

BULLETIN

ST. CHARLES' PRIMARY SCHOOL

December 2024

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Dear Parents,

Our festive plans are well underway with lots of fun activities happening in the school & ELCC. I have included all the dates again at the end of this bulletin for ease of reference and we will post reminders on the school APP throughout December. I would urge you if you have not already done so to download the school APP. This can allow information to be accessed by multiple members of the family and can be particularly useful if a number of adults from the extended family (eg grandparents, Uncles, aunts, Childminders & Friends) are involved in family childcare arrangements.

Please contact the office to reserve your tickets for Nativity Performance of your choice if you have not returned the slip. There will be no admittance without a ticket on either day. We are required to comply with Health & Safety regulations which means additional people cannot be admitted.

On Friday 5th December P1 classes headed outdoors for a sponsored Jingle Walk around Craggs Park & back wearing their Christmas jumpers. Children invited their special adults to accompany them on this adventure. A big shout-out to all the parents/carers who came along on the day and to Debbie (from the ELCC) for leading this activity. Sponsor money should be handed into the office as soon as possible. All money raised will be used to meet the cost of Christmas party food and presents.

The P7 sponsored Santa Dash around the school took place on Thursday 5th December. So far, the children have raised £895 which will be used to reduce the cost of purchasing leaver's hoodies for all the children. The estimated cost for this purchase is £1156. Please send any outstanding money into school as soon as possible to allow us to proceed with purchasing these. Unfortunately, poor weather on the day didn't allow all the other classes to be outside to cheer the runners on as planned but that didn't dampen P7s enthusiasm. Well done to all the children involved!

Christmas Cards made by the children have raised £213.50 this year. The Pupil Leadership group will be consulted on what this money should be used for. There are currently a number of items on the wish list including new sports equipment and new sound equipment for school shows & activities. A big thanks to Claire-Marie McAuley who organised & co-ordinated the making of the Christmas cards.

Joanne & her team (Jane, Mary & Isobel) extend a warm invitation to everyone to join them for a delicious traditional Christmas lunch on Wednesday 11th December. Please see School App for more information on what this consists of. Please note there is no other lunch options available on this day. A packed lunch should be brought from home by children who do not want Christmas lunch options. As always lunch is free to all children P1-P5 & those in P6&P7 in receipt of Free School Meals. All other children must pay. Please ensure your child has the funds in Parent pay to meet the cost of lunch £2.35

We have been very fortunate this year to be gifted tickets for the PACE Theatre performance of Aladdin in Paisley Art Centre on Tuesday 17th December. All children's names were placed in a draw & 10 lucky children will receive this treat courtesy of Paisley South Housing Association. If your child was lucky on this occasion, you will already have been contacted by the school office.

SPECIAL THANKS

A very big thank you to Mary Anne McCreadie Highland Dance School who recently spent a very enjoyable day with us. The children all had a fantastic time filled with traditional Scottish music and dance. Assisted by Sophie, Mary Anne treated every child in the school to a session of highland dance instruction. We had ceilidhs throughout the day featuring The Dashing White Sergeant, Strip the Willow, The Gay Gordons & many, many more old favourites.

SAINT VINCENT de PAUL SOCIETY

The Saint Vincent de Paul Society in St Charles Parish continue to offer support for any family who may find themselves unable to purchase food or pay energy bills. Christmas may be a particularly difficult time for many families. If you find yourself needing some assistance, please speak to Mrs Kelly or Mrs Hannigan who link in directly with the the group. No personal information is ever shared with the volunteers.

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

Miss Tormey's Singing Club will be providing festive entertainment at Sight Scotland Veterans Centre and Westerfield House this week and next.

All children will be involved in providing entertainment at the Carols by Candlelight event this week for grandparents, seniors and the elderly in our school & parish communities. All 60 spaces available for this event have now been booked.

LAUDATO SI

As a Laudato Si school we have responded to the plea from Pope Francis – 'Caring for our Common Home – Planet Earth. Every person is responsible for shaping the future of our planet where everyone is responsible through our daily actions and decisions.'

The Laudato Si Citizenship Group have recently introduced a new initiative called "TIDY FRIDAY" to encourage everyone in the school to look after their own space. The challenge is that after Fun 31 on a Friday afternoon all classes must ensure they leave a tidy space behind when they go home at the end of the day. The school cleaners pick the class they feel have put most effort in to ensure all equipment has been put away and the space has been left tidy for cleaning. Miss Mhairi places a large star on the door of the best class to surprise the children when they arrive back in school on Monday morning. The winning class number is also displayed for the entire week outside the gym hall for everyone to see and celebrate. The winning class are awarded an additional 10 minutes of recreation time at a time of their choosing during the week. The Laudato Si group members hope this will encourage us all to recognise that if we look after our own space the whole school will be a better place to work & learn in.

