

St Fillan's Primary School and Nursery Class

NEWSLETTER

Term 1
August 2016



ST.FILLAN'S P.S.

Dear Parents/Carers

It is with great pleasure that I welcome you to School Session 2016/2017 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.

SCHOOL ROLL - 2016/2017

This year the new Primary 1 Intake was capped at 66 which means that our school roll is sitting at 476 at the moment. It is important to be aware that this can change on a day to day basis as very often circumstances change unexpectedly for children and families in relation to leaving and moving into the catchment area. The next census will be September and we will update school roll information in the next newsletter.

STAFF

This year our staffing has been reduced from 22.6 to 21.6 which means that we have lost one full-time teacher. However, we have been given temporary additionality of one teacher in the short term. As this teacher could be moved at short notice we will not be assigning the teacher to a specific class but instead will deploy the teacher to cover class teacher's non-class contact time and additional support for learning where possible. Mrs Gibb our Principal Teacher will job-share with Miss Callaghan P3c.

Miss Callaghan 4 days - Monday - Thursday

Mrs Gibb 1 day - Friday

SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT PLAN 2016/2017

Please find attached a summary of the School Improvement Plan for this academic session. If any parent/carer would like to see the whole document then they are very welcome to obtain a copy from the school office.

Meet the Teachers Evening

The annual 'Meet the Teachers Evening' will be held on Thursday 25.8.16 (6.00pm – 7.00pm)

6.00-6.30 (P1-P3)

6.30-7.00 (P4-P7)

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. In particular, **P4-P7** teachers want to take the opportunity to explain changes regarding how spelling homework tasks will be undertaken and how parents can support children in their progress.

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'.

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'

SCHOOL BUSINESS

Welcome New Staff Member:

Mr Alistair Cole will be our temporary teacher as previously explained. *We wish him well and hope that he will be very happy during his time at St Fillan's Primary and Nursery Class.*

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. It is now important that parents leave children at the gate and let them walk to the yard by themselves as there will be staff there to ensure that they are just fine!

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.

Primary 1 and Primary 2 only are permitted to wear their polo shirts on PE days to speed up the changing process in order that children benefit from their full allocation of PE time.

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. Please could parents ask children to bring their indoor shoes home from time to time in order that the condition of shoes can be checked. Very often children are walking around in shoes that are far too small or are badly worn causing them to trip and fall.

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 either walking, on a lead or being carried.

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 outdoor activities 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/Health and Safety regulations!*

Safety after 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. Unfortunately, children continued to do this last session despite being instructed not to and as a result 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 Leadership 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, and a member of the Senior Leadership 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!!**

We also ask that parents/visitors respect 'the no entry signs' on the gates at the entrance to the car park. Anyone with special needs should inform the janitor and we will ensure that personal needs are met.

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 22.8.16 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.

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.

Absence - Family holidays

It is important that family holidays are not taken during school time as these impact on children's progress and greatly affect the overall percentage of absence for the whole school which is recorded centrally.

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 are given the job 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 **@StFillansPS** and the username for the Nursery Class account is **@StFillansNursery**.

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

Apologies - the first Newsletter is always a lengthy one to remind everyone of important information!

PLEASE NOTE

Future newsletters and updates will be on the school website. We will send a text to inform you of when to check new communications. Please inform the office if you require a paper copy and this can be arranged.

Dates for Diaries

Please find attached dates to help you plan ahead - these are always provisional as circumstances can change.

Working in Partnership

Regards

Yours sincerely

**Mrs Catherine Penman
Headteacher**

email: headteacher@st-fillans-pri.glasgow.sch.uk

St Fillan's Primary School and Nursery Class

Parent/Carer Comments

August 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 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 2016/2017.

Thank you for your time!

Parent's/Carer's signature

Date.....



DATES FOR DIARIES

August 2016

Please refer to school website for holidays and INSET dates

- 19.8.16 Primary 7 Swimming Block 1 (19th August- 28th October)
- 25.8.16 Meet the Teacher Evening (6.00pm-7.00pm) See Newsletter for details.
Nursery Class Welcome Meeting for Parents (6.00pm-7.00pm)
- 29.8.16 Parent Council Meeting 6.30pm
- 5.9.16 Primary 1 children commence full day.
- 13.9.16 Celebration of Roald Dahl - Dress as favourite character (Invitation for parents to follow)
- 3.10.16 October Month of the Holy Rosary - Prayers Mon, Tues and Wed at 8.45am.
All Welcome!
- 28.10.16 NHS Flu Vaccination Programme (P1-P7) - Information to follow.
- 10.11.16 Reporting to Parents Evening (1) 3.30pm-8.30pm
- 21.11.16 Parent Council Meeting 6.30pm
- 25.11.16 Primary 6 - Emirates Scottish Badminton Championships
- 1.12.16 ADVENT - Morning Prayers 8.45am - All welcome!

12.12.16-20.12.16

Christmas Parties Nursery Class - Primary 7 Information to be confirmed

- 13.12.17 P1 Christmas Nativity 10.00am
- 14.12.17 P1 Christmas Nativity 2.00pm
- 16.12.17 Nursery Class Nativity 10.00am
- 16.1.17 Parent Council Meeting 6.30pm
- 20.3.17 Primary 7 Venture Week at Lockerbie
Parent Council Meeting 6.30pm
- 30.3.17 Reporting to Parents Evening (2) 3.30pm-8.30pm
- 31.5.17 Primary 7 School Show (Provisional TBC)
- 1.6.17 Primary 7 School Show (Provisional TBC)
- 5.6.17 Parent Council Meeting 6.30pm
- 16.6.17 Reporting to Parents (Written Reports)

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