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Head Teacher: Gerry O'Neil BSc (Hons)
Date: 24th June 2025



St Ninian's High School
Rouken Glen Road
Giffnock
East Renfrewshire
G46 6UG

Dear Parent/Carer,

I very much look forward to welcoming your child to St Ninian's as our new S1 on **Wednesday 13th August 2025**. The school day begins at 8.40am however, we recommend arriving to school earlier to allow for time to meet with friends, get settled and to make sure they are on time for class. The school building is open from 8am.

Wednesday 13th August

When the pupils arrive for the first day, we will gather in the Forum. Pupils will be reminded of their alpha class and they will be guided to their first class, alpha class at a time, where they will receive their timetables. S6 pupils will support the class throughout the day acting as guides. The pupils will also be given their timetable during period 1. I will meet with the year group during period 2 to have an assembly.

Pupils should bring a school bag, pens and pencils on their first day. Each department will provide your son or daughter with the various resources and jotters during the first period they attend the subject.

ParentPay

Pupils will receive the information for [ParentPay](#) on their first day. This will be a different account to their primary school account. Parents will be able to set this up using the information that the pupils bring home which will allow ParentPay to be setup and ready for your child's 2nd day.

School Canteen

Pupils will receive their PIN codes for the canteen when they receive their timetable. This will be linked to ParentPay and therefore pupils wishing to use the canteen for lunch on the first day will need to bring in pound coins to add to their account. Alternatively, pupils can bring in a packed lunch until their account is set up.

We are an allergy aware school and do our best to support those with allergies. We therefore ask that you do not bring foods into our school building that may cause an allergic reaction e.g.

- Nuts or anything containing nuts
- Kiwi fruit

Allergies are recorded in our system. If buying food from the canteen, our catering staff will be made aware of any allergies through their tills. This is confidential information and no other pupils will be able to see this.

If you are eligible for **free school meals and clothing grant**, you will need to apply for this again. The application is now available through the ERC website linked below. We encourage you to apply early to ensure this is in place for your son or daughter when they start in August.

<https://www.eastrenfrewshire.gov.uk/article/1221/Clothing-grants-and-free-school-meals>

PE Kit

There will be no need to bring PE kit on the first day. Pupils will not get changed into PE kit for their first lesson as we will use this period for an induction.

School hoodies, worn during PE, can only be ordered after Parent Pay has been set up. Pupils wishing to order a hoodie must collect the order form from the school office.

Pastoral Support Teacher

All the young people are assigned to a Pastoral Support teacher on entering our school. Pastoral Support provides the link in the educational chain between home and various departments in our school. All teachers in a school have a clear responsibility for the children's welfare. It is the Pastoral Support teacher who has an 'all round' picture of an individual pupil's progress. The Pastoral Support teacher also prepares a structured Pastoral Support programme to help all the pupils at certain stages of development. Pastoral Support staff are therefore engaged in a number of important tasks in addition to their teaching duties including monitoring progress, attendance, attainment, wellbeing, etc. Those identified as being at risk are identified and every encouragement is given to achieve their full potential.

The pastoral support teacher will be the main point of contact for any queries that you may have. The pastoral allocation for the new S1 can be found in the table:

Alpha class	Pastoral Support Teacher	Alpha class	Pastoral Support Teacher
1a1	Mr A Low	1a7	Mr S McMaster
1a2	Miss E Downie	1a8	Mrs C Ward
1a3	Mrs R Weir	1a9	Mrs L Fulton
1a4	Miss S Martin	1a10	Mrs V Newlands
1a5	Mr R Kerr	1a11	Mr R Kerr
1a6	Mr M McKean	1a12	Mrs C Ward

Parentsportal

This online portal will allow you to view your child's timetable, monitor their attendance and to read their school reports when they are released. We ask that parents register and link to our school through [ParentsPortal](#). However this can only be done once the full enrolment process is complete. This can only take place once your son or daughter attends their first day in August. We therefore ask that you **do not attempt to register for parentsportal until Friday 15th August at the earliest**. The mobile app can be downloaded to your mobile device to make it easier to login.

Further details, including guides for parentsportal, can be found here: [Parentsportal - East Renfrewshire Council](#)

School Library

We have an excellent School Library run by our wonderful school Librarian Mrs Baird. The S1 pupils will be able to access the school library on the days Mrs Baird is in St Ninian's. We advise that pupils apply for an All Access card to be able to borrow books from our school and community libraries.

Link for All Access card: <https://ercl.spydus.co.uk/cgi-bin/spydus.exe/MSGTRN/WPAC/JOIN>

Safer Schools App for Parents

The Safer Schools App allows parents/ carers to be kept up to date with the very latest and emerging trends and advice around online safety.

The main benefits for parents/carers:

- Find credible advice on contemporary issues facing families today, such as harmful content, image sharing, mental health, consent and gaming.
- Receive updates straight to your phone that will keep you informed on the latest online safeguarding news, threats, and advice.
- Keep up to speed with the latest games, social media trends, apps, and websites that children and young people are visiting.
- Gain practical, useable advice that you can implement easily into your family life, including how to talk about the digital world and its risks, bringing your child's online life off the devices and into the dinner table conversation.

Please click on the link below to access the link to download this app.

https://blogs.glowscotland.org.uk/er/public/StNinians/uploads/sites/103/2024/12/05142636/PARENTS_compressed.pdf

InS1ght Booklet

Please click on the links below to access our InS1ght Booklet and the slides from the Primary 7 Information Evening which took place in May. These will provide you with further information about our school including uniform standards.

[InS1ght Booklet](#)
[Primary 7 Information Evening](#)

Digital Learning and Teaching

Our digital learning platform is Microsoft Teams. We are aware that young people may not be familiar with this platform and so members of our teaching staff visited pupils in our cluster Primary Schools in May to deliver lessons in how to use this online platform. All pupils will be given a refresher on this in August when they attend Business, Computing or Technical. Assistive technologies can also be used to support learning and teaching where necessary. Please click on the link below to access our Digital Learning and Teaching Guide.

[Digital Learning and Teaching Guide](#)

I hope you have a lovely and restful summer holiday and I look forward to an excellent start in August.

Kind regards,



Catherine McCrea
Depute Head Teacher