

St. Serf's Primary & Nursery



Thrashbush Road, Airdrie, ML6 6QU

School Office: 01236 632082

Head Teacher: Mrs M. McGuigan

New School Term

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome to our new academic year 2016-2017. Special welcome to our new primary one class who walked beautifully from their line into their class on their very first day. We sincerely hope our P7 leaver's have had a fantastic start at their new high school too. This newsletter will contain important information to keep you up to date with school events throughout the course of the year – as you will know the school year gets very busy.

Compliment

Our learners have been sent to school this year in full school uniform and look incredibly smart. Please continue with this effort throughout the school year as it gives the best impression to others within the school and community about our young learners.

Data collection / Permissions – IMPORTANT

Every year, we send out information regarding family contact details and pupil school outings. Please complete, SIGN and return the Annual Data Check and Parental Consent forms in the envelope provided, showing your child's name and class, as soon as possible. (These forms **MUST** be signed otherwise the office staff will return them for signature.) If we **urgently** need to contact you (or the emergency contact) regarding your child and are unable to do so because of incorrect details, the only other option for us is to contact Social Work Department or Airdrie Police Station. It helps the smooth running of the office for all requests for information/permission to be dealt with quickly at home because we cannot take children on outings without parent/carer permission.

UPCOMING EVENTS

24th August @ 6 p.m. Information Evening for Kilbowie – P7

26th August - Mass to mark the end of the Year of Mercy at Carfin Grotto for P7

30th August – St Margaret's High School Transition visits for P7

5th September @ 6 p.m. Parent Council Meeting

7th September – Tempest Photographers in school for family or individual photos

Fri. 23rd to Monday 26th September – September weekend holiday

13th October – Parent's Evening

17th October to 21st October – October Week Holiday

24th October – 28th October is Kilbowie Week for P7

Last session there was a lot of clothing left in the senior cloakroom. If you are missing anything please contact the school asap – at the end of the month we will recycle left over clothing.

On that note, please do take the time to mark your child's name on each item of clothing. We appreciate it takes time but already we have found items without names and this can be upsetting for yourself and children.

School Twitter: @StSerfsAirdrie
 Nursery @stserf_nursery
 P1 @stserfs1
 P2 @stserfsairdrie2
 P3 @stserfsairdrie3
 P4 @stserfsairdrie4
 P5 @stserfsairdrie5
 P6/5 @stserfsairdrie6/5
 P7/6 @stserfsairdrie7/6
 P7 @stserfsairdrie7



Kilbowie 24th to 28th October - P7 pupils Our new Primary 7 pupils will be leaving the comfort of their own home and heading off for a memorable adventure to Kilbowie on Monday 24th October to Friday 28th October. We are holding a parent/child information evening on **Wednesday 24th August at 6 p.m.** in the school hall. Any child who does not attend Kilbowie should still attend school, as provision will be made for them in other classes.

The Diocesan Mass for the end of 'The Year of Mercy' – Primary 7 pupils This mass marks the end of 'The Year of Mercy' and our primary 7 pupils are invited to attend this very special event at Carfin Grotto at 11.30 a.m. Our bus has been arranged and over 4000 representatives across the Diocese are expected to attend this event. The Diocese has asked for a contribution of £1 per pupil in the offsetting of costs. A separate letter will be issued to P7 pupils for this purpose.

Transition with St Margaret's High School – Primary 7 Primary 7 pupils will be together for all transitions events (and many other events) this year. The transition program starts with fortnightly P.E. lessons delivered by a high school teacher in St. Serf's and this is due to begin on Tuesday 30th August.

Tempest Photography Tempest Photographers will be in school to take individual and family photographs on Wednesday 7th September.

P5 Swimming Primary 5 swimming block will commence on Wednesday 30th November for 12 weeks. Further information will be issued nearer the time.

Classes for session 2016- 2017

P1	Miss S. McKenzie	P2	Mrs C Easton
P3	Mrs C Durkin/Mrs M Reid	P4	Mr D Kelly
P5	Mrs S Sneddon	P6/5	Miss M Morgan
P7/6	Mrs D McMahon/Mrs C Rooney	P7	Mrs T Deeney

Non-class contact teachers: Mrs Reid/Mrs Rooney/ Miss Loughran PT/ Mrs Powell PT

I believe it is worth reminding everyone that the school roll can fluctuate throughout the year with families moving into our area and out with our area, this can mean that classes have to be restructured as we cannot refuse a place for a child who lives within the catchment area.

New and returning staff We welcome Mr Tommy Brand who will be our new and permanent Janitor. Mr Brand has already settled well into the school and has openly said what a 'fantastic wee school this is'. I believe the Janitor's job and character is so important in a school's ethos and we look forward to him being a part of our 'fantastic wee school'.

We welcome Mrs Rooney back from her recent Maternity leave, Mrs Rooney will work in school 3 days per week. We also look forward to the return of Mrs Watson. Also, we welcome a new member of our support team, Mrs Liz Ferguson.

P.E. Class P.E. times will be finalised shortly, in the meantime it does no harm to pack a P.E. kit in your child's bag every day. We will continue with the '**Daily Mile**' in St Serf's, this has been embedded well into daily school life and I'm sure many of you have seen children walking, skipping and even running during their mile in order to build future good habits for their health and wellbeing.

