

ST. CHARLES' PRIMARY SCHOOL

September 2024

BULLETIN

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Where you are Loved, Included and Respected



Dear Parents,

It was wonderful to see all our children return safely & well rested after the summer break.

The staff team would like to extend a very special welcome to the new Primary 1 children & their parents. We look forward to getting to know you & your child as we all work together to ensure that our school provides the very best possible experiences for them. I have included as much useful information as I think we need to start the year. As always, I will issue a News Bulletin like this each month via text link to the main contact of individual pupils.

Newsletters are also available on School website each month. As well as this, lots of information is regularly updated on our school APP. If you have not already downloaded this to your phone it can be accessed by scanning this QR Code.



Scan the above QR code with your phone camera to download our school app

We also celebrate children's learning & achievements and share some of the activities happening in the school & ELCC on X (formerly Twitter). You can find out more by having a look at our profile. Our name is: @stcharlespais

SCHOOL UNIFORM & CLOTHING GRANT

Thank you to each & every one of our parents for supporting their child to return to school wearing uniform. The children are all looking so smart & together we will strive to maintain this throughout the session. All children should come to school each day wearing uniform & parents are respectfully reminded that sports clothes such as tracksuits and clothing of other colours which are not in our agreed dress code should not be worn. We always have high-quality items available in school therefore there is never a need for children to wear alternative clothing. This also applies to footwear. If you require support in maintaining uniform, we are always able to help provide any items required.

Please remember children are not permitted to wear club football colours or clothing with slogans that relate to alcohol or tobacco items to school.

As the year progresses, please consider donating any quality uniforms items that your child has outgrown for others to use. This helps other families to keep costs down & supports our children in their drive to make positive, sustainable changes in our school community.

A clothing grant is a payment made by Renfrewshire Council to qualifying parents or carers to assist with the purchase of school uniforms. Clothing grant payment is £120 per eligible pupil. A maximum of one grant is paid for each child during any school year. An additional winter payment of £50 for each child receiving school clothing grant to help buy winter clothing is also paid. Don't miss out if you think you may be eligible apply online at:

<http://renfrewshire.gov.uk/Freeschoolmealsandclothinggrants>

SCHOOL MEALS & HEALTHY CHOICES

Parents are reminded that ALL children in primaries 1-5 are eligible to receive a FREE midday meal daily.

P6 & P7 children must pay £2.35 in advance or on the day the meal is eaten unless an application for free meals has been made to Renfrewshire Council & an award letter has been received. If you have applied but an award letter has not yet been made the cost of meals will required to be met in full. If this applies to your child/family, it may be more cost effective to provide your child with a packed lunch until an award is received.

I would strongly encourage all families to apply for free school meals (if they think they are entitled). You can apply for free school meals at any time in the school year & you need only apply once in each school year. Please note that school meals are only paid from the date the application is processed. The payment is not backdated.

Apply online at: <http://renfrewshire.gov.uk/Freeschoolmealsandclothinggrants>

All school meal payments must be made through ParentPay as cash payments cannot be accepted in school. Any parent who may be unable to pay for school lunches due to financial difficulties should speak to Mrs Hannigan or Mrs Kinsella directly. Further information on the current menu is available on www.renfrewshire.gov.uk & has been posted on the school APP.

It is always really helpful if parents discuss lunch options with children prior to each school day. Meals are ordered before 9.30am each day to allow our kitchen staff time to prepare and cook the lunches. Water and fruit are offered on a daily basis for all children who attend the lunch hall. Parents are asked to provide a healthy snack for mid-morning break such as fruit or cereal bar.

All children are encouraged to drink only water during the day as they work in class. Parents are asked to provide their child with a water bottle (NOT GLASS) for this purpose. This should be clearly marked with your child's name and taken home at the end of each day to be cleaned & refilled before being brought back to school the next morning. If you allow your child to drink fruit juice, this may be taken as part of his/her lunch but may not be consumed during lessons in class. Please note fizzy drinks are not permitted in school at anytime.

