

St Ninian's November News

Welcome to the November newsletter. It has been a busy term so far as we quickly spiral towards Christmas. The children have settled back well into school following the October week and despite the cold weather setting in, they will still be learning outdoors so please always ensure your child comes to school appropriately dressed to participate in outdoor learning.

We have had two successful WEBEX meetings for the parents of our P4 and P7 sacramental classes, even though technology was not performing at its best for some! We look forward to welcoming you to our Parent Partnership AGM next Tuesday 9th November which will be hosted on WEBEX due to restrictions with large gatherings in school.

New Car Parking Facility



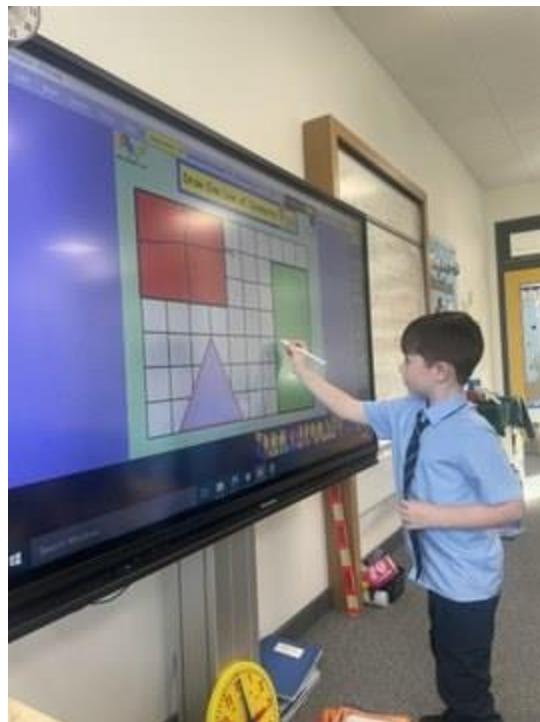
We are delighted that our parents will shortly be able to access the new car park on Drumshantie Road. This will enable parents to park safely in the car park, and for the children to walk to the the school crossing patrol to cross safely to the school grounds.

This new facility will make such a difference to safety and traffic congestion at the bottom of George Road, as well as Drumshantie Road. We urge parents to use the car park rather than park on the street as this will enable traffic to run smoothly in both directions on the road as well as keeping our children safe. We have waited a long time for this facility as traffic congestion and road safety around school start and finish times has been a real problem. We also ask that parents who usually park on Staffa Street also use this car park and walk up the lane to Staffa Street as this will help avoid congestion on Staffa Street which at times becomes unsafe for our children.

We are sure the new car park will also make life a little bit easier for our neighbours, who at times have experienced issues with people parking across their driveways. The Gourock Fire Fighters are also delighted with this as they are regularly finding that parents are parking across the entrance to the station causing fire fighters difficulty with parking at times of an emergency.

We will shortly be sending out details of a School Travel Plan Survey from Inverclyde Council.

Active Schools/After School Clubs



It's great news that we are now able to offer some after school clubs which are led by Active Schools and our own school staff.

At the moment we are offering Netball, Target Sports, Football, Sportshall Athletics. Active Schools have also been working with classes on Orienteering as well as training our P7 pupils as sport's leaders and working with our P2 pupils for a lunchtime club.

Reading Schools Award/Book Week Scotland



Here at St Ninian's we are working hard to build and sustain a reading culture.

Please complete the short survey below to help us on our Reading Schools Journey.

[Reading Survey](#)

Book week Scotland is 15-21 November. We will be highlighting this important event in a number of ways throughout the school including; library visits, live author events online, paired reading workshops throughout the school, story teller visit, whole school reading sessions and more.

If you are doing anything at home to celebrate Book Week Scotland please share it with us by uploading to the class/school twitter site **@saintninians** with **#ThisSchoolReads** and **#StNiniansRocksReading**





Water Bottles



As a health promoting school it is important for the children to have access to water throughout the day. As the children have limited access to the school's water fountains due to Covid-19 restrictions, we ask that you fill the water bottles at home each day.

Diluting or fizzy drinks should not be sent to school in water bottles as these will not be permitted to be brought into class. The canteen now only provides water or milk with lunch following authority guidelines. We are aware that some of the children have a medical condition and require a special diet. These exceptions have been noted by the class teachers.

School Uniform/PE Kit



We are very proud of our St Ninian's School Uniform. Many thanks for your continued support.

Just a reminder that on PE days the children should come dressed for PE as our changing rooms are still not open due to Covid-19 restrictions.

School polo shirts and sweatshirts should be worn that day along with plain dark jogging/tracksuit bottoms or leggings. **No logo sweatshirts, hoodies, leggings or tracksuits please.**

Please remember that your child may still be on the MUGA for PE days so remember to send your child with a warm jacket.

Parent Partnership AGM



Our Parent Partnership work very hard supporting the school both with decision making and fundraising. We would love new members to join the Parent Partnership. The AGM takes place by WEBEX on Tuesday 9 November at 7 pm, where you can find out more about the work of the Parent

Partnership and how to become more involved in the life of the school. The link for this meeting will be emailed to parents today. We look forward to seeing as many of you as possible at the meeting.

Reporting to Parents/Pupil Targets



Teachers have been very busy over the past couple of weeks making phone calls to parents to discuss the children's learning. Please check your answer machine if you haven't received a call. If you wish to discuss your child's learning journey further then please contact the school and we can arrange a consultation with the class teacher. We are hoping that Covid-19 restrictions are lifted for our next Parents Night and we can get our families back into school.

Next week Pupil Targets will be sent home. These targets are a snapshot of some of the learning in literacy, numeracy and health & wellbeing that will take place this term and can hopefully create opportunities for you to have conversations with your child. Throughout the school children have been developing their understanding of the language of learning. We know that very often when parents ask their children what they did in school, the answer can sometimes be - 'nothing'. To help with conversations about your child's learning, here are 5 key questions to ask your child that you might find helpful:

- **What did you learn today?**
- **How did you do?**
- **What did you do if you didn't understand?**
- **How can you improve on your learning?**
- **What are you most proud of?**

We hope that these questions create opportunities for conversations with your child.

Christmas Events & Activities



At present Covid-19 restrictions are still in place so we are unable to plan for any Christmas Nativity or Concert for parents.

We look forward to having a host of Christmas activities in school including parties that the children can enjoy. We will send you an update of Christmas Lunch and party dates.

This year the Gourock Schools and Churches Advent Service will not go ahead. The PTA are also unable to host their Christmas Fete this year.

We look forward to the times when we can welcome parents back into our school but in the meantime we thank you for your patience with this. Our priority as always is to keep our school community safe.

Attendance Matters



- If your child has a sickness bug they should not attend school for 48 hours from the last period of sickness
- Please inform the school office if your child is absent from school for any reason, the school office is open from 8.30 a.m.
- Please don't book any family holidays during the school year. Absence has a significant impact on a child's attainment, regular absences creates gaps in learning.