**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

Acting Head Teacher: Ms Marie McLaughlin

**January 2023 Newsletter**

Dear Parents/Carers

A belated 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 2023.



**Parent Council**

It has been a pleasure to work with our revitalised Parent Council and great to get back to organising our events. Stephanie Dawson has been our fabulous Chairperson and been a great help to myself, and the school, as her child will be starting secondary school, she has decided this is a good time to step down as Chairperson. Everyone at St Catherine’s would like to say a huge thank you to Stephanie for all her hard work. As this post is now vacant, we are looking for someone to volunteer and take on this role to help our new Treasurer Kaley Todd (?). We now have a great team but would welcome more parents, so please don’t be shy - this is a genuinely friendly group who would welcome any new members. The next meeting will be on **2nd February at 2pm** within the school.

This year the Parent Council have already ran a popular Halloween Disco and a very successful Christmas Fayre that raised over £1400. A huge thank you and well done. The Parent Council Fund now contains over £1,700 – what a superb start. Our first meeting of 2023 was on Thursday, 19 January and the following events are already being planned:

**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 - 30th March –**

**P1 to P3 – 5.30 – 6.30pm - P4 to P7 – 6.45 – 7.450pm**

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**Easter Egg Hunt**

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**Date and times to be arranged**

**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**

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 fund our buses for the children’s trips to the Science Centre. Thank you once again Laings.

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**Dates for your diary for Term 3**

**JANUARY**

Wednesday, 25th Jan - Burns Day – non-uniform day - £1 per child or £2 per family

Friday, 27th Jan - Industrial Action

**FEBRUARY**

Raffle Ticket to be issued for Valentine’s Raffle

Wednesday 8th Feb - Boys Football Festival (P6 and P7)

 8th Feb – Reading Cafes begin – three groups P1, P2/1 & P2, P3 & P4 and P5, P6 & P7

Monday, 13th Feb – holiday

Tuesday, 14th February – holiday

Wednesday, 15th February - In-Service

Friday, 17th February – Girls Football Festival (P6 and P7)

Wednesday, 22nd February – Ash Wednesday – 9.15am service

**MARCH**

Sunday, 5th March - Mass of Enrolment – 11am St Mirins

Thursday, 9th March – First Reconciliation – 6pm St Mirins

Wednesday, 15th March – Boys Football Festival (P6 and P7)

Monday, 20th March – Annual reports issued

Wednesday, 22nd March – Parent/Teacher Evening – 3.30 – 7.30

Thursday, 23rd March – Parent/Teacher Evening – 3.30 – 4.30

Thursday, 30th March – Spring Disco

Friday, 31st March – last day of Term 3

 **Reading Cafes – Beginning 8th Feb**

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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 mostly 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 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, 8th February
* Week 2 – **Thursday** 16th February\* (Wednesday 15th February is an In-Service Day)
* Week 3 – Wednesday 22nd February
* Week 4 – Wednesday 1st March
* Week 5 – Wednesday 8th March
* Week 6 – Wednesday 15th March
* No Reading Café – Parents’ Evening this week
* Week 8 – Wednesday 29th March

**Science Centre Trips**

In November the children all enjoy the trip to Clydebank Cinema and at Christmas they 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 to the Science Centre in Glasgow. More details will be issued nearer the time. We will send out more information nearer the time of these exciting trips.

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**Active Schools Clubs**

As always Sean has been very busy putting in place our After Schools Clubs and our Lunchtime Clubs.

**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 Sean from all the children, parents and staff. As always, he is doing an exceptional job.

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**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. 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 Wednesday, 22nd March at 3.30 to 7.30pm, and Thursday, 23rd March at 3.30 to 4.30. 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.

**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 monthly 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 are still in use, and we would continue to encourage our children to actively travel to school. Please note that bikes 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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