

St Fillan's Primary School and Nursery Class



NEWSLETTER

TERM 2
NOVEMBER 2019

Dear Parents/Carers

I hope you all had a restful break during October and that you are fully charged and ready for term 2. We have a very busy period during this second term in store and we will keep you updated as the term progresses.

Curriculum Update

We continue to make steady progress undertaking the developments outlined in Our School Improvement Plan which will be available on our website.

Priority 1 - Raise Attainment in Literacy - Reading, Comprehension and Writing

Throughout Term 1 teaching staff have undertaken professional development and detailed dialogue in relation to development of teaching methodology to support raising attainment in Literacy and English. We have been conducting a variety of moderation activities with teachers across the stages as well as with staff from St Mirin's Primary looking at developing skills in comprehension.



Priority 2 - Raising attainment in Numeracy and Mathematics

Throughout Term 2 we will continue to develop 'Glasgow Counts' methodologies to ensure that learning and teaching in Numeracy and Mathematics across the school is in keeping with current research and practice for the purpose of raising attainment. We are focussing on a variety of strategies to develop mathematical skills to solve problems.



Priority 3 - Digital Learning; Development of Digital Learning strategy to enhance the overall quality of Learning and Teaching across the school

We are committed to the Development of our Digital Learning strategy with a view to enhancing the Learning and Teaching across the school through the use of apple technology. This session we will introduce to the children key features of an iPad, essential tools and core iPad apps with a view to using it to enhance different curricular areas with the children having access to the iPads in school once they have been deployed.

Priority 4 Development of Curricular areas with wider school focus

Our P1 Play Pedagogy has been developing with our Nursery class and in our Primary 1 classes with teachers engaging in various professional developments to enhance the experiences for all our children. We will also be looking at Mental Health and Wellbeing and developing resilience within our children

As a Community of Faith and Learning, we continue our faith journey using the guidance set out in the documents - This is Our Faith and God's Loving Plan.





SCHOOL BUSINESS

Meet the Teachers Evening

We staged our first 'Meet the Teachers Evening' in school in September 2019. I was particularly pleased with the terrific turn-out for this event and the feedback was extremely positive. In future we will be able to utilise the car park at Cathcart Parish Church in order to ensure we do not have issues with parking in the community. This will hopefully help ease congestion around the school during future events.

Thank-you once again for your fantastic support!

Missio and 'Go Yellow' Charity collection



Once again immense credit must go to our children who continue to embrace our school's commitment to social justice in terms of promoting charity. We recently received a thank you from Missio Scotland for the donation of £382.47 which went towards a project in Thailand supporting 400 needy children to receive food, medical care and education thanks to your donation. Our Go Yellow event in the summer term raised £398.66 which went towards the Prince and Princess of Wales Hospice. We hope to have a group of pupils visit the new hospice in Bellahouston Park in the near future.

Health Promoting / Improving School

At St Fillan's Primary School and Nursery Class we promote the importance of healthy living through the Health and Wellbeing aspect of Curriculum for Excellence and through a positive school ethos which promotes health improvement.



Consumption of fruit snacks has been proven to have a definite positive effect on learning, behaviour and how children perform generally in school and we continue to encourage this. While we like to promote a culture of sharing and caring for one another we endeavour to ensure that our younger children do not swap or consume items of food from their peers due to potential food allergies.

For health and safety we also ask that berry fruits such as grapes, tomatoes and strawberries are cut into small chunks to alleviate any potential choking hazard

Please can I ask parents/carers to support us in being a **Health Promoting School** by ensuring that children bring a bottle of water to drink during school hours and snacks/packed lunches that promote healthy choices. Also can you please ensure that children do not bring lollipops or other snacks on sticks into school as they represent a significant choking hazard.

We now have a group of parents who have kindly volunteered to assist with an after-school running club. If you would like to join them please contact Mrs Gibb. On another positive note 21 of our P6 and P7 pupils qualified for the finals of the Glasgow Schools Cross Country Championships. 6 of these pupils earned medals. We are delighted with them and proud of their achievements. We also were extremely proud of their impeccable sportsmanship and behaviour at this event.

Winter Approaching

Once again we ask that parents/carers label items of clothing. The lost property bags are once again full of blazers, jackets, jumpers, cardigans and items of PE kits which all adds up to a lot of money. Please check that your child has their belongings when they arrive home, especially now that the hats, scarves and gloves will start to be worn as the weather gets colder and the days are darker. We always encourage the children at our school to take more responsibility for their personal belongings.

