



St Joseph's Primary School Newsletter

Welcome back!

Session 2019-20 is well underway, welcome back one and all. We hope you had a lovely Summer and were able to spend some time relaxing! All our children have settled into their new classrooms and are getting to know their new teachers, we are so happy to have them all back safe and sound.

Primary 1 have had an excellent start to their first year with us and have enjoyed learning their first sounds and their first session of Muddy Movers.

We would like to welcome back Mrs Fry who has returned from her maternity leave and will be teaching Primary 5b.

Congratulations to Mrs McLaughlin who is expecting her first child in December, Mrs McLaughlin is covering non class contact this session until the start of December.

We are looking forward to another happy, successful year in St Joseph's and we hope you will be with us all the way!

Mrs Suzanne Martin
Head Teacher



Digital Schools Award

We are delighted to announce that we have been Awarded the Digital Schools Award! Thank you to Mrs McLaughlin, Mrs Wright and Miss Quinn for all their hard work. Well done to our children- they are digital whizz kids and could probably teach us a thing or two!



But we are not done yet, in addition we have also been awarded the **Internet safety** and **Cyber Resilience** award for our dedication to ensuring our children are safe and informed when online and for supporting our parents in their approach to internet safety. Well done St Joseph's !!

House Captain

On Monday and Tuesday 2 and 3 September interviews were held for the positions of House captains and Vice Captains. Many children from Primary 6 and Primary 7 put themselves forward for these positions and the standard of presentations was extremely high. Thank you to all the parents who supported their child in preparing for interview - we were very proud of them all!

House	Captain	Vice Captain
St Mungo	Noah	Zoe
St Columba	Farisha	Lulu
St John Ogilvie	Taran	Jessica
St Margaret of Scotland	Patrick	Fergus
House Captain Mentor	Eva	



September 2019



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Here to learn - Attendance



Attendance for session 2018 -19 was 97%. Each year we are challenged by the authority to improve these figures.

We would ask that you call the school office to report your child's absence before 9.30am, the number is **0141 570 7380**. Absences that are not explained by a telephone call remain 'to be confirmed' (tbc) until the child returns to school with a letter explaining their absence. Without a letter or phone call, children will be marked with an unauthorised absence.

Parents/ carers do not have automatic rights to take their child out of school without permission. The Head of Establishment only can authorise time off.

There has also been a significant increase in the amount of dental and doctor appoints during the school day. Can we ask ,if possible, that appointments are made for out with the school day.

Looking good, St Joseph's!

We would like to thank ERC Education Department for our new look entrance. New windows and doors have been fitted to the front of the school over the Summer and we must admit, it looks great!



St Joseph's 'Open Doors' Event

We have taken on board your feedback regarding the workshops we offer for parents at the start of the session. We understand that there are areas of the curriculum that you would like to know more about instead of the focus being mainly on Literacy and Numeracy. This session our staff will be providing input on a variety of curricular areas and their pedagogical (approaches to teaching) practices. The open doors event will take place on Wednesday 18th September from 3.50 - 5pm. The event will comprise of 2 half hours inputs with 10mins change over time in between, you can pick two events to attend from the list below. We will send out a Forms email for you to register next week.

Curricular area	Delivered by	Location
Jolly Phonics and the use of Google Classroom in P1	Mrs Simpson Mrs McKendrick	Primary 1 base
Reading Strategies	Miss Harvey Mrs Stewart	Primary 6b classroom
Google classrooms and Profiling	Miss Brew Mrs Downs	Primary 4b Classroom
Coding (Scratch,CSS and HTML, Python, Cyber Skills lessons and thinkable)	Miss Quinn	ICT Suite
Playful Pedagogy	Mrs McLaughlin Miss Canning	Primary 3a Classroom
STEM - Progression through levels and Practical home activities	Mrs Greene Mrs Redmond	Primary 3c Classroom
P7 Critical Essay	Miss Fusaro Mrs Gray	Primary 7a Classroom
Maths - Fractions, decimals and percentages	Miss Brookes (Maths teacher - St Ninian's)	Primary 5a Classroom
Maths - Numeracy Blueprints and number talks	Mrs Wright Miss Lowrie	Primary 6a Classroom
Literacy - Engaging children in reading and Reading Recovery strategies	Mrs Baker Mrs Leddy Miss McBride	Primary 4a Classroom
The Importance of Sleep!	Mrs Wynne	P3b Classroom
French—Language Progression	Mrs Fry Mrs Convery	P5b Classroom

We need you!

This session our current Chair, Vice Chair and Secretary will step down from their posts. We would like to thank Mr Mackie (Chair), Mrs McKean (Vice Chair) and Mrs Harcombe (Secretary) for all their hard work and commitment over the last 2 years.

