**St. Catherine’s Primary School**

**and Early Learning and Childcare Class**

Brabloch Crescent, Paisley PA3 4RG.

Tel: 0300 300 0180

School Website: [www.st-catherines.renfrewshire.sch.uk](http://www.st-catherines.renfrewshire.sch.uk)

E-Mail: stcatherinesenquiries@renfrewshire.gov.uk

Head Teacher: Ms Marie McLaughlin

**January 2024 Newsletter**

Dear Parents/Carers

A Happy New Year and a warm welcome back. I hope you all enjoyed some quality time with family and friends over the Christmas break and hopefully Santa was good to you all! The children have settled happily back into school life and obviously had a wonderful time over the Christmas period. As a staff we are all looking forward to continuing to work with you and your children in 2024.

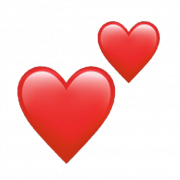


**Parent Council**

We are very lucky to have such a wonderful Parent Council who have organised some amazing events. The next meeting will be on **1st February at 2pm** within the school and new members would be very welcome.

This year the Parent Council have already ran a popular Halloween Disco and a very successful Christmas Fayre that raised over £1700. A huge thank you and well done. The Parent Council Fund now contains £2,681.47 – what a superb achievement. The following events are already planning for 2023:

**Valentine’s Raffle**

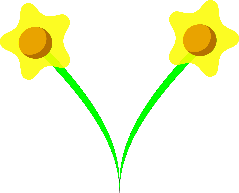


**1st Prize a Family Date Night (Cinema and Nandos for 4)**

**Plus other prizes including a hamper, chocolates and Nandos sauce gift set.**

**Spring Disco – 21st March –**

**P1 to P3 – 5.30 – 6.30pm - P4 to P7 – 6.45 – 7.45pm**

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**Easter Egg Hunt**

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**Friday, 28th March**

**Donations to the Parent Council**

If you have any unwanted non-perishable gifts from Christmas our Parent Council would welcome these for future events, such as our Christmas Fayre. Please hand into the office. We also run a uniform recycling shop and would welcome any items of uniform that are in good repair, as well as Christmas jumpers, that could be used by another child. Please hand in any items to the school office. Thank you for all you past donations they have been put to excellent use.

**Thank you**

Once again this week we were very thankful to receive a cheque for £400 from Laings Distillery (Big Peat) who very kindly donated their staff contributions collected from their Christmas Jumper Day in December. This is extremely generous, and we are very grateful. This money will be used to partially fund our buses for the children’s trips. Thank you once again Laings.



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**Reading Cafes – Beginning 17th January**



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We are delighted that we are able, once again to run our successful Reading Cafes. The Reading Cafes are a fantastic way to support your child’s reading and get to know your child’s teacher. The cafes will run on Wednesdays each week, so please come along and enjoy a cuppa, a snack, a visit to the Skoobmobile, reading with your child and engaging with your child’s teacher, with some helpful hints on how to get the best out of reading for you and your child. The dates for the cafes, for all classes, are as follows:-

* Week 1 – Wednesday, 17th January
* Week 2 – Wednesday, 24th January
* Week 3 – Wednesday 31st January
* Week 4 – Wednesday 7th February
* Week 5 – Wednesday 21st February
* Week 6 – Wednesday 28th Febuary
* Week 7 – Wednesday 6th March



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**DATES FOR YOUR DIARY FOR TERM 3**

**JANUARY**

Wednesday 17th Jan – Reading Cafés begin

Sunday 14th Jan – 1st Do this in memory of me Mass – 11am St Mirin’s Cathedral

Wednesday 24th Jan – 2nd Reading Cafe

Friday 26th Jan – Crazy Hair Day – Donation of toiletries for a homeless charity

Sunday 28th Jan – 2nd Do this in memory of me Mass – 11am St Mirin’s Cathedral

Wednesday 31st Jan – 3rd Reading Cafe

**FEBRUARY**

Thursday 1st Feb – Parent Council meeting and distribution of Valentine’s Raffle Tickets