Halloween

The children had a great day in school yesterday celebrating Halloween. All children (and teachers!) looked fantastic with creativity in abundance. Thank you! Please check our school Twitter feed to see the quality of the costumes.

M&M Theatre Company

On the first day back to school after the October week holiday the children were visited by the M&M Theatre Company who performed Sleeping Beauty- A quality performance was enjoyed by all children.

Science Technology Engineering Maths (STEM)

Children will take part in STEM week in school on 25th November until the 29th exploring different facets of science, engineering, technology and maths. More details to follow.

Reporting to Parents Evening

You will already have received correspondence reminding you that Parent's evening will take place on Wednesday 6th November 2019 from 5.00-7.00pm and on Thursday 7th of November from 3.30-5.30 Parents/Carers of P6 and P7 pupils are invited to bring their child to the reporting session in order that they can be part of the discussion - *if they wish to do so*.

Every family will have received one appointment per child. Each parent/carer is given an allocated time which the Class Teacher plans in relation to the number of children in the class.

Please do not feel offended as teachers will use timers to keep them on track in order to help avoid running over time and keeping other parents waiting. **Should you require additional time to discuss any matter then we will gladly arrange a further appointment at a later date.**

Pupil Voice and Leadership opportunities

We have a number of pupil groups in the school including Eco Committee, Sports Leaders, Global Citizens, Pupil Council, Digital Leaders, Assembly Helpers, Junior Road Safety Officers, Pope Francis Faith Award, House and Vice Captains and Playground Buddies. We hope to tell you more about some of the invaluable ways they contribute to the life of the school in future newsletters. Please take the opportunity to read their [newsletter](#) from last term if you have not managed to do so. Here are a few examples of what they have been doing:

Pupil Council

Our Pupil Council recently presented to the whole school a short film they have created which shows our school vision of 'Love for Life, Love for Learning'. Last year I asked the Pupil Council to write the School's Vision Values and Aims in child friendly language and they included all of the children in this by asking them to design a logo to represent the school's vision values and aims. This will be on display on the screen at the main office during Parents' Evenings and we hope that you enjoy it.

Assembly Helpers

Every week we have a number of hardworking P7 helpers who assist with assembly through setting up and helping with the computer/power points. They have also led infant and upper school assemblies on the Wellbeing SHANARRI indicators (Safe Healthy Active Nurtured Achieving Responsible Respected and Included) as well as other assemblies on topics such as recycling and global warming. They really are confident individuals and effective contributors!

Pope Francis Faith Award

Pupils who signed up for the Pope Francis Faith Award were enrolled today at our Mass for All Saints. We are very proud of them and wish them all the best on this very important journey of Faith.

House Captains and Vice Captains

We will soon be launching our new house system and this week our brand new P7 House Captains and Vice Captains were appointed. All of the candidates had fantastic applications and interviews. Our new Captains and Vice Captains will be there on Parents' Evenings to assist you, and they will represent the school at various events in the coming weeks and months. Look out for them wearing their smart new badges.

JRSOs

You may have noticed our Junior Road Safety Officers (JRSOs) each morning and afternoon outside the school with two 'Parking Buddies' that we have borrowed from Neighbourhoods Sustainability at Glasgow City Council. We have these 'Parking Buddies' for the next couple of weeks and so far they seem to be working by discouraging drivers from parking on the zigzags and enforcing 'Keep Clear' and 'No Parking' zones. We would love to have these permanently, however, they come at a huge cost and we really need more than two. If there are any talented parents/carers out there with ideas how to source materials and create our own, then please get in touch with Mrs Hamilton and we can discuss!

The Community Police joined us on Thursday 31st October and Friday 1st November to support the JRSOs and help them to launch their Parking Pledge which we hope as many parents and carers will sign up to.

Parking - Continues to be a major issue!

Police Scotland have 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/or parents being injured. Please park your car appropriately and support us in preventing an accident happening outside our school - **IT COULD BE YOUR CHILD!!**

Safety - School Car Park



Please ensure - When entering the school at any time of the day, everyone must walk through the **main pedestrian gates** and **NOT** through the gates at the car park. We are becoming increasingly concerned regarding the number of parents who are walking children through the car park - especially parents of children in the Nursery Class - **This has to stop before someone is injured!**

The gates at the car park are closed at **8.45am - 9.10am and 2.50pm-3.15pm approximately** to ensure that there are no moving vehicles while the children are entering and leaving the school premises. Please support us in keeping everyone safe. Please also refrain from coming through the gates into the playground at the back of the school. The collection point for our children is at the front of the school. More information can be found [here](#).

