



**ST ANNE'S PRIMARY SCHOOL
NEWSLETTER
August/September 2024**



"Within our learning community, we will inspire one another to achieve our full potential.

Children, families and staff will be supported, challenged and listened to. Rights for all will be respected and promoted, with Christ and love at the centre of everything we do.

*Working in positive partnerships, highly motivated staff will actively strive to create a nurturing, stimulating and joyful environment - **making learning fun!**"*

SCHOOL CONTACT DETAILS:

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Acting Head Teacher: Claire Mackenzie
Depute Head Teacher: Julie Hunter**

Welcome!

In this, our first newsletter of the session 2024/25, we would like to warmly welcome all our returning children and families back to school – it's great to see you again, especially after such an extended period away from school!

We would also like to extend a special warm welcome to all our new children and families in Primary 1 - we are really looking forward to working with you!

Each month, we will keep you up to date with events and news in our school via our newsletter and webpage. We also use X and text messages to let you know about day-to-day activities and information – please ensure you send us your most up to date mobile number and remember to follow us on X - **@StAnnesPSE**

Home/School/Parish Links:

Each month, we will keep you up to date about how we are working with the parish of St. Bernadette's to support our children on their faith journey.

Father David Boyd is our school chaplain and is a regular visitor to the school to help us to prepare for and celebrate class Masses, Liturgies and Sacraments, in addition to supporting our faith formation work.

A chaplaincy planning meeting for session 24/25 was held on Tuesday 27th August 2024 where we discussed seasonal Masses and celebrations. Father David is looking forward to meeting with the Primary 4 Parents/Carers when the 'GIFT' Sacramental preparation inputs begin. Our first Mass together will be on: Wednesday 4th September at 9.30am where Primary 6 will lead the Liturgy. Mrs Hunter will oversee the proceedings as my attendance is required at a Head Teacher's Meeting.

Thank You!

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank the children and staff for their warm welcome to St. Anne's Primary and ELCC. St. Anne's is a fantastic school and I look forward to meeting with and getting to know all our families in the weeks and months ahead.



**** REMINDER****

September Weekend:

**Friday 27th September 2024 and Monday
30th September 2024 - Holiday.**

**School reopens on Tuesday 1st October
2024.**



Trinity High School News:

We are very proud of the strong partnerships with our associated high school, Trinity High School, and other cluster primary schools. All cluster schools work closely together to ensure that together, we achieve the best possible outcomes for our children.

*The first Cluster HT meeting of session will take place in St. John Bosco Primary on Monday 26th September.

*Mrs Julia Barron will visit St. Anne's Primary each Friday to provide woodwind tuition to some of our P6 and P7 pupils.

*Mr La Monica (RE Co-ordinator) will arrange visits during the month of October for former/older pupils to visit the Primary 7 class.

*Trinity High School will host an Opening of Term Mass on Thursday 5th September at 7pm (at Trinity High).

*An information evening for Primary 7 parents will be held on Tuesday 24th September at Trinity High School – information on this will

School Vision and Values:

During this session, we will begin a consultation in the school and ELCC to renew and refresh our school vision and values. It is so important that we underpin what makes us unique and encapsulate this within a concise and memorable statement. We will be asking for everyone's ideas and suggestions.

Parent Council:

**We NEED you.
Can you HELP?**

The first meeting of our Parent Council for session 2024-2025 will be held on Tuesday 3rd September at 6.30pm. The first part of this meeting will be the Annual General Meeting (AGM) of the Parent Council where Office Bearers roles will be confirmed.

There will be an opportunity to contribute to a 'Have your Say' group activity to enable me to learn more about St. Anne's and find out areas we can seek to work on together to improve our school and ELCC.

**** Health Promoting School****

We are committed to supporting your child's social, emotional, and physical wellbeing. We work with a range of partners to help us to do this, including our Active Schools Coordinator, Mr Robert Campbell.

