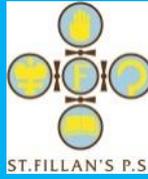


# St Fillan's Primary School and Nursery Class



## NEWSLETTER

TERM 3  
January 2020

Dear Parents/Carers,

On behalf of all the staff of St Fillan's I want to wish you all a Happy New Year and hope that everyone had a restful break and are raring to go for the new term. It is challenging to get up on these dark mornings but before we know it Spring will be upon us. We have a very busy schedule ahead and lots of events which we will endeavour to inform you about as soon as possible.

### Curriculum Update

We have continued to make progress in our initiatives from our school improvement plan.

#### Priority 1 - Raise attainment in Literacy Reading Comprehension and Writing

We worked collegiately on developing our Comprehension resources for use across the school and will be using these resources to enhance the development of our children's reading and comprehension skills.



#### Priority 2 - Raising attainment in Numeracy and Mathematics



Throughout Term 3 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 continuing to focus in particular on problem solving and working with concrete materials to aid mathematical concept development.

#### Priority 3 - Digital Learning

Last term we received our iPads and the children have begun working with them to enhance their learning experiences. We also require a number of parents and children in P6 and P7 to sign the User Policy agreement for the iPads to facilitate use of them both at home and at school. A very important information session for those who haven't signed will take place on **Monday 20<sup>th</sup> January at 6pm** led by Mrs Gibb.

#### Priority with wider school focus

Our Play Pedagogy will continue to be developed throughout our P1 classes. We have made a significant investment in a number of resources and our staff continue to collaborate to develop Play in our P1 classes as well as engaging in Professional Learning.

### ***Sacramental Preparation***

We will be extremely excited during the next few months as our children in P3, P4 and P7 will begin their respective preparations for their Sacrament of Reconciliation, Sacrament of Holy Communion and Sacrament of Confirmation. We attach the various dates for these events.

**Fr. Peter will celebrate a special Mass for all children, parents and families of those making their Sacraments this year on Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> January instead of holding the usual parent information evenings.**



### ***STEM (Science Engineering Technology Maths) WEEK***

Our Science, Engineering, Technology and Maths week was very exciting. Our children became detectives for the week when trying to use their skills in forensic science to solve the clues to the mystery of who had stolen the presents. Our children got a great experience applying their science skills when examining the finger prints using microscopes and maths when using probability to collate the results. We hope to arrange further STEM events during the next few weeks.

### ***John Muir Award***

Primary 5B are taking part in the John Muir Outdoor Learning award. This initiative is one of the areas for development of our Outdoor Learning Strategy.

### ***Parents/Carers' Information for God's Loving Plan***

Our information evening for God's Loving Plan for P6 and P7 parents will take place on **Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> February at 6pm**

We will also stage our P7 Residential Visit to Lockerbie Manor Information evening at 6.30-7.00pm on the same night.

### ***School Business***

#### ***Late coming and absences***

My first letter of this session was regarding late coming and appointments. Following a very challenging winter with regards to different illness, viruses and stomach bugs which affected children's attendance in the lead up to Christmas we hope that this will improve again in the coming weeks and months. I also wish to highlight the importance of getting children to school on time. Even the loss of a few minutes at the beginning of the day affects children in terms of their relationships with their peers, getting used to lining up with their peers at the start of the school day and also significant learning time can be lost if children are late in the morning. Even the loss of 10 minutes once per week over the course of the school year can lead to children missing out on nearly 2 school days due to being late. While we recognise that there can be exceptional circumstances which cause lateness on occasion, it is very important to ensure your child/children are here in school on time each morning. Likewise prompt collection at the end of the school day is equally important. Thank you for your continuing support in these matters.

If you wish to discuss further you can contact the school office to make an appointment to meet with me.

#### ***Freezing weather***

Once again we ask that parents/carers label items of clothing. Our 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 are worn regularly during this cold wet weather. We always encourage the children at our school to take more responsibility for their personal belongings.

## Mary's Meals and the Trussell Trust



Once again immense credit must go to our wonderful school community who supported our Christmas events with great generosity and kindness. We had some truly memorable moments of Christmas spirit and cheer when we all came together as a community to prepare for Christmas in our unique way. For our selected charity Mary's Meals we raised a fantastic total of £845.63. Your generous donations to Glasgow South East Foodbank were so significant that we had to draft in extra help to transport them to the Trussell Trust! Our Pope Francis Faith Award pupils were also kept busy sorting out your kind donations of toiletries for the Little Sisters of Charity who support Glasgow's homeless community.

*I would like to say a huge thank-you to our ever-generous parents, carers, grandparents and community partners for your fantastic support of these events. Once again your wonderful children make us feel immensely proud of our school and the spirit of generosity is always quite humbling.*

## Health Promoting School through Cultural Diversity Day

At St Fillan's Primary School and Nursery Class we continue to 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 and healthy lives.



This term we are looking to celebrate the Cultural Diversity of our school by hosting our third 'Celebrating Cultural Diversity Day' on Friday 13<sup>th</sup> March. We look forward to involving as many of our parents in this event.

Please can I ask our parents/carers to support us in being a **Health Promoting School** by ensuring that children continue to 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.

## Reporting to Parents'/Carers' Evening

You will receive correspondence reminding you that Parents'/Carers' evening will take place on **Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> from 5.00-7.00pm and Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> March from 3.30-5.30pm.** 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. **Should you require additional time to discuss any matter then we will gladly arrange a further appointment at a later date.** Once again 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.

## Dangerous Parking - Continues to be a major issue!

Police Scotland and Transport Police Scotland attended our Parent Council meeting in November to highlight the dangers of inconsiderate parking around the environs of the school. We continue to ask all our school community members to please park your car appropriately and support us in preventing any potential accidents outside our school. Parking on the zigzag lines is an offence and is also inconsiderate and dangerous.