HEALTHY SNACKS

It is great to see so many children bringing healthy snacks to school. Please encourage your child to choose fruit or crisps as an alternative to chocolate or hard, chewy sweets each day. Water can be consumed throughout the day and while it is best for children to avoid drinking juice if they must have it this should only be consumed with lunch. Lollipops are not safe to consume in a busy playground and may not be eaten in school. In January all classes will be focussing on dental health and how to care for their teeth.

HEAD LICE

I would like to remind all parents of the importance of checking their own child's hair on a regular basis. Head lice can only be eradicated if everyone checks hair at least once weekly and treats the head if this is required. Please remember if your child does have head lice it is important to treat everyone in the household & inform everyone your child has close contact with. Remember head lice are not only passed on in school- Brownie camp, after-school clubs, sleepovers with friends & family etc all provide opportunities for children to catch them too.

Bug Busting is a very effective prevention technique which can be used regularly. More information on **Bug Busting** is available online. Now would be a great time for us all to check our own families' hair to clear them all & stop them from circulating.

PARENT HUB

The Parent Hub AGM meeting took place on Wednesday 4th December. It was agreed that current office bearers will continue. Thank you to the office bearers and all the other members for their continued support.

I would like to thank all the families who came along to our annual Christmas Bazaar & supported the event. The Parent Hub raised much needed funds for our school on the night and will be gifting the school a cheque for £3,500. This money will be used to pay the cost of a school trip for each child this session. This means costs will not be met by individual families & all children will benefit.

I would like to take this opportunity to recognise the hard work of the Parent Hub who organises not only this fundraising event but many more throughout the year. Please come along to the next meeting to find out more if you can. Details of the next meeting will be included in January bulletin.

BOOKS, READING & SHARING STORIES TOGETHER

Each year St Charles' Book Fairies visit our school and share their magic and love of books. This year was no exception, and they visited again! Some of our Primary 2 children & their parents attended a "Stories by Fairy light" session in the school. The children enjoyed a story and some hot chocolate & s'mores. Thank you to Miss Leck and the Primary 2 teachers (Mrs Stevenson, Miss Lamont, Miss MacPherson) for organising & hosting this magical evening.

Miss Tormey & some of our children from our Reading Schools Group will be visiting Paisley town centre next week to launch our "Books on Buses" initiative. The group will be visiting lots of busy bus stops in Paisley distributing books to local residents who will be asked to leave it on the bus that they plan to travel on. We hope that this will be found by others to read and enjoy. Each book will be accompanied by a QR code which will be used to gather information on the "finder" to see how far our books travel and how many people have read them.

LOST PROPERTY

Any items of lost property unclaimed at the end of term will be laundered and distributed to children and/or donated to a local charity shop. We have lots of clothing including jackets (all in GOOD condition) at the moment that remain unclaimed despite our best efforts to reconcile them with their rightful owner. I would remind parents that all items of clothing should be clearly marked with your child's name to help them keep their belongings safe & enable them to be returned if found by others

NOVEMBER PARENTS EVENINGS

Thank you to everyone who came along to the school for November Parents evenings. I am sure you will agree it is always good to meet with the class teachers and have the opportunity to discuss your child's progress in learning. Please see below the attendance rate of each class:

Room 1-83%	Room 6-88%	Room 11-96%
Room 2-87%	Room 7-75%	Room 12-89%
Room 3-100%	Room 8-79%	Room 13- 85%
Room 4-83%	Room 9-89%	Room 14-64%
Room 5-92%	Room 10-90%	Room 15-90%

Please remember if you missed this opportunity, you could make an appointment with the school office to speak to the departmental Depute who can also share this information: Mrs Kelly for P1-P3 & Mrs Kinsella P4-P7.

Parents Evening Survey - YOU SAID/WE NOW PLAN TO DO

Please [click here](#) to read results of survey.

Please [click here](#) to read what we now plan to do.

Thank you to the 76 parents who shared their opinions on the night and have helped influence our next steps to improve home/school communications.

SPIRITUAL LIFE OF OUR SCHOOL

Travelling Crib- Last year our school was gifted two miniature crib sets by Bishop John and we introduced the concept of the travelling crib during Advent. This year children in Primary 2 will again have the opportunity to bring home a small crib set for one night during Advent to share & enjoy prayer with their families. We would love to see pictures of your child enjoying the crib at home as your family prepares for Christmas. Please share any photographs on X (formerly Twitter) tagging in the school [@stcharles_pais](#). I would ask that all pieces are carefully packed up and returned to school the next day to allow another child & family to have this special experience.

Advent Charity- This year our children will be supporting the work of Renfrewshire Foodbank which I know many of our families have accessed support from. Children are invited to come into school on **FRIDAY 13th December** wearing a Christmas jumper/something Christmassy/own clothes and are asked to donate a toiletry item. Thank you in anticipation of your generosity.

Confession- Fr Jim has been in school this week to offer an opportunity for confession to the children P5-P7 who have already made their Sacrament of Reconciliation.

Prayer & Worship- Fr Jim will lead our whole school Christmas service on Friday 20th December. This will give our school community an opportunity to pray & worship together before we all go our separate ways to celebrate Christmas with our own family & friends.

Mrs Margaret Convery