



# St Gerard's Primary Newsletter

## August 2014

Dear Parent/Carer,

Welcome back to academic year 2014/15. I would like to extend a special welcome to all the boys and girls in Primary 1 and their parents. I hope by now you have settled into a good routine after the long summer holiday. Life at school has been as busy as ever with new staff getting to know the children and the school community. I'd like to welcome Mr. Bill Malone, Ms. Claudia Verrechia, Ms. Caroline McCumesty & Mr. Iain Keddlity to our school. I hope everyone had a good holiday and possibly had the chance to visit Glasgow for the Commonwealth Games. After a summer of pleasant weather, we look forward to a positive year at St. Gerard's a year in which we commemorate the beginning of World War I. To this end I have organised for a mobile museum to visit the school in November. We look forward to that.

### Staffing

P1. Miss M. Gizzie

P1B Mrs. Hunter

P2. Mrs. AM Brown

P3. Mr. B. Malone

P4. Mrs. C. McAdams

P5. Miss C. Verrechia

P5/6. Miss S. Cahill

P6/7. Mr. M. Harkins

P7. Miss C. Lynch

McCrone

### Divided City

P7 pupils will be working with Noble Primary P7 on a project with the Citizens Theatre. They will be studying the book, "Divided City" by Theresa Breslin. Together both schools will collaborate with staff from the Citizens Theatre to perform the story as a stage play. The book tackles the problem of sectarianism seen through the eyes of the two main characters, one a Catholic and the other a Protestant. We wish them well with this venture.

### Kilbowie

Congratulations to our P7 pupils who had a fantastic week in Oban at the Kilbowie Outdoor Education Centre. Their manners and conduct was **Home Lunch**

If your child is a home lunch, can you please collect them from the school

remarked upon by the Kilbowie staff and once again our P7 pupils have enhanced the excellent reputation of St. Gerard's. A big thank you to Mrs. Brownlie, Miss Lynch & Mr. Harkins who accompanied our children to Kilbowie.

### School Uniform

Your child/ren have been so smart for the start of this academic year. The children were in full school uniform with everyone in shirt and tie. Please continue to support the school. PE kit should be in your child's bag that they can change into for activities and then back into their uniform afterwards. Children should not wear chains or earrings for PE. Earrings should be removed or taped.

I would be grateful if nail varnish is kept for the weekends and eccentric hairstyles for summer holidays. Our attention to the dress code is to maintain focus on learning and to treat schooling and education with the highest degree of respect.

Please support the school in maintaining high standards of dress.

### Diet, Snacks & Lunch

As many of you will be aware, hydration is important to the learning process helping children concentrate and therefore learn. To this end the school encourages children to bring in water

office at 12.30pm. Children should be returned to the school office no later than 1.15pm. Children will not be

bottles that they can fill up during the school day. Please ask your child to bring their water bottle home on a regular basis for a regular clean and renewal after a sensible period of time.

In the past few years, significant research has indicated the damage that sugar is doing to our children's long-term health. Sugar also has a detrimental effect on the learning process with research indicating impairment in concentration levels leaving children "hyper" with the inability to listen effectively to instructions or be seated to a task requiring quiet thought and reflection. Can I ask that you limit sugary sweets within your child's snack and lunch boxes to a minimum, if at all and that you encourage your child to bring in a healthy snack; a health tuck shop is run within the school at break time. I noticed during the end of last term a significant number of children had purchased large sweet bars and bottles of fizzy drinks from the local shops and were consuming these prior to the school day. I intend to confiscate these sweets/drinks and return them to your child at the end of the school day.

Your support in maintaining healthy approaches to food and drink would be greatly appreciated.

permitted to leave the school without adult supervision so please make sure you or a friend/relative, who is

collecting the child, reports to the school office to meet them.

### **Playground**

I hope children have settled into a morning routine by now, especially in P1, P2 & P3. Can I ask that parents drop their child and leave the school grounds

### **Attendance & Lateness**

We must record all absence and lateness and would appreciate every effort to ensure children are at school on time. If your child is late please take them or ask them to report to the school office. Several parents ask permission to remove their children for family holidays during term time. If you wish to do this, please ask in writing stating the dates of absence. Your child will be recorded as an unauthorized absence. Authorized absence is only granted if you work for a public service and supply a letter from your employer stating that this is the only holiday time available. This is usually for people working in the public sector with holiday dates indicated by your employer such as NHS or the Police. While I appreciate the cost savings that can be made out with holiday dates I would counsel the need to maintain as high an attendance at school as possible.

### **Parent Helpers**

Our school values the contribution of outdoor visits to exhibitions, museums, and activities. While they enhance children's educational experiences we can only arrange these trips if we have sufficient adult supervision. In the past we have been well supported by parents and once again I would be grateful if you could consider offering your help as a parent helper. If you are able to volunteer your time please pass your name and details to our office staff and they will contact you when outings or events are organised.

Parent Council

**Tom Clarke MP**

On Monday 25<sup>th</sup> August Tom Clarke MP at Westminster visited the school. He met with P5, P6 & P7 pupils and told them about his role as a member of the United Kingdom Parliament. After, the pupils had an opportunity to ask some questions. Tom Clark is the Member of Parliament for Coatbridge, Bellshill & Chryston and we would like to extend a thankyou for coming along to St. Gerard's