## 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 increasingly concerned by the number of parents who are still walking children through the car park - especially parents of children in the Nursery Class. Everyone's safety is of paramount importance.

The gates at the car park are closed at **8.50am - 9.05am and 2.50pm-3.10pm** to ensure that there are no moving vehicles while the children are entering and leaving school premises. **Please support us in keeping everyone safe.** Please also refrain from walking 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.

## Smartwatches

While it is very encouraging to see so many children using their Smartwatches to improve their skills in reading the time I would ask that certain responsibilities are adhered to when using a Smartwatch in school. Please encourage your child to use it for the purpose of monitoring and tracking their fitness, telling the time, tracking heart-rate, step counting etc. **They should not be synchronized to their phone, used as recording devices or used to receive text messages during school day.** Bringing Smartwatches to school is also done at the owner's risk. Thank you for your support in this.

## 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 meetings scheduled are Monday 20th January 2020 and Monday 2nd of March 2020.



## Parent Concerns

If you have any concerns regarding your child or other school matters then **please do not hesitate** to contact Mrs Henderson, Mrs Hamilton or myself and we will try to arrange to meet with you as soon as possible.

**We are here to help at all times!**

Regards

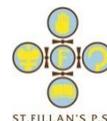
Yours sincerely

Mr. Brian Bourke

Headteacher

## DATES FOR DIARIES

### TERM 3 UPDATE



- 20.01.20 Parent Council Meeting 6.30-7.30pm
- 20.01.20 P6-7 Parent Meeting 6pm re iPads (for those who didn't attend last term's meeting)
- 24.01.20 Burns' Day Celebrations for Children/Celebrating Success Assembly
- 27.01.20 Road Safety Week begins
- 28.01.20 Athletics Super 7s (selected pupils)
- 29.01.20 Swimming select P5, P6, P7
- 30.01.20 Parent Sacramental Mass Christ the King 6.30PM
- 04.02.20 God's Loving Plan meeting P6 and P7 Parents information evening 6-7pm
- 04.02.20 Primary 7 Residential to Lockerbie Parents information evening 6-7pm
- 05.02.20 P7 Ceilidh at Holyrood
- 07.02.20 **School Closed to Pupils/ Staff Inservice**
- 10.2.20 **School Closed**
- 11.02.20 **School Closed**
- 12.02.20 **School Closed to Pupils/ Staff Inservice**
- 17.02.20 Digital Leaders Event Apple Store 9.00- till lunchtime
- 18.02.20 Cross Country Qualifiers select P5/6/7
- 19.02.20 Sacrament of Confirmation at Christ The King Church 7pm
- 20.02.20 Tempest Photography photographs for individuals
- 24.02.20 P7 Transition Club starts at Holyrood Secondary (until 20<sup>th</sup> March)
- 26.02.20 Ash Wednesday School Mass 1.30pm

***Morning Prayers every morning Tuesday and Thursday during Lent 8.50am starting Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> February***

***Mass every Friday during Lent 8.15 in the gym hall except 28<sup>th</sup> February and 3<sup>rd</sup> April***

- 27.02.20 Euro Quiz (Selected P6 Pupils)
- 02.03.20 Waste Week
- 05.03.20 World Book Day 5<sup>th</sup> March
- 05.03.20 Athletics Final (selected pupils)
- 02.03.20 Parent Council 7pm
- 06.03.20 8.15am Lenten Mass

08.03.20	International Women's Day
09.03.20	Cultural Diversity Week begins - further information to follow
11.03.20	P4b and P4c Display of Knowledge 2pm
13.03.20	Lenten Mass 8.15am
13.03.20	Cultural Diversity Celebration Day
17.03.20	City of Dance Heats Holyrood Secondary (2 teams of P5-7 pupils)
18.03.20	Reporting to Parents Evening (1) 5pm-7pm
19.03.20	Reporting to Parents Evening (2) 3.30-5.30pm
20.03.20	Lenten Mass 8.15am
24.03.20	P7 to Cluster Mass at Holyrood
27.03.20	Lenten Mass 8.15am
30.03.20	First Reconciliation 7pm
30.03.20	P7 pupils to Lockerbie Manor for week residential
03.04.20	P7 pupils return from Lockerbie
03.04.20	End of Term Mass
03.04.20	<b>School closes 2.30pm for Spring Holiday and Easter</b>
20.04.20	<b>School re-opens after holidays</b>
27.04.20	AGM Parent Council 6.30pm
01.05.20	P1 Induction (1)
02.05.20	First Holy Communion 11am
03.05.20	First Holy Communion 12noon
08.05.20	<b>VE Bank Holiday School Closed (Please note the change)</b>
11.05.20	<b>In-service Day School closed to Pupils</b>
21.05.20	Ascension Thursday Mass 1.30
22.05.20	<b>May Holiday School Closed</b>
25.05.20	<b>May Holiday School Closed</b>
29.05.20	P1 Induction (2)
01.06.20	Parent Council 6.30pm
03.06.20	Go Yellow
03.06.20	School Show
04.06.20	School Show
05.06.20	P1 Induction (3)

09.06.20	P7 to Holyrood Induction Day 1
10.06.20	P7 to Holyrood Induction Day 2
11.06.20	P7 half day to Holyrood Health and Wellbeing Visit
11.06.20	P7 Parent Evening at Holyrood
12.06.20	Reports to Parents
16.06.20	P7 Graduation and Thanksgiving Mass
17.06.20	Whole School Trip for P1-7
19.06.20	Nursery Graduation 10am
23.06.20	End of year whole school Mass 1.30pm
24.06.20	<b>School closes 1.00pm for Summer Holiday</b>

[New information will be added/amended as we progress through the session.](#)