We will shortly confirm Active Schools Clubs which will be available this term. Once confirmed, clubs can be booked through Class for Kids website:

<https://rl-stannes.class4kids.co.uk/term/10>

We are delighted to inform you that our school will continue to participate in the local schools' football league. We have managed to secure a coach to deliver a P5-P7 afterschool football club which will take place on a Wednesday after school. A separate letter will be issued to P5-P7 parents regarding this in due course.

We hope to be able to provide an outdoor residential experience for our P7 pupils in Term 3 – further information on this will be shared with our P7 parents via letter, and at our **St. Anne's P7 information evening**

which will be held on Tuesday 17th September 2024 at 6.00pm in the school.

We ask that all P7 parents attend this event if possible.

We continue to use the PATHS programme throughout all stages of the school (Promoting Alternative Thinking Strategies) to support emotional and social wellbeing and continue to promote the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) in all aspects of learning and teaching in our school.

We respectfully ask that children bring a healthy snack to school – PLEASE, NO SWEETS OR CHOCOLATE!

We would also remind you that NO NUT PRODUCTS are allowed in our school.

Please encourage your child to bring their water bottle to school each day. Please note, ONLY PLAIN WATER IS PERMITTED IN CLASS IN WATER BOTTLES.



Working in positive partnership with all in our school community is an essential part of the vision for our school and ELC Class.

Each month, we will ask for your views via suggestion/comment pro-forma. If you have any suggestions or comments about how we can improve our service, please let us know via these pro-formas, or contact us directly at the school.

Involving You:

We want you to be as involved in and informed about your child's learning as far as possible.

***Meet the Teacher (Thursday 12th September from 3.30 – 4.30pm)** – opportunity to meet your child's teacher and have a look around the school.

***Learning Targets** – your child will work with their class teacher to set targets in learning for the coming term. Learning Targets are sent home to you at the beginning of each term.

***Learning Target Review** – at the end of each term, your child will discuss their progress in achieving their learning targets with you.

***Parents' Evenings** – Thursday 14th November 2024 and Thursday 20th March 2025

***End of Year Report** – June 2025

***Focus Week Involvement** – such as Scottish Maths Week, Health Week and STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths)

*** Parental Workshops** – We will continue to provide opportunities to learn more about our approaches in Literacy, Numeracy and other curriculum areas and activities.

***Additional Support Meetings** - ongoing throughout the year.

Communication – newsletters, website, X.

Please remember that you can also view your child's learning journey folder at any time – please just contact the school office to do this.



Director Visit – Thursday 29th August 2024:

Following the success of our 'Reading Schools Gold Award,' the Director of Children's Services Janie O'Neill visited our school and ELCC last Thursday. Mrs O'Neill was given a tour of the ELCC, Community Nursery Class and the school which was led by Mrs McAdam and some of the children from the Reading Steering Group. Mrs O'Neill was really impressed with the creative ways in which St. Anne's have brought a culture of reading alive and the commitment that the school, ELCC, staff and community have shown towards raising the profile of reading. Mrs O'Neill was also very interested in the value that our school placed on Children's Rights and the UNCRC Agenda. She was impressed by the quality of 'Class Charters' which outlined the rights that we were trying to promote and encourage in every class she visited. The visit involved a huge team effort and Mrs O'Neill mentioned how much she had enjoyed her time in St. Anne's at a recent Head Teacher's Meeting – I was very proud indeed! #TeamStAnnes!



Heyes Photography

Please note, Heyes Photography will visit the school on Monday 2nd September to take photographs of each class, sibling groups and individuals.

There is no requirement to purchase photographs if you do not wish to do so.



Pupil Voice & Participation:

We want our learners to be actively involved in their learning and in our school. In addition to Termly Learning Targets, we will:

*Encourage our children daily to think about their “big” termly target, and what they need to do during that particular day’s learning to help them progress towards the “big” target. To help us do this, we will use the **GROW** model in class to help our children identify daily personal targets in learning:

Goal – What do I want to achieve today?

Reality – how far am I towards reaching my goal?

