St Stephen’s and St Kevin’s Primaries March 2021 Update

Dear Parents and Carers

Well! I have to say, it is lovely to have all the children back in school. We really have missed their noise, chatter, laughter and chat. It is so good to be able to take that next step in returning to normal life. We have been so lucky to have the sun shining too, so there has been lots of opportunities to be outside for learning and playing with friends. I hope you have been on twitter to see the photographs of the activities out children have been involved in.

Each Thursday we will send out a link on Seesaw for you to access our school Virtual Assembly. The link for this week’s is <https://youtu.be/xgg1HKae6Wc>

Each week you will get an update on what is happening in the school, see some good work examples and learn the sign of the week in Makaton.

C:\Users\DM00132842\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\Temporary Internet Files\Content.IE5\46VJNTET\makton3[1].jpgMakaton is a visual way to develop communication skills which stimulate sounds and words. The visual way of communicating helps language development, such as putting words together. Makaton helps understanding by giving an extra visual clue to communication. It is very helpful for supporting communication with children who are non-verbal, are just beginning to verbally communicate using words or even for children who are new to English. Because we are an inclusive school with a wide range of communication needs, we have been learning how to use Makaton for communication. All of the Management Team and the teachers in St Kevin’s have completed the 4 levels of training. The teachers in St Stephen’s are learning Makaton too. We are very excited to see how this develops. All children across the campus will be learning this in the coming year. We hope you will practice the words too

.  We are very thankful to the kindness of the Lord Provost of Glasgow, Cllr Philip Braat for his donation to the school of a chocolate Easter Egg for each of the children. He thought it would cheer everyone up after a long winter lockdown. We can’t agree more!

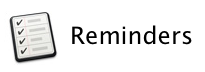
 We will soon be getting in touch with our feeder Nurseries to being our preparation for transition in to P1s. Additionally, arrangements will be starting for our P7 transition in to S1. We will be in touch with parents – new and old – as soon as we have the programmes arranged.

 Our Inclusive Wellbeing Library is up and running and all of the children absolutely love visiting there. We were successful in gaining a grant of over £10,000 to buy resources to promote wellbeing and enjoyment of reading. Mrs O’Neill (Nurture Teacher) and her senior pupil Library Assistants have done a super job of making sure that there is something for everyone. We have:

* Dual language reading and audio books
* Makaton books
* Dyslexia Friendly books
* Audio books and listening centres
* Games to help with social skills
* Sensory books and tuff tables
* Wellbeing resources – books, calm area, prompts and guidance to help calm us

and that’s not all! We are still awaiting some resources but until we can bring you in to see it, please make sure you are on twitter as you will see lots of updates there. Follow us on:

@StSandStKGCC



* Please make sure your children have a change of footwear for wearing in and around the school. They must wear indoor shoes as part of our risk assessment.
* Please encourage your child to wear their red school hoodie each day. The windows and classroom doors have to be open every day whilst the children are in and it can get quite cold.
* If your child is coming to Breakfast Club, they must enter through the main door. Please remember to book them in first by contacting the office the day before.
* Children cannot be on the school premises before 8:45. The rear gates are not opened until this time and we have no one in the playground supervising until this time.
* Remember your facial coverings and to socially distance when collecting your child.
* If you pay for your child’s meal or breakfast club, please do this using BACS. No cash is accepted by the school dinner staff. Please contact the office if you need help with this.
* Please make sure you have all downloaded the school app as all of the information regarding these changes and everything else is sent via that … download the app Scot Ed and then click on the name of our schools. We are no longer sending out paper copies of information. It is important you have this so you can keep in touch.

Thank you for your patience in coming to and from school. There is so much work being done in and around the school, the routes are being changed weekly just now.

**Finally …** it has not been an easy winter. Being at home all day and not getting out has been hard on every one. You, parents and carers, have done a great job! Supporting learning at home is not an easy task and we appreciate your efforts. I would also like to say a huge thank you to all of my team, especially the teachers. The teaching staff have gone above and beyond their contracted hours in ensuring that their class were learning, have codes for Seesaw, in making the weekly calls and all the preparation for learning and teaching which still went on whilst they have their own family commitments to honour too. We have got through it … let’s now look after each other, keep ourselves and others safe and follow the rules. No one really wants another winter like the one we just had there.

Should you need anything or have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me by phoning the office or emailing [Headteacher@st-stephens-pri.glasgow.sch.uk](mailto:Headteacher@st-stephens-pri.glasgow.sch.uk) or [Headteacher@st-kevins-pri.glasgow.sch.uk](mailto:Headteacher@st-kevins-pri.glasgow.sch.uk)

Take care

Mrs Donna K. McKay HT