Wednesday 7th Feb – 4th Reading Café

Monday 12th Feb – Holiday

Tuesday 13th Feb – Holiday

Wednesday 14th Feb – In-service Day/Ash Wednesday

Sunday 18th Feb – P4 Mass of Commitment and 3rd Do this in memory of me Mass – 11am St Mirin’s Cathedral

**MARCH**

Friday 1st March – Fair Trade Tuck Shop and Non-uniform day for school funds - £1 per child £1.50 per family

Sunday 3rd March – 4th Do this in memory of me Mass – 11am St Mirin’s Cathedral

Tuesday, 5th March – First Reconciliation – 6pm St Mirin’s Cathedral

Thursday, 8th March – Cross Country

Monday 11th March – Annual reports issued

Wednesday, 13th March – P6/7 Boys Football Tournament

Thursday 14th March – Parent/Teacher Evening – 3.00 – 9.00

Friday, 15th March – P6/7 Girls Football Tournament

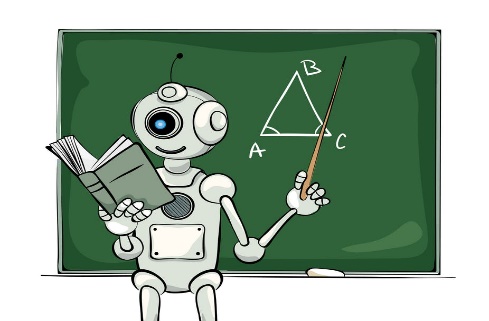
Thursday 21st March – Spring Disco

Friday, 28th March – Last day of term and Parent Council Easter Egg Hunt

Monday, 15th April – return to school

**Trips**

In November the children all enjoy the trip to Clydebank Cinema and the P1 to P3 party at the Lynnhurst Hotel. At Christmas the whole school had great fun watching and participating in the Hopscotch Panto performed in the school. Over Terms 2 and 3 all of the classes will enjoy a trip. We will send out more information nearer the time regarding these exciting events.



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**Active Schools Clubs**

Morgan has been a great addition to the staff within St Catherine’s and has been very busy putting in place our After Schools Clubs and our Lunchtime Clubs, as well as taking different groups out to different tournaments.

**Lunchtime Clubs (will run for 5 weeks – from 09/01/23 – 10/02/23):**

Monday – P6/7 (Weekly Rotation) – Dodgeball Club

Tuesday – P6/7 – Girls & Boys football team practice

Wednesday – P1 – Multi-sports

Thursday – P3 - Football

Friday – P5 – Netball

**January Afterschool Clubs:**

Monday – Golf – P4/5 (Capped at 16)

Tuesday – Basketball – P6/7

Thursday – Football – P4/5

A big thank you to Morgan from all the children, parents and staff. She is doing an exceptional job.



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**Place2Be**

We were sad to say goodbye to May and wish her all the best in her new role, but send a big welcome to our new Place2Be Counsellor Anastasia who we are sure will be a great addition to our team.

**Contacting the school**

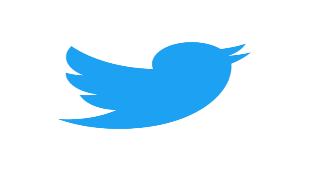
Information can be passed to the school office by telephone (0300 300 0180) or via the school email address [stcatherinesenquiries@renfrewshire.gov.uk](mailto:stcatherinesenquiries@renfrewshire.gov.uk). Should you need to speak to a senior member of the staff team this can be done by arrangement. Please contact the school office by telephone (0300 300 0180) to arrange a suitable time for this to be scheduled.

**Reporting to Parents**

We will continue to provide you with an update on your child through our monthly reports and Parents/Teachers’ Evenings will be on Thursday, 14th March from 3.00 to 9.00pm. Further information will follow. Should you have any concerns in the meantime please contact the school and we can arrange to call you back or meet to discuss any issues you may have.