Options/Opportunities/Obstacles – What can I do to reach my goal? What might help me? What do I need to consider or avoid?

What next? – What do I need to do next in my learning to help me reach my “Big” termly target?

What can you do to help?

Each day, discuss with your child what their “Big” termly target is, and what they did during learning to help them move towards this.

Encourage your child to have a “growth mindset” – for example, celebrating mistakes as a great opportunity for learning, seeing challenge as important in the learning journey, and using the power of “yet” (I can’t do it – yet!)



Pupil Voice – continued... Young Leaders of Learning Programme:

Since joining St. Annes, I have enrolled the school in the participation of the ‘Young Leaders of Learning Programme’ in partnership with the Local Authority, the West of Scotland Partnership and Education Scotland. The programme provides pupils with the opportunity to have an active voice in bringing about meaningful change in their school/community. It involves the children engaging with a partner school to explore the themes around the children’s version of ‘How Good is OUR School.’ The theme that the majority of schools have selected is: Relationships which we have also chosen and which is in keeping with our work around RNRA ‘Renfrewshire’s Nurturing Relationships Approach.’

Last Wednesday, I accompanied six Primary 6 pupils to the Tweedie Hall where they engaged in training with other schools in the authority. Our children were a credit to their parents and school, and we are looking forward to the work that they will engage in with their allocated partner school.





Communication and Relationships:

Following a consultation with staff and discussions with the 'Young Leaders of Learning,' we would like to continue to develop our relationships with families through introducing the Seesaw App.

This is an online platform which has been adopted by many other schools and it will strengthen the links between home and school. It will be a means for staff and pupils to share their learning journey with you and it is an excellent way for teachers and all staff to 'reach out' and provide reminders and updates around class news. The SLT (Senior Leadership Team) will also be able to use this platform to share letters, flyers and information with you along with the acknowledging and celebrating wider achievements of our children and staff.

We are really very excited about this next step in our digital learning journey, and we hope that you will find the use of this platform to be engaging, informative and positive in the weeks and months ahead.

We are at the first stage in the 'roll out' of this school improvement whereby the contract has been signed and the staff will now engage in a period of professional learning to ensure they are confident in using the application. We will then train our older children in the functionality of Seesaw, and they will cascade their learning to the younger classes. A 'Policy and Practice' document will be agreed and published prior to families receiving invitations to join the 'St.

Anne's Seesaw Family!



GLOW and Homework:

Last session, we continued to build on digital literacy skills, and made good use of GLOW for home learning (homework) activities.

From early September, all homework for P1-P7 will be posted on Google Classroom by your child's teacher (s). We are currently working hard in school to ensure all pupils are able to access their Google Classroom independently before home learning activities are posted in your child's GLOW classroom in September.

To help you to support your child, we will send home information on GLOW, and how your child can access this – please watch out for the text informing you when we have put this information into your child's bag.

In addition to GLOW (Google Classroom), your child will also have access to various online games and subscriptions.

All of your child's login details will be distributed to them. Please encourage your child to keep their login details safe and in a secure place. Should your child require a reminder of their login details, please contact the school office.

Please note, as with all login details, these are personal to the individual and should not be shared. Therefore, if your child has lost their login details, we will distribute directly to them rather than to parents/carers.

In line with the GDPR legislation, Parents/Carers SHOULD NOT use their child's glow account.

Expectations of Behaviour and

“Respect for All” Policy:

We are very proud of the high standards of behaviour which we have in our school, and each year, we strive to maintain and extend the very good reputation our school has in our community. In school, our recent assemblies have focused on ensuring all our children are clear on what our school vision and values are, and how we can ensure that each day, we “Love One Another”.

We have discussed with our children our “Contract of Behaviour” which we will shortly send home - this “contract” outlines for our children (and their families) our expectations regarding behaviour, and the promise to uphold the school values.

Our expectations of behavior link very closely to our “Respect for All” policy (previously called our anti-bullying policy). This policy is due for review, and we would like to invite our parents/carers to participate in a working party to review this policy. Please do contact the school office if you would like to be involved in this.