PARENT PAY

As mentioned above, we are a cashless school, and every child requires a ParentPay account whether they receive a free school meal or not. Parent pay is required at various times throughout the year for trips & events. All new parents to our school will receive information on how to set this up over the next week. Should you need support in creating your ParentPay account please speak with school office staff who can help with this. More information can also be found on the Renfrewshire Council's website:

<https://www.renfrewshire.gov.uk/parentpay>



NUT FREE SCHOOL

We now have several children in the school who suffer from nut allergies, which are very serious & could in fact prove fatal. Parents are asked not to allow their child to bring snacks to school containing nuts eg. Snickers bars, Kinder Bueno bars & Nutella.

The safety and well-being of all children can only be guaranteed if together we make St Charles' Primary School a **NUT FREE ZONE**.

We are very grateful for your support on this matter.



DROP OFF & PICK-UP ARRANGEMENTS

At the start of the school day:

The school gates open at 8.45am each morning. Support staff and P7 monitors are available to help the children get ready for lessons which begin at 9.00am. Parents should not enter the school playground in the morning unless visiting the school office. Kisses & cuddles should be given with goodbyes being said at the gate. A small number of Primary One children may still require the support of a parent entering the playground but most children can do so independently already. We would expect all children to do so by September weekend.

At the end of the school day:

Primary 1 children are dismissed in the infant playground when an adult presents to collect.

Parents are asked to avoid standing on the path directly in front of gate as P3-7 teachers need to pass with classes to dismiss children.

P3-P7 children are escorted to the gate by the classteacher. Please ensure your child is aware of where he/she is to meet their adult if being collected. If, for any reason, a child is not collected at his/her usual meeting place he/she must return to the school gate and school staff will supervise until an adult arrives. School staff will be on duty at the gate for an additional 10 minutes after the final dismissal time each day. Please ensure that your child understands these arrangements.

Carparking: Adults collecting children may not park in the school carpark or arrange for taxis to collect in the school carpark. Only taxis contracted by Renfrewshire Council are permitted to do so.



To keep all children safe please do not park opposite the entrance gates (School or Nursery). Please remind your child to take care when crossing roads and walking through residential areas, especially if unaccompanied by an adult, as we must always respect the homes & gardens of our neighbours.



No dogs are permitted in the school grounds at any time.

School Bus arrangements: All P1 & P2 children are escorted onto the school bus at the end of each day by a member of support staff. All other children are dismissed by the classteacher and walk independently to the bus stop.

HOME LEARNING

Home learning tasks will be issued to all classes. Parents are asked to ensure children complete home learning tasks regularly as this allows you to monitor progress & provides children with an opportunity to consolidate class learning. Tasks set by classteacher will not be onerous to complete as we also want our children to enjoy recreation & family time every day.

Parental guidance on Home Learning at each stage will be issued as soon as your Just 2 easy account is operational. Consent form issued this week must be returned as soon as possible. This year we have purchased a new reading scheme – Big Cat. We are delighted to have new and exciting books for the children to develop their reading skills. We have decided that these books will be for school use only and will NOT be sent home for homework. At home we encourage children to re-read familiar stories to increase confidence when reading aloud. Your child may bring home a library book. Reading these regularly with your child will encourage storytelling language. The focus for home reading is for enjoyment and therefore we would encourage more oral work to be completed at home. You could ask your child questions about the story, make predictions, discuss tricky words and punctuation. We are here to help with this if you any questions about reading at home with your child.

ADMINISTRATION OF MEDICATION

Should your child require medication during the school day this can be arranged.

Medication will only be administered by an authorised member of staff on receipt of a completed Parental Permission Form. This form is available from the school office, when required. Please phone the office if you require this form and it will be sent home with your child and can be returned in their school bag. **Medication should only be taken during the school day when absolutely essential.**



It is important to know that school staff are not permitted to give non-prescribed medication to pupils (e.g., over the counter remedies such as paracetamol etc.) All medications require a pharmacy label clearly marked with the child's name.