Sometimes Parent Councils can appear to be very formal and intimidating, we understand that this might put a lot of people off. You can make the difference and change that. We want our Parent Council to be warm and welcoming, a place where ideas and innovation are welcome and where our children lie at the very core of all decisions and actions. Think you can help? We need a Chair and Vice Chair who can work in partnership with us to drive our school forward, please consider putting yourself forward. Our Parent Council AGM will be held on Tuesday 16th September at 7pm in St Joseph's ICT Suite.



Contacting the school

You can get in touch with us in the following ways:

- by phone to the school office - number 0141 570 7380
- in person at the office
- by email headteacher@st-josephs.e-renfrew.sch.uk

If you get in touch with us, we will do our best (if your query is not resolved straight away) within 1 day - to acknowledge you have been in touch and to confirm what further response you should expect from us or within 7 days - to have looked into and responded fully to your query.

However, please bear with us if it is not possible to respond as quickly as we might like e.g. due to staff absence or where a more complex issue needs to be looked into.

Contacting teachers

As you will understand, teachers are busy with classes during the school day - they need to be able to focus on class work as a first priority. Phone calls can't therefore be put through directly and in most cases, many issues can be dealt with in other ways.

Please remember it is extremely helpful for the teacher and whoever is handling your call / request to have a general idea of what you wish to discuss. This helps them work out how best to respond.

At the school door - whilst it is obviously possible to speak to your child's teacher at the school door, this is best only for quick queries. It would not be appropriate for the teacher to speak about specific issues affecting your child when others are nearby.

Phone calls - if you have a query or comment which can more easily be dealt with by phone, a message can be given to your child's teacher.

Notes - please also feel free to send in a note to your child's teacher if you have any queries or concerns using their diaries.

Mrs Leddy	Principal Teacher responsible for Primary 1,2 and 3
Mrs Baker	Principal Teacher responsible for Primary 4 and 5
Mrs Wynne	Depute Head Teacher responsible for Primary 6 and 7
Mrs Wright	Principal Teacher responsible for Pupil Equity Funding
Mrs Martin	Head Teacher responsible for all pupils and staff



Father Douglas

This week we have said a sad farewell to Father Douglas who has been Parish Priest in St Bridget's in Eaglesham for the last 10 years. We would like to thank Father Douglas for the support and guidance he has provided to us and our families over the last 10 years and wish him a long and happy retirement.

Mobile Phones

Can we ask that if your child is bringing a mobile phone to school that it is switched off when entering the school grounds and handed over to the class teacher as soon as your child enters the building. Phones can be collected by the children just before they leave the building at the end of the school day. Phones should not be switched on until your child has left the school grounds unless they are contacting someone regarding being picked up or notifying them of their whereabouts. We hope this will prevent any issues arising.

Safety at school

Keeping our children safe is our priority in St Joseph's. The back entrance into the upper school playground is locked during the day to ensure our children are safe in the playground. This entrance will be open first thing in the morning and at the end of the school day for parents to access the school grounds. If your child is late then they should report to the main entrance of the school where they will be signed in. **Please do not drive into the school car park in the morning or at the end of the school day.** Road markings outside the school are visible and there for a reason. Please do not park on or near the drive-ways of our neighbours. Double parking increases the risk to our children when they are crossing the road, please refrain from doing this. **Dogs are not permitted in the school playground.**

Dates for your diary

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
September	2 Brew and a Blether 8.50 - 9.30am P7 House captain interviews	3 P6 Vice Captain interviews Leaving Mass for Father Douglas 11am (St Bridget's Children and Parents)	4	5	6 P7 Safety in the Park 9am P1 Family welcome night 6pm P6&7 Pupils reading @ 10am Mass on Sun 8 th in St Joseph's Church
	9	10	11 P7 Class Mass @ 2.15pm	12	13
	16 P7 Vocations Mass St. Mirin's Cathedral 10am	17 Parent Council AGM 7pm, St Joseph's ICT Suite	18 Open doors event - All parents. 3.50 - 5pm	19	20
October	23	24	25 P5 Class Mass 2.15pm	26	27 Holiday
	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
	30 Holiday	1 Maths Week Scotland	2 Rosary 8.30am in School	3 P4 Retreat with Father Stephen	4 P7 Provost Debate 9.30am
	7 Brew and a Blether 8.50 - 9.30am	8	9 Rosary 8.30am in School P3 Class Mass @ 2.15pm	10	11
	14 Holiday	15 Holiday	16 Holiday	17 Holiday	18 Holiday