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Education Department
St Thomas' Primary
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19th August 2019

Dear Parent/Carer,

Welcome back everyone! It was a total joy to see children returning to school looking so smart in their uniforms (keep it up!). I hope everyone has had time to relax with families over the summertime. The teachers and staff are ready and raring to go for school session 2019 / 20. I believe this academic year will be a success for each and every one of our children and for the whole school community.

On behalf of everyone I would like to welcome our new Primary 1 children and families into St Thomas' Primary. The children had a productive and fun first day at school.

In St. Thomas' Primary we aim to nurture every child's talents by setting the highest of aspirations and expectations for them. We are guided by our school values of Love, Faith and Understanding and we support children to demonstrate these values in all that they do. Our aim is to transform the life chances of each and every learner. Of course we can only achieve this with positive relationships between everyone and that is what we try to achieve.

Communication is an important factor in supporting good relationships. You will find our monthly school newsletter a good source of information. We also use the newsletter to share learning and achievements.

Soon you will be issued with a school calendar - as much as possible we will stick to the dates shown. I would recommend keeping it in a prominent place in the house.

There are two important dates that I'd like to draw your attention to this month:

- ✓ Thursday 22nd August we will have our Inaugural Mass at 10am in St Thomas' Church. All parents/carers are welcome to join us.
- ✓ Thursday 29th August we will have a 'Meet the Teacher' event at 3.15pm. We encourage that each child is represented at Meet the Teacher by a parent/carer/family member. We will use these sessions to share important information about the school year and also to receive feedback and just have a good old chat!

I will also host drop-in sessions for "Tea with the HT" over the next few weeks. Keep an eye out for dates!

Points to note

- **Soft entry will begin at 8.50am from Monday 26th August i.e. infant doors will open at 8.50am. The janitor can supervise in the playground from 8.40am.** Children should enter the school via the infant doors and go direct to the P.E hall (with jackets and bags) for a quick morning check-in with the Head Teacher. If there is severe weather we will aim



**INVESTORS
IN PEOPLE** | Gold



to open the doors by 8.45am at the latest. (*This change is due to a reduction in allocated classroom assistant hours.)

- The canteen will no longer sell flavoured milk or ham sandwiches. Please ensure children know what option they are picking for lunch. <https://www.eastrenfrewshire.gov.uk/article/8930/Primary-1-to-7-lunch-menu>
- All items should be labelled (water bottles / jackets etc)
- Children may bring in mobile telephones at your own risk. Phones should be switched off and kept in school bags or given to the class teacher to be kept in a designated basket within the classroom. We cannot accept responsibility for any loss or damage to mobile phones.
- Any absences should be reported to the school office ASAP. Please use the telephone messaging service as this is checked regularly.

Staffing

- P1 Miss Matheson / Mrs Duffin will be in P1 on a Tuesday from 11.45am-3pm
- P2 Miss Gibson / Miss Walker will be in P2 on a Thursday all day
- P3 Miss Clark / Mrs Nicolson will be in P3 on a Thursday all day
- P4 Mrs Gillespie / Mrs Nicolson will be in P4 on a Wednesday from 9-11.45am
- P5 Miss Igoe / Mrs Nicholson will be in P5 on a Tuesday from 11.45am-3pm
- P6 Miss MacIntyre / Mrs Nicolson will be in P6 on a Monday from 11.45am-3pm
- P7 Miss McAdam / Miss Walker will be in P7 on Wednesday from 11.45am-3pm

There remains a vacancy for Principal Teacher which will be advertised and filled within the next few weeks.

Mrs Elliott, Miss Walker, Ms Leeson and Mrs Duffin will work across the school providing targeted children with enhanced supports.

Our Pupil Support Assistants this session are Mrs Dunbar, Mrs MacLauchlan and Mrs McBain.
Our Janitor is Mr Mclsaac.

In our school office, the Office Manager is Mrs Madden and Clerical Support Assistant is Mrs Jerdan.

We will continue to communicate with you on a regular basis via text, email and via the school website. Please also check our twitter @St_Thomas_ERC which will be updated regularly. Our school website is a rich source of school information.

If there is anything I can do to help please get in touch via the school office, phone call, email schoolMail@st-thomas.e-renfrew.sch.uk or just pop in. I will always do my best to help.

Speak soon!

Kind regards,

Ian Gillies
Head Teacher