It is advisable that children requiring antibiotics should either remain at home when the illness is acute or, if able to attend school, the dosage arrangements should be worked out to allow the antibiotic to be taken before and after the school day wherever possible.

Asthma inhalers are not routinely administered by school staff. Children with asthma should be encouraged & supported to enable them to administer themselves. Parents must ensure their child has an inhaler in his/her school bag daily if he/she has asthma. Inhalers require to be retained by the child to enable responsive use.

Just 2 Easy APP

Unfortunately, we are no longer able to continue using Seesaw APP which in the past has proven to be a very effective means of home/school communication & sharing pupil learning. We are planning to introduce a new APP called Just 2 Easy to replace it. This will allow us to share aspects of your child's learning journal which can only be viewed by their own parent/carer and staff. The teacher/child may use the journal to upload learning targets, latest and best work and/or photographs and videos of the child and their work. Consent forms will be issued this week & when returned, children and families will be issued with an account. As staff become proficient in using Just 2 Easy, we plan to offer some drop-in support sessions to parents/carers later in the term. More information regarding Just 2 Easy can be found at this link <https://just2easy.com/>

PARENT HUB

The Parent Hub are involved in various fundraising events & activities every school year. They are used as a consultative body to represent the views of the wider parent population. The group hold regular meetings each year & all parents are welcome to attend any or all meetings. The first meeting this session will be held in the school on Wednesday 11th September 6.30pm– 7.45pm. Please consider coming along to the meeting, you will be made to feel most welcome. Geri Taylor (Mum to Matthew in P5) is currently the Chairperson of the Parent Hub. Geri will lead the discussion on events and fundraising ideas & events which may be planned for this session.

The parent Hub will be hosting a Welcome Coffee Morning in the school for any new parents, especially P1 parents, on Tuesday 10th September at 9.00am. Why not drop off & pop in for a cup of tea/coffee & a chat? This is a great opportunity to meet other parents, find out more about the work of the Parent Hub & perhaps get involved in some of their activities. There will be a book bug session on offer to keep younger siblings busy while parents chat & relax.

SCHOOL HOLIDAYS & REPORTING PUPIL ABSENCE

We ask that you make every effort to avoid family holidays during term time as this disrupts your child's education and reduces learning time. The head teacher can approve absence from school for a family holiday in certain extreme situations, for example, in traumatic domestic circumstances where the holiday would improve the cohesion and wellbeing of the family. Please discuss your plans with Mrs Hannigan before the holiday is booked. If you do not secure permission before the holiday, it will be recorded as **unauthorised absence**. Discretion can also be exercised when a parent's work commitments make a family holiday impossible during school holiday times. Your employer would need to provide evidence of your work commitments to enable absence approved by the head teacher on this basis to be recorded as **authorised absence**.

School holiday dates for Session 2024-25 can be found on Renfrewshire Council Website (www.renfrewshire.gov.uk)

If your child is absent from school, please phone the school office or email stcharlesenquiries@renfrewshire.gov.uk by 9.30 am on the first day of absence. You will be asked to call back if absence persists. If no telephone call or email is received, parents will automatically receive a text message asking them to phone the school as a matter of urgency. If an absence is planned, please inform the head teacher in writing.

If a child requires to depart early for any reason the school office must be contacted in advance to arrange collection.

No child will be permitted to leave early unless collected at the school office by an authorised adult.

Attendance alert letters are issued to parents automatically if pupil attendance falls below 90% no matter the reason for this.

Good timekeeping & regular attendance are key for your child's success in learning. In St. Charles' Primary School we would like all children attain at least 95% attendance in any school year. Here are some important facts for you to consider-

Why is attendance at school and punctuality important?

Because every second counts.

90% attendance may sound good. However, this is the equivalent of missing a **half day of schooling EACH WEEK.**

If this continues **over every five years** a child spends at school, a child with **90%** attendance will miss **HALF A YEAR'S** schooling.

A child with **80%** attendance will lose **A FULL YEAR** of schooling over the same period.



Did You Know?

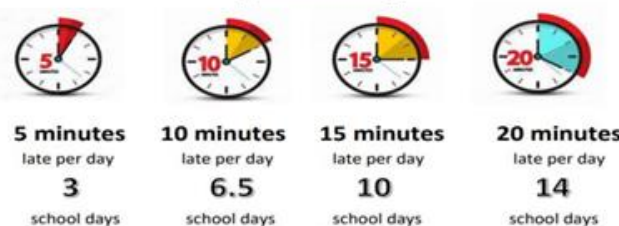
A 2 week holiday during the school term means that the highest attendance your child can achieve is 94.7%

Did You Know?

If you are 15 minutes late each day you will have missed 2 full weeks of School in one year!!



Attendance Ladder



Some dates for your diary

I have issued advance notice of as many future events as possible (until the end of November) to help you plan. Please note that these dates may be subject to change.

Date	Event	Target Group
Thursday 5 th September	Photographer from Paisley Daily Express for new entrant group photos	P1 pupils
Monday 9 th September	Fairtrade Fortnight begins (ends 22 nd September)	All
Tuesday 10 th September	Welcome Coffee Morning @ 09.00-10.00am - All welcome especially new parents	
Wednesday 11 th September	P7 Mass for Confirmandi at St Mirin Cathedral	P7 pupils
Wednesday 11 th September	Parent Hub meeting in school @ 6.30pm	All welcome
Thursday 12 th September	Fairtrade Assemblies	All classes
Wednesday 18 th September	Curriculum Evening @ 6.00-7.30pm)	P1 Parents
Sunday 22 nd September	Welcome Mass in St Charles' Church @ 10.00am	P1 children & families
Tuesday 24 th September	P6 Stage Mass & Enrolment for Pope Francis Faith Awards in school @ 2pm	P6 children & families
Friday 27 th September & Monday 30 th September	HOLIDAY Weekend -School & ELCC closed	
Tuesday 1 st October	School & ELCC Re-open for all pupils	
Friday 4 th October	First Friday Mass	Room 15 to attend
Sunday 6 th October	Welcome Mass in St Charles' Church @ 10.00am	P6 children & families
Monday 7 th October	SAVE the DATE- Confirmation Retreat in St Andrew's Academy @6.30pm-8pm	Confirmation children & parents
Wednesday 9 th October	Parent Hub meeting in school @ 6.00-7.30pm	All welcome
Friday 11 th October	IN-SERVICE DAY- School & ELCC closed for pupils	
Monday 14 th -Friday 18 th October	OCTOBER MID-TERM HOLIDAY - School & ELCC closed	
Monday 21 st October	School & ELCC Re-open for all pupils	
Sunday 27 th October	Welcome Mass in St Charles' Church @ 10.00am	P2 & P3 children & families
Tuesday 29 th October	P7 Stage Mass in school @ 2pm	P7 children & families
Friday 1 st November	Holiday of Obligation- Feast of ALL SAINTS. Mass arrangements TBC	All pupils

Monday 4 th November	Feast of St Charles Borromeo- Patron Saint of our school community	
Thursday 7 th November	Flu Immunisations administered to children with written parental consent	All pupils
Thursday 7 th November	P7 Parent Information Evening in St Andrew's Academy @ 5pm	
Sunday 10 th November	P7 Confirmation Prep at St Charles' Church @ 10.00am	
Wednesday 13 th November	Parents' Evening 5.30pm-8.30pm	By appointment
Thursday 14 th November	Parents' Evening 3.30pm-6.30pm	By appointment
Monday 18 th November	P5 Stage Mass in school	P5 children & families
Friday 29 th November	School Christmas Fayre	

Yours sincerely



Grace Hannigan
HEADTEACHER