**X formally known as Twitter/Website**

Keeping you informed of changes quickly and efficiently is something we pride ourselves on and as such we invite you to follow us **@stcatherinespsy** if you have not done so already. This alongside our school website, in particular our ‘Whole School News’ section will provide you with up-and-coming events and necessary information. You will also find copies of our newsletters, school handbook, school improvement plan and other useful information. We will continue to use our text messaging service also to keep you up to date.



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**Attendance & Punctuality**

It is important that parents contact the school with regard to a child’s absence. Parents are requested to telephone the school office between **8.30am and 9.15am** at the latest on the first morning of each absence. If no notification is received it is treated as an ‘*Unauthorised Absence’* and a text message will be sent to the main parental contact. However, parents are respectfully requested to adhere strictly to the school policy.

**Drop off/Pick up**

Drop off and pick up times can be very busy. If possible, our older children can enter/be collected at the school gate or at the end of the lane. Thank you for your support.

**Bicycle Shed**

Bicycle sheds and scooter rack have to be replaced but are still in use, and we would continue to encourage our children to actively travel to school. Please note that bikes, scooters and prams left in the bike shed are not the responsibility of the school. They are left at your discretion, and we would advise that bike chains are used.

**Car Park**

We are committed to keeping our children safe and remind you that current guidelines state that **the car park is for staff only.** A reminder that car parking arrangements continue with restriction times being 8.30am – 9.15am/2.30-3.15pm. Parking is available on the main road.

**Data check and other forms**

It is of the utmost importance that we have correct contact details for every child, therefore if there are any changes after these forms are submitted, for example a change in telephone number, emergency contacts or email address. Please let the school know in writing so that these details can be up to date.

**School Lunches**

Renfrewshire Council has now updated the school lunches, more information is available on Council website - https://www.renfrewshire.gov.uk/schoolmeals-primary, so that you can help your child to choose the option they like best or alternatively you can find the menu on the Renfrewshire Council website. If your child has a dietary need, please contact Renfrewshire Council on 0300 300 0300 or email softfm@renfrewshire.gov.uk to discuss, so that your child’s can have a specific menu dependent on their needs. Our free Breakfast Club runs from 8.15am every morning. Doors open at 8.15am and can enter up until 8.30am. All welcome.

**School Uniform**

The children look very smart, and we don’t want them to lose any items of uniform, therefore, please ensure your child’s name is clearly marked on all items so these can be returned and don’t end up in lost property! To check eligibility and apply for free school meals and/or clothing grant, please visit Renfrewshire Council website - <https://www.renfrewshire.gov.uk/article/3338/Free-school-meals-and-clothing-grants>

**Achievements**

Although we encourage our children to tell us about their achievements out with school, we are sure that we don’t know about lots of things however big or small, for this reason we would like your help. If you feel that your child has accomplished something for the first time, improved in something, or has achieved an award please let us know by completing the tear off slip below. Your child will receive a Head Teacher Award which will be shared at assembly and added to our achievement records.

As always if you have any questions regarding this letter or indeed any aspect of your child’s education, please do not hesitate to contact me at the school office. I look forward to the year ahead.

Kind regards,

Marie McLaughlin

**Recognition of Achievement**



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Although we encourage our children to tell us about their achievements out with school, we are sure that we don’t know about lots of things however big or small, for this reason we would like your help. If you feel that your child has accomplished something for the first time, improved in something, or has achieved an award (yellow belt in Judo, badges at Scouts/Brownies/Boys Brigade etc.) please let us know by completing the tear off slip below. Your child will receive a Head Teacher Award which will be shared at assembly and added to our achievements’ records.

Please tick ( )



Name \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Class \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Details of Personal Achievement

Parent’s Signature \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

***You are welcome to provide feedback on any items contained in our newsletter. Please do not hesitate to contact me if there is ever anything you wish to discuss.***

***Ms Marie McLaughlin, Head Teacher***

*The newsletter is available on the school website*

*https://blogs.glowscotland.org.uk/re/stcatherines/*

*(If you require a copy with larger print please contact the school office)*

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