

April - June 2021

St. Augustine's Primary

NEWSLETTER



Winner of NLC Sport Award - Primary School of the Year 2019

Dear Parents/Carer,

The final term of 2020/21 sees the whole school community return to the building for lessons that will take place both inside and outside the classroom. We are all delighted at the prospect that lies ahead. Most importantly it means we are all together working as a community of faith and learning in what continues to be challenging times. Whilst we hope the sun shines upon us all this term and children get lots of opportunity to get outside and play we kindly ask that all parents adhere to the ongoing restrictions at drop off and pick up times. It is everyone's responsibility to ensure we keep each other safe and do not give the virus a chance to impact on the lives of others.

Mrs. C. Docherty



Infra-structure Update

It has been a long and arduous journey but we are finally coming to the end of extensive upgrades across the school. This has involved a full school re-wire, installation of a new heating system, installation of a new cabling network system, the addition of a new class cooking area and teaching bay, the addition of new pupil toilets on the first floor, a new nursery on the campus, new ceilings, removal of all blackboards and the installation of new whiteboards, new flooring on

the ground and first floor, nursery grounds upgrade and a full school painting programme. The extensive programme of upgrades required all staff and pupils to be flexible and to adapt to the changes that were required to facilitate work on site. This was no easy task as I am sure staff felt we were in the middle of a building site at times. However, the highly professional staff team showed great patience and remained committed to providing high quality learning experiences in the midst of the ongoing programme of works. A huge thanks is extended to the staff team for working around the ongoing challenges. Pupils were exemplary throughout.

The many positive and complimentary comments made by visitors and workmen to the school is a great testimony to the wonderful children that make up our school. As a community of faith and learning we are extremely proud of our school and are justifiably proud of the adaptations and improvements that have taken place whilst the school remained open. The school will now look to purchase new laptops and desktops to ensure our ICT suite remains fully functioning. We will also begin a programme of staged buys to purchase new classroom furniture and to replace interactive whiteboards across the school. Hopefully these plans won't be quite so disruptive.

Social Distancing and Face Coverings

Many thanks to you all for following the clear guidelines around social distancing at the school fence and gates. Please note that Scottish Government advice remains to wear a face covering at drop off and pick up times. **Please try to drop off and leave** in order to reduce the opportunity for virus transmission.



Pope Francis Faith Award Candidates

Our Pr. 6 and 7 pupils have been making entries in their faith journals and are looking for ways to put their faith into action and serve others. Please support your child at home to address their personal targets.

MASS

Pupils across the school view the First Friday Mass online as we remain unable to attend Mass as a school community. As a faith school we remain committed to the promotion of Gospel values and faith formation and look forward with earnest to the day we can return as a school to church.

PE.Days

Our P.E. kit is white polo shirt or white T-shirt, black shorts or black/grey jogging bottoms. Bright emblazoned T-shirts are not part of our uniform.

At present due to ongoing restrictions we remain delivering PE outside. At present there is no updated guidance for delivering PE indoors. Children can come to school in their PE kit on their PE day. Please note the school PE kit noted above. Children must adhere to the school colours. It is recommended that children have a sweatshirt that they can remove if too warm outside.

Please note children will only be exempt from a P.E. session if a letter is sent to school stating the need for an exemption on **medical grounds**. PE is a core part of the curriculum and everyone is expected to take part. PE days will be shared by class teachers.



Happy Birthday
to all our
April,
May and June
birthday
boys and girls.

Wear Yellow Walk Day

To raise money for St.Andrew's Hospice we will have a Wear Yellow Day on Friday 4th June. Pr. 7 pupils will be provided with a Sponsor sheet as this is always a traditional Pr. 7 event. However, as we have had very limited opportunity to raise funds for charity this session the whole school is asked to join in with a donation

House Captains and Vice Captains

The school is delighted to announce that new House Captains and Vice Captains have been elected for the final school term. As House Captains and Vice Captains they are expected to lead by example. They have taken on a most important leadership role in school that will hopefully inspire other pupils to be responsible citizens, confident individuals and effective contributors. Congratulations boys and girls and commiserations to the children who also presented themselves for the election but were unsuccessful. We will look to provide all pupils with leadership opportunities in this final term.

Monklands

House Captain –Holly Nairn

Vice-Captain –Luca Picozzi

West End

House Captain – Corry Martin

Vice-Captain – Cristian Parker

Summerlee

House Captain- Sarah Hagerty

Vice-Captain- Darimuid Woods

Drumpellier

House Captain- Ryan McPhee

Vice-Captain- Adam McNeilly

We wish them every success in their new roles.

School Improvement Priorities

This term we will be reviewing the impact of our improvement priorities for this session and will be drawing up plans for the next school session.

School priorities 20/21

1. Improve outcomes for learners via the Recovery Programme for Literacy and Numeracy
2. Improve outcomes for learners via the Recovery Programme for HWB
3. Improve outcomes for learners via an established Digital Pedagogy across all stages

Afterschool Clubs



At present due to ongoing restrictions we do not have any clubs running at present. We understand this is a great loss to the school but hope that the children are finding fruitful ways of spending their free time. As soon as we are in a position to deliver clubs once again we will let you know. Please encourage your child/children to walk or cycle to school rather than arriving by car if possible.

Online Learning

Online learning is now playing an increasing role both in school and at home due to our changing world. During lockdown teachers had to find creative and inventive ways of ensuring children remained engaged in their learning and thanks to you, parents, this was achievable. This would not have been easy and we commend your great efforts. At school we have remained committed to maintaining an online platform for providing homework. All teachers are continuing to use teams to set homework and will engage with children who may have to self isolate this term. Never has parent partnership been so important as we work together to ensure that children are continuing to progress in their learning. Your child/children have already made great strides in their learning and are continuing to make progress. If you require any support in regard of how to use technology, access teams or you don't have a device please contact the school and we will make arrangements to provide the necessary support. We are all in this together.

