parents/carers to provide our children with a positive educational experience which enables them to achieve their potential.

Challenging Start to 2015/2016

As you are all aware we have had a very challenging start to this school session due to:

- Re-classification of the whole school

- Re-organisation of space to create a new classroom

- Unexpected shortfall in staffing allocation due to a shortage of Denominational Teachers

We fully understand the upset that this has caused for everyone involved but these circumstances are completely outwith our control. I trust that our parents/carers know us well enough by now to realise that this is definitely not what we would want for our school community.

Teacher Vacancy - Primary 2a

On Friday 7th August, I first became aware of the staffing situation and since then have been in continuous correspondence with Primary Staffing in an attempt to get this matter resolved. I have now been informed that a teacher has been appointed to St Fillan's Primary but will not start until Monday 31st August. This teacher will be full time for Primary 2a. Unfortunately, we still have a shortfall of 3 days. Until we have our full complement of staff we will manage the situation as best we possibly can to ensure that learning and teaching progresses as normal.

Job-share teaching posts

We have also been informed that a number of parents/carers are unhappy that Primary 1b will have two job-share teachers. I am sure you will understand that very often teachers' personal circumstances - like others, can unexpectedly change, resulting in them having to reduce their working hours.

Please be reassured that this is managed effectively by the Senior Leadership Team together with the class teachers. Close monitoring and effective communication ensures a smooth transition for learning and teaching on a weekly basis. Very often classes can benefit from a variety of expertise in different areas of the curriculum.

We are extremely grateful to Mrs Callaghan P1b and Mrs Bark P6a who have adjusted their own personal arrangements in the short term to assist with the staff shortfall. This will enable us to ensure that learning and teaching is not affected for the children involved.

Meet the Teachers Evening

The annual 'Meet the Teachers Evening' will be held on Thursday 27th August 2015 at 6.00pm - 7.00pm. The purpose of this meeting is to present you with the opportunity to meet with your child's new class teacher. We believe that this is a great way to commence the school year in partnership with home and school.

On arrival at the school you are asked to make your way to your child's classroom for an 'informal meeting'. The teacher will give you information on how best to support your child throughout the year and there will be an opportunity to ask any questions you have in relation to 'supporting learning'. The class teacher will also give you a summarised copy of the revised homework policy for 2015/2016.

If you have any concerns regarding your own child then please do not hesitate to make a separate appointment when we will be very happy to discuss this confidentially.

It is recognised that a number of parents have more than one child at the school and obviously want to visit all classes. 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 and hopefully this initiative will continue to be a great success in relation to the continuous development of home-school partnership working.

We also invite our parents of children in the Nursery Class to a 'Welcome Meeting' at the slightly later time of 6.30pm - 7.30pm. Hopefully, this will enable parents 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'

Parents Primary 2a

We are inviting you to meet with Ms Tinney Class Teacher on Thursday 10th September at 2.00pm.

Curriculum for Excellence

Once again we have produced an ambitious School Improvement Plan which strives to continually keep abreast of Government and Local Authority Guidelines for continuous improvement.

Please find attached a summary of the School Improvement Plan for 2015/2016 which aims to ensure clear communication for all stakeholders regarding our main priorities for improvement. It is believed that this will enable our parents and partners to focus on these priorities when undertaking purposeful whole school evaluations.

Summary of School Improvement Plan 2015/2016 attached

Throughout the school year our parents/carers will be updated on the progress being made in relation to the School Improvement Plan and any other developments that arise as part of continuous improvement.

SCHOOL BUSINESS

Welcome New Staff Members:

Mrs A Gallacher P2b, Mrs J Fairley P5a/P4c, Miss S. Porchetta P7a and Ms C. Tinney P2a
We wish our new teachers well and hope that they will be very happy at St Fillan's Primary and Nursery Class.

Goodbye Mr Paul Connolly

During the Summer holiday, Mr Connolly Class Teacher, made a decision to leave teaching and embark on an exciting new personal venture. Everyone at St Fillan's Primary 'Thank' Mr. Connolly for his contribution to the school and wish him well.

Welcome New Primary 1

A very special welcome to our new Primary 1 children and their parents/carers. The children are looking splendid and have settled very well. We wish them much success and happiness for the years ahead.

We are delighted at how the 'little ones' have adapted so quickly in getting themselves organised into their lines in the morning. Thank-you parents for your support!

School Uniform

As Headteacher, I take great pride in the way our children are presented. I want to take this opportunity to say a '**big thank you**' to all our parents for supporting our uniform policy. The children are looking very smart and an absolute credit to themselves and 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, clerical and support staff time is 'swallowed' up 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. Another good idea is to place a little (safety clip) badge or brooch onto blazers or jackets in order that the younger children can easily identify their own.

Once again at the end of last term the Lost Property bags were full of items which cost a lot of money. Please encourage your child to take full responsibility for their belongings.

Special Homework from the headteacher - Children to learn to tie their ties!!



IMPORTANT INFORMATION

Reminder - 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.

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.

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.

Nursery Class

You may already be aware that the Nursery Class hours have been increased and this means that the children in the Nursery Class will be in school until 4.00pm. As a result it is necessary for the gates at the side of the Nursery building 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 activities outdoors 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 regulations!*

Safety at 3 O'Clock

We ask that children do not play in front of the building after school is dismissed. 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. We are concerned that a child is going to get injured.

Jewellery

It is Glasgow City Council's Policy that jewellery is not allowed to be worn during PE lessons.

I ask that children leave jewellery at home on PE days to avoid upset should an item of jewellery get damaged or lost. We ask that you do not get children's ears pierced during term time as the earrings require to be removed for PE. It is unacceptable for children not to take part in PE lessons for six weeks.

Wet Mornings - Information especially for new parents

Primary 3 to Primary 7 children will come into the school as before - via the fire exit doors into the Assembly Hall where they will be supervised by Senior Management 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 the Janitor, a member of Support for Learning Staff and a member of the Senior Management Team until 9.00am. Children who attend the breakfast club will continue to stay indoors.

There will be adult supervision in the school yards from 8.45am every morning

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. 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!

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!!**

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 lunch boxes. 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 24.8.15 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. The information sheet which was sent home on Friday for P2-P7 is attached to this newsletter for Primary 1 parents/carers.

If at any time there is a confidential reason for your child's absence which you would rather discuss with myself or our own clerical staff then please do not hesitate to contact the school directly.

Return of Pupil Information

Please check your child's bag incase they forget to inform you that there is a very important envelope with forms which we ask you to update and return to the school immediately. Please ensure that you carefully record 'all' information required regarding your child/children e.g. medical conditions/vital medication (insulin/inhalers etc.) / special needs - (Asbergers, Autism, Downs Syndrome etc.) as this important information is uploaded on to the IT system.

After School Clubs

Once again throughout this school session we aim to continually improve our provision for After School Clubs, The clubs will commence in September and run in Terms 1, 2 and 3. Mrs Gibb our Principal Teacher did a fantastic job co-ordinating the programme last session and in St Fillan's that means you get it all 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 'all' children.

Parent Concerns

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

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:

- real-time updates
- pupils' success
- details of school events
- school news

The username for the school Twitter account is **@StFillansRCP** and the username for the Nursery Class account is **@St FillanNursery**.

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/carers consent.

Please follow us - the more the merrier - Check out some of the lovely 'First Day at School' pictures posted for this term.

Apologies - the first Newsletter is always a lengthy one!

Working in Partnership

Regards

Yours sincerely

**Catherine Penman
Headteacher**

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

St Fillan's Primary School and Nursery Class

Parent/Carer Comments

August 2014



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 journey together. 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 2015/2016.

Thank you for your time!

Parent's/Carer's signature

Date.....

**Parent/Carers Information
Classes
2015 / 2016**

Class	Class Teacher
P1a	Miss L Foley
P1b	Mrs G Callaghan Mrs C Henderson (Jobshare)
P1c	Mrs L Paxton
P2a	VACANCY
P2b	Mrs R Shearer
P2c	Mrs A Gallagher
P3a	Mrs C. McLeod
P3b	Mrs E Paterson
P4a	Miss L. McAleese
P4b	Ms G McGuinness
P5a/P4c	Mrs J.Fairly
P5b	Mrs B Devine
P6a/P5c	Mrs P Adams
P6b	Mrs M Brennen
P6c	Mrs C Bark Mrs B Gibb (Jobshare)
P7a	MissS Porchetti
P7b	Mrs P Lafferty
P7c	Mrs T. Martin