



St. Francis Primary School

September 2020



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Dear Parent,

Welcome to our September Newsletter. I can't believe it is Autumn already! I am delighted to say that we have all settled well and are coping admirably as a school community with the current challenges. We are looking forward to the year ahead. I can also tell you that we will continue to be an Inverclyde Attainment Challenge School.



As our children will be taking their learning outside when possible, **can you please ensure that they bring a waterproof coat to school each day.**

We greatly appreciate your support which helps us in our daily work with the children. Please remember to contact me if you have any questions or concerns. I am more than happy to discuss your child's learning.

Primary. 1

Our P.1 children have settled very well and are quickly becoming part of the St. Francis' family. They are all learning our school routines!!!



To maintain security within our school grounds, I would now ask that P.1 parents remain outside the school gates, when dropping off and collecting your child.

Please can you put your child's name on all clothing.

Parent Council

Our first Parent Council meeting will take place on **Monday 31st August 2020.** **This will be on Zoom.** The purpose of this is to elect a new Chair for the Parent Council. Further meetings will be communicated to you ASAP.

Virtual Macmillan Coffee Afternoon - Friday 18th September 2020

As we are unable to have groups of adults from different households in the school, we are planning a virtual Macmillan Coffee Afternoon...



Our parents and community support this charity so generously, so we would still like to mark this occasion. More information will be coming out regarding our plans in a separate letter.

Timekeeping/Absence

Please try to ensure that your child arrives at school just before their start time. As explained previously there is no time for play before the start of the day. Your assistance with this is greatly appreciated.



On **wet days** the doors will be open from **8.50am**. Children will be able to come into their classroom from this time. There will be adult supervision for the children who start at 9am.

If your child is going to be absent from school, please contact the school before 9.30a.m. In line with council policy, we will contact you if you do not contact us. When your child returns to school please give him/her a note explaining why they were absent.

Parking restrictions/carpark/disabled spaces

Please be aware of the parking restrictions and layout at the entrance to the school. This is for the safety of our children but also to ease congestion.

Please do not drive into the car park.

The disabled spaces in the Staff car park are only for staff and visitors to the school who have a Blue Badge. It is also for any disabled pupil with a Blue Badge.

Parents are asked not to come into the school playground. **If you wish to speak to a member of staff please come to the school office.**

After School Clubs

Unfortunately we are unable to offer any after schools clubs at the moment. We are waiting on further guidance regarding this. We will inform you of any changes as soon as we have updated information.



First Holy Communion

Our Primary 5 pupils will be receiving the Sacrament of First Holy Communion on Saturday 26th September 2020. As we know this was postponed due to Lockdown. There will be 3 masses on this day due to restricted numbers in the church. Please pray for our children and their families.



Reminder of COVID 19 Protocol

If your child has any of the following symptoms of Coronavirus:

1. A high temperature/fever.
2. A new persistent cough.
3. Loss of sense of smell and /or taste.

Please keep your child at home and arrange for a test by contacting NHS Inform. Confirmation of a test should be shared with the school. **Please e-mail the text that has been sent to you with the result.** The child and all household members should isolate until the result has been received. If it is negative and your child is well, he/she may return to school. If the result is positive the child has to isolate for 10 days and all household members require to isolate for 14 days as per Scottish Government Guidelines.

If your child displays any of the above symptoms whilst at school, they will be taken to the Isolation Room in the school. We will contact you and arrange for you to collect them. We ask that you arrange a test and contact the school with the result.

If anyone is experiencing difficulty getting results back from a COVID-19 test you can phone the National Testing Portal on **03003032713**

Health and Well Being

Developing our children's **health and wellbeing** is a very important part of our work here at St. Francis. Please help us to show the children that by "**living the values,**" the whole school community can work together to value and respect each other.



As a Health Promoting School we ask you to support us by encouraging the children to make healthy choices when choosing snacks for breaks. I would ask that children **do not bring fizzy drinks to school. I have been informed that one of our pupils has a peanut allergy. Please do not allow your child to bring any foods containing peanuts to school.**

Children should bring a **CLEAR** plastic bottle of water to drink in class. Please ensure that your child wears his/her P.E. kit to school on their assigned PE days. If they are unable to take part, a letter should be sent into the school. At this moment, PE lessons take place outside, weather permitting. There will be updated PE guidelines coming out on 14th September.

Head Lice

Please remember to check your child's hair regularly. If you have any further questions about this please speak to me.

Eczema and Covid -19 hand hygiene in schools

Any child who has eczema may bring in their own soap to use at school.

Primary 2 health screening

Due to lockdown, our school nurses were unable to carry out the Primary 1 health screening. The nurses will carry this out in St Francis Primary School on Wednesday 23rd September for all Primary 2 pupils. All nurses will be working in line with Government and GG & C guidance. They will be wearing masks and other PPE to ensure the health and safety of all pupils and adults in the school.

Parent Pay



A reminder for all parents to check their Parent Pay balances. Please also remember to "Top up "your account to ensure that there is not a deficit. Many thanks.

Please see attached list of diary dates and holiday dates.

Always remember that we are here to do our best for you and your child. This is a challenging time for all of us and I appreciate your continued support. We are continually monitoring what is being put in place. I welcome any comments that you may have and look forward to working in partnership with you throughout this session.

School Email: instfrancis@glowscotland.onmicrosoft.com

Please follow us on Twitter: [@StFrancisPG](https://twitter.com/StFrancisPG)

Kindest regards

Jane Stinson
Head Teacher



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