Sacraments

Despite the ongoing restrictions we are delighted that we have confirmed dates for First Reconciliation (27th April (Rm 10) and 29th April (Rm 9) and First Communion (16th May and 23rd May). Many thanks to Father Kane, Deacon David and Jan for their continued support and assistance in helping to prepare the children for their Sacraments. Teaching staff greatly appreciate the role they play. We look forward to celebrating with all families the wondrous occasions that lie ahead.



Retreats

Many thanks to Jan who will be delivering Parish Retreats this term. Pr. 3 pupils will enjoy a full day retreat on Mon. 26th April. Pr. 4 First Communion Retreats on Mon. 10th and Wed. 12th May. Jan also intends to work with our Infants and Senior pupils this term.

Remaining in touch

Many thanks to everyone for providing your e-mail address. This enables the school to make direct contact with you and enables us to ensure important information is in your mailbox. Please check this regularly and have your notifications on. A lot of information is shared in this way. We are aiming to become a paperless school with all communication from school being delivered online – e-mail, school blog that is linked directly to our school app, facebook and twitter. The next time we send a text that requests that you check for a school e-mail in your inbox please do so in order that we can be sure you are in receipt of school e-mails. Your help would be greatly appreciated in this regard.

Sports Day

We are delighted that we can proceed with our annual sports day this year. We missed it greatly last year. Unfortunately due to ongoing restrictions we are unable to invite parents to this event. However, we will do our best to share the event on our social media platforms. The proposed date – weather permitting – is Tues. 1st June. Children are asked to attend school in sports wear throughout that week as we enjoy a focus on Health and Wellbeing. Should the weather not be kind the sports day will be rearranged.

Gaelic Football News

A huge thank you to Joe Bradley who has continued to work with our Pr. 6 and 7 pupils each week. Joe runs Gaelic Football coaching sessions each week at St. Ambrose playing fields every Wed and Thurs. Joe has already scheduled in some games for inter school competitions this term. Next one Sun. 25th April.



Lunchtime Beach Party



Pr. 7 pupils are keen to host a school lunchtime beach party this term. We are sure they will become avid weather watchers as they look for the best day to run this wonderful whole school event. Children are asked to attend school that day in shorts and t-shirts, and to bring along a beach towel. Please note a date is not confirmed at present. Details to follow.

St. Augustine's Have Got Talent

Our Pupil Council will run a Virtual Talent Show this session. We can't wait to see the abundance of talent we have at St. Augustine's School. Date Frid. 18th June.

DATES FOR THE DIARY



Girls can wear school summer dresses this term.

HOLIDAYS

May Bank Holiday - Monday 3rd May. School closed.

In –Service Day – Thurs. 6th May. School closed for all children.

May Holiday Weekend – School closed Frid. 28th May

School closed Mon. 31st May

School closes for the summer break – Thurs. 24th June 1.00pm

Retreats and Sacraments

Retreat – Pr. 3 – First Reconciliation

First Reconciliation – Rm 10 pupils – Tues. 27th April 7.00pm

First Reconciliation – Rm 9 pupils – Thurs. 29th April 7.00pm

Retreat – Pr. 4 – First Communion – Mon. 10th & Wed. 12th May

First Holy Communion – Sun. 16th May 10.00am and 12 o'clock
Mass

First Holy Communion – Sun. 23rd May 10.00am and 12 o'clock

SCHOOL EVENTS

SPORTS DAY - Tuesday 1st June – weather permitting

LUNCHTIME BEACH PARTY – tbc nearer the time

WEAR YELLOW WALK DAY for St.Andrew's Hospice – Pr. 7 pupils will be provided with a sponsor sheets with all Pr. 1 – 6 pupils asked to make a donation to the Hospice as a sponsorship for the Big Walk – Frid. 4th June

VIRTUAL TALENT SHOW – Friday 18th June

Parent Council

Our Parent Council are committed to supporting the school on our ongoing improvement agenda. Next Meeting Wed. 26th May at 6.00pm. The meeting will take place virtually. Please check out the Parent Council twitter account for school and parent council news.

Parent Teacher Association

Next meeting – Wed. 26th May at 7.15pm. New members are warmly welcome to join us. We need your support. The meeting will take place virtually. Please check the PTA twitter account/facebook for details.

Pr. 7 Leavers

Our Pr. 7 leavers have much to look forward to in their final term at St.Augustine's before they leave us and start the next phase of their school career. Due to ongoing restrictions we can't have our usual leavers night but we can do something very different that also enables the children to celebrate in style. All Pr. 7 pupils are invited to a **Garden Party** on school grounds on **Friday 11th June** (weather permitting). If we need to change the date due to the weather not being kind to us that day we will rearrange for another date. Pr.7 pupils and parents are invited to the church on **Monday 21st June at 1.30pm for a Leavers Mass and Awards ceremony**. Details about numbers to follow.

Please note details about Pr. 7 hoodies will be sent out shortly in order that orders can be placed.

Mr.J. McParland (HT of St.Ambrose) and some 6th Year pupils will visit the school on Wed. 12th May. A virtual parent's information evening will take place on Wed. 16th June. Details to follow.

Please note there are two dates – tbc and pending future guidance – in regard of **Induction Days at St.Ambrose HS**. Dates for a possible school visit are **Mon. 14th and Tues. 15th June**. Details to follow.

Parental Comments/Feedback

The school greatly appreciates all feedback and comments from the wider parent body in regard of the school. Please feel free to complete the sheet and send into school if there is anything you wish to bring to our attention. Thank you.

Signed:

Date:

