



St. Catherine's Primary School

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October 2020 Newsletter

Dear Parents/Carers,

It has been wonderful to see our children return to school and absolutely delightful to see how happy and settled they are in their classes and around the school grounds. Our school now feels like a real community once again filled with little people keen to learn and happy to be together again. While it is difficult to maintain our usual means of communication, I think we are doing well to be able to stay in touch and I would like to offer my sincere gratitude to you for your ongoing patience and support.

Homework

We have changed the way we set our homework tasks and your child's homework can now be accessed on GLOW. Homework will be published on a Monday and should be completed and handed in by the Friday. Your child's GLOW username and password can be found in their homework diary. We hope that the above format will give you a little more flexibility as to when you complete tasks, hopefully reducing stress during this difficult time. Using this platform will also ensure that all children are accessing GLOW in the event of blended learning being introduced. Please contact Mrs Henry if you have issues with accessing GLOW and we will help you to address these as best as we can.

Religious Life of The School

We will welcome Father Joe Burk who is now our school chaplain. We look forward to working in partnership with him to serve the community.

First Holy Communions – Saturday 24th October 2020

In order to accommodate the restricted number of people allowed into the Cathedral our children will be split into two groups. Group 1 will celebrate First Communion Mass at 10am and group 2 will be at 11.30am. You will find out shortly which group your child is in.

Communication

It is difficult to continue our previous methods of communication at this time but I am delighted with the response from parents/carers. We are very happy to speak with you on the telephone or communicate via email which should enable us to continue to work together to support all children. I am keen that we continue to work together to support one another during challenging times and also to share positive stories related to our experiences.

Consultation – Reporting

We had an excellent response to our recent questionnaire regarding the format for reporting this year. Option 1 was a unanimous first choice therefore reporting this year will be as follows:

- Each month - monthly report/pupil targets sent home
- October – phone call from the teacher
- March – annual written report/follow up call if requested

Outdoor Learning

Thank you for preparing your children by providing them with suitable outdoor clothing for being outdoors. If you wish to provide a pair of wellies for your child these can be left in school in a plastic bag. This will save children having to carry these to and from school. Please write your child's name inside each wellie boot. We will continue to have a common sense approach to the weather and children will be provided with an alternative activity if there is driving rain. Please contact Mrs Henry if you require support to purchase winter clothing/footwear.

Provision of snacks/lunches

Unfortunately, we are unable to provide our healthy tuck shop at the moment. We would encourage you to provide your child with a suitable snack for playtime (fruit, cereal bar, light crisps) and a bottle filled with water which can be taken to class and used during learning time as well as school break. Our water coolers are now in working order and pupils can refill their bottles at particular times of the day. Our kitchen has been providing hot meals from 07 September 2020. This has been well received by our children.

Entry/Exit

I really must thank you for your cooperation and understanding with our new entry and exit system. Staff members are asked to supervise at the doors to allow all children entering to wash their hands before class. I thank you for not using the school car park at this time and continuing to adhere to our social distancing guidance to ensure the safety of our school community.

Flu Immunisation Programme

You will have received information regarding our flu immunisation programme which is due to take place on Monday 16th November. I know that your children are the most precious people in the world to you and it is imperative that we do all we can to reduce the risk of our population (children and adults) from contracting seasonal flu. We will work in partnership with health professionals to do this.

Parent Council

I have managed to keep in touch with our Parent Council Chairperson, Mrs Leanne Bruce, during the lockdown period and beyond. This has allowed me to maintain contact with the general views of many parents and I am extremely grateful for this. We are keen to continue to have meetings in a virtual manner to include all members of the parent forum. We are currently looking at creative ways of including everyone who would like to contribute to the life and work of the school. We are aware that many will have questions to ask or views/opinions and ideas to share. We are also very keen to hear from anyone who feels that they have skills and expertise to offer in helping with areas of school development. Details of future meetings with instructions of how to attend will follow shortly. Please try hard to be part of the meeting as your views are very important to us and help to shape our plans for school improvement.

School Improvement Planning

Our school improvement plan and standards and quality report will soon be available and shared on our school website. Your views are most welcome and I would like you to respond by directly emailing me. I am always keen to hear your views and act upon these to ensure continuous improvement of St. Catherine's Primary.

Finally, I would like to sincerely thank you for the fantastic support you have provided to our staff team. I look forward to continuing to work in partnership with you in providing the children of St. Catherine's with the best possible experiences.

Maths Week Scotland

Maths Week Scotland is here, running from 28th September – 4th October. Although Maths Week will likely look very different this year there are still lots of ways we will be celebrating mathematics under the theme "Maths at Work". Watch this space! Thank you to Mr Donaghy and Mr Gallagher for taking the lead on this!

Parent Portal

If you have not signed up to Parent Portal, please ensure that you do. This is a Renfrewshire initiative and will be the main method of communication with parents in the future. Please contact us if you are having problems and we will be happy to help you.

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.

Mrs Emma Henry, 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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