Papal Nuncio Visit – Thursday 29th August 2024:

I had the pleasure of accompanying three of our older pupils to the Mass in St. Mirren’s Cathedral to celebrate the visit of His Excellency Archbishop Miguel Maury Buendia to the Diocese. It was a fitting occasion, and the children were a credit to our school and their families. Many parishioners positively commented on the children’s high levels of respect and reverence.

Important Dates:

We are still working on our annual “Important Dates” document and will distribute this to you as soon as possible.



CAR PARKING:

In the first instance, we would absolutely encourage you **NOT** to drive to school, but instead to promote active and healthy lifestyles for our children by walking, cycling or scootering to get to school.

If you cannot avoid driving, can we remind you of the following:

*Parents/Carers **SHOULD NOT** park or drop off/pick up on the roundabout or drive in the school grounds. This causes congestion and poses a health and safety risk to our children and families.

*Please do park safely and avoid parking on the main road. We would also ask for consideration for our neighbours when parking – please do not block driveways/cause congestion in residential streets surrounding the school.

*Please **DO** park in the church car park (Father David very kindly gives us permission to use this area), or at Mains Drive shops car parking area.

Please note, the school car park is for staff and blue badge holders only.

We have previously asked for parent/carer support in car parking – if you would like to volunteer to be a parking steward, we would love to hear from you!

OTHER NEWS:

Primary 7 Careers Day:

The children in Primary 7 will be attending the 'Erskine Careers Day' event at the Waterfront on **Wednesday 4th September from 10.30 to 12.30pm.** This will be an excellent opportunity for the children to continue their consideration around positive destinations in their future years.

NYCOS Singing and Music:

The children in Primaries 1-3 will benefit from weekly Gaelic singing blocks which will be facilitated for an eight-week block beginning on: **Tuesday 3rd September.**

House Points System:

Following a discussion with staff and various children, we have decided to simplify our current House System and to re-energise the awarding of house points. We currently have eight house groups who have been allocated a Saint as a representing figure. We would like to keep the Saint theme however, are looking to reduce the eight groups to four in order to make the groups more memorable for everyone and to 'mirror' the system already in place in High School. As we have selected this sessions Captaincy roles, it would be unfair on the children to completely change the system. Instead, we have merged two groups together and provided them with a colour to identify their group (Red, Blue, Green and Yellow). The Saints will work as a team to earn house points. We hope to purchase plastic house tokens and a new storage container to raise the profile of house points in the school.

The children are really enthusiastic around this proposal and are looking forward to being able to visually see the combined efforts of their house points increasing through time.

Golden Ticket Tea Party:

It is my goal to get to know every child in St. Anne's as an individual. This will involve protected time and effort on my part, and I propose to introduce a monthly 'Golden Ticket Tea Party' celebration whereby I have the opportunity to meet and chat to twelve children from Primaries 1-7 across the school.

Two children from each class will be nominated on a monthly basis by both their Class Teacher(s) and peers to have an opportunity to attend the achievement celebration.

The lucky winners will be selected for upholding our school values in their words and actions and will be invited to join the tea party via special invitation on the day of the celebration!

The children will join with me for treats, hot chocolate and a chat and will be presented with a special certificate to recognise their efforts.

We will track attendance throughout the session to ensure that every child has the opportunity to attend the tea party at least once during their time at St. Anne's.

I hope to post the photographs via the Seesaw app in due course.

And Finally...

The SLT and Depute Heads from the ELCC will be meeting mid-September with our former Education Manager, Yvonne Ward to discuss the improvement priorities that we have identified. This information will be finalised and shared with all parents/carers by the end of September.

We are looking to send all communication to parents/carers via the Parent Pay app which is more time efficient and accessible. As such, the next Newsletter will be in the format of a Sway presentation. This will enable me to share more photographs of school life and provide more detailed information. We will ask for feedback around the new format in due course to ensure the format is both interactive and fit for purpose.