Cashless system and top-up cards This is a reminder that the best time to top-up cards is in the morning before school starts. Our breakfast club is open from 8.15 a.m. and a member of staff is present with the cards from 8.45 a.m. to assist pupils with this. Ideally, a pupil tops-up with a larger amount of money to reduce daily top-ups. We discourage pupils from 'topping-up' throughout the rest of the school day. Many pupils top-up their cards/funds in the morning before school very well! Should your child have insufficient funds on their card to buy their lunch, they will definitely receive a lunch and a text or note will be sent home to you requesting the required funds. Whilst lunches are free for all pupils in Primary 1-3 breakfast snacks/playtime snacks and any extra items bought at lunch, still require further funds on their card. Reminder of lunch costs:

£1.90 for a lunch which would include:	Daily Hot Dish	(Snack to Go)
	Dessert or fruit or biscuit	Sandwich
	Milk or flavoured milk	Fruit
		Biscuit
		Juice or Milk

Lunch menus can also be viewed using this (lengthy) link:

<http://www.northlanarkshire.gov.uk/index.aspx?articleid=5594>

Update on Online Payments Within the next few weeks the facility to pay for school meals and other payments (e.g. trips and school shows) to the school will go live for St Serf's Primary! We would encourage you to try this method which is safe, convenient and allows you to track/confirm what your children have been spending their money on! Each child will be provided with a unique login for registration of your account and once we have these details we will send out a further communication regarding this.

Our Scottish Weather I firmly believe in having our children outdoors as much as possible during morning playtime and lunch time playtime. Therefore, as we know our weather is very changeable, please do ensure they have appropriate clothing for rain/showers. Indoor plays will happen in heavy downpours or extreme weather conditions.

St Serf's Parent Council Our first Parent Council meeting is on Monday, 5th September @ 6 p.m. The Parent Council would be delighted to welcome new members to the meetings regarding school issues and events planning. Please do feel free to come along. The chair of our Parent Council is Mr Shane Carrier, contact details for him are: stserfspc@gmail.com

Sacrament of Reconciliation (P3), Sacrament of the Eucharist (P4), Sacrament of Confirmation (P6 and P7). Sacramental Parent Workshops and dates of the events themselves will be issued in the next newsletter.

Playground Zones We have invested thanks to our Parent Council in some playground games and will begin to integrate them through our playtimes. Our support staff will also be responsible for monitoring zones within our yard too.

After School/Lunch time clubs Thanks to the dedication and efforts of our teachers your child will get opportunities throughout the year to take part in a variety of clubs out with classroom time. This information will be relayed to classes as the year progresses.

Water Bottles It is North Lanarkshire's policy that everyone has access to water throughout the course of the learning day as studies have shown that brains work better when they are hydrated. Your child can bring a water bottle (not glass) to school and refill throughout the course of the day. Any uncollected water bottles lying around will be disposed of because they could cause a risk of infection/disease. Only clear or flavoured water is permitted for this purpose – not diluting juice! Keep that for playtimes.

Fizzy-Sugar Drinks and Brightly Coloured 'juice' We are a health promoting school and very occasionally I have noticed some children bringing in cans or bottles of fizzy drinks. Please do not send them from the house as they will be taken from the child as we have all sorts of healthier options on offer – if they are unopened they will be returned to the child when going home. These days we are much more health conscious and we know how increased sugar levels can affect behaviour and influence attitudes and we wish to maximise learning capabilities of our learners without the added issues with increased sugar. I do think that some children may buy them at a shop on their way to school so you may not know that they have been purchased for drinking in school. We are trying to promote healthy attitudes for our future young adults so that they look after their health better than we may have done! Any energy drinks e.g. Powerades, including Lucozade, is a big **NO** in school for reasons you will surely know.

Mobile Phones I fully understand that some children will be provided with a mobile phone for safety issues travelling to and from school. However, as you can imagine, mobile phones are much more common than they have ever been in the past. Therefore, if you are sending your child to school with a mobile phone then please ensure that your child knows that they are switched off or

Mobile phones cont./

(or) put onto silent during the class day **and kept within their bag**. This became an issue last year because our school office or class teachers cannot guarantee their safety nor safely store the ever increasing amount of mobiles that children have these days. Furthermore, **mobile phones/IPads/tablets** are not allowed to be used during Golden Time. So if your child asks you for permission to bring in an expensive tablet/iPad on a Friday – say no and blame us! These are very expensive items, very easily damaged and costly to repair. I have to stress that the school is not responsible for any personal mobile phones or devices in terms of their loss or damage.

Medical Information Please ensure any medical information concerning your child is updated throughout the course of the year. Should your child require medicine at a specific point in the day you must come to the office and sign a consent form with instructions for dosage.

And finally...

School events and plans are taking shape constantly and further information will come through newsletters, flyers, text message and of course **twitter** – please note you do not need a twitter account to view our twitter pages. A code of conduct regarding twitter will also be issued with this newsletter. However, you are more than welcome to sign up to twitter to follow events and news from the school and your child's class, the twitter addresses are contained on the first page. These have changed from last year to reflect the new class of your child.

I really look forward to a busy and hard-working year ahead for both staff and pupils. I absolutely love coming in to school and seeing every day our youngest learners in the nursery to our new Primary 7. My staff and I will constantly remind our new P7's how important their role and example is for all our learners younger than them. I hope they will be the best primary 7 ever!

With best wishes,

Mrs Martha McGuigan

Head Teacher