PTA

Please support our wonderful PTA in whatever way that you are able. This group of committed parents are always ready to welcome new parents in their mission to ensure that 'all' children benefit from the help and support that their role provides. The fundraising the PTA do helps support all our children by purchasing educational items that are not normally provided to schools but will help us raise attainment. In addition they organise a number of events for our children including the Christmas discos and many, many other events you may have noticed on our SWAY we sent out via twitter. Please access it [here](#).



PTA members will be taking orders for the Annual Calendar as well as asking for you to sign up for donating to the class Christmas hampers and raffle at the upcoming Parent's Evenings. They are also making preparations for our Christmas Fair on Saturday 30th November and at the Parents' Evenings they will be collecting any donations of bottles for a bottle stall at the fair. This can be any type of bottle from a bottle of sauce, a bottle of juice, a bottle of wine etc etc. All donations would be greatly appreciated. Some of our pupils will be involved in Enterprise activities in class supported by one of our PTA parents and our teachers and will have their own stalls at the fair. If anyone has any old jigsaws that they no longer need (preferably unusable with missing pieces!) please hand them in to Mrs Hamilton as they can be recycled for one of the planned enterprise activities.

Parent Council

Please visit the Parent Council website in order to keep up to date with current newsletters and matters which the Parent Council is taking forward on behalf of the School Community. The next Parent Council meeting is scheduled for Monday the 18th November at 6.30pm in the school.



Parent Concerns

If you have any concerns regarding your child or other school matters then **please do not hesitate** to contact the school and either I, Mrs Henderson or Mrs Hamilton will arrange to meet with you as soon as possible. I am sure you will appreciate that if parents don't contact us directly regarding any concern/issue then we are unaware and unable to address/resolve matters.

We are happy to help in whatever way we can!

Yours sincerely

Mr. Brian Bourke

Headteacher



DATES FOR DIARIES TERM 2 UPDATE

6.11.19	Parents' Night 1 5pm-7pm
7.11.19	Parents' Night 2 3.15-5.15pm
10.11.19	Remembrance Service Old Parish Church 11am
13.11.19	PTA Christ the King Parish Hall 7pm
18.11.19	ASD Parent Group 1-3pm Meeting Room
	Public Speaking Event at Holyrood 5.30-7.30pm
	Parent Council 6.30pm
18.11.19	End of swimming Block 1 P7
25.11.19	Catholic Education Week begins Prayers in Hall 8.50am
25.11.19	STEM Week/ Block 2 P7 Swimming begins
26.11.19	Prayers in Hall 8.50am
27.11.19	P7 Retreat to Holyrood 1-3pm
28.11.19	Prayers in Hall 8.50am
	Hampden Conga for P3 4 and 5
	Come As You Please for everyone
29.11.19	Inservice for staff-pupils off school
30.11.19	PTA Christmas Fair 10am-1pm
2.12.19	Advent Prayers 8.50am
3.12.19	Advent Prayers 8.50am
4.12.19	PTA Christ the King Parish Church Hall 7pm
5.12.19	Advent Prayers 8.50am
7.12.19	PTA Dinner Dance 7pm
9.12.19	Advent Prayers 8.50am
	Flu Vaccinations
	PTA Disco P1 and P2 6.30-7.45
	PTA Disco P5 and P6 8.00-9.15
10.12.19	Advent Prayers 8.50am

	Choir to Old Smiddy 12.30pm
	PTA Disco P3 and P4 7.00-8.15
11.12.19	P1 Nativity 10am
12.12.19	General Election. School closed to pupils
13.12.19	P2 Advent Service 10am
	P5A and P5B Display of Knowledge 2pm
16.12.19	Advent Prayers 8.50am
	Nursery Nativity 10am
	ASD Parent Group 1-3pm Meeting Room
	P4-P7 Christmas Parties
17.12.19	Advent Prayers 8.50am
	Christmas Parties P1-P3
18.12.19	Nursery Christmas Party 10am
	Nursery Christmas Party 2pm
19.12.19	Advent Prayers 8.50am
	Advent Service 9.30am
	Finish for Christmas 2.30pm
22.12.19	Christmas Carol Service at Christ the King Church 3pm

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

Please refer to school website for holidays and INSET dates

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 ensure continuous improvement. There will be an evaluation form available during Parent's night where we will seek your views and we would really appreciate your input. All comments will form part of whole school evaluation processes for 2019/2020

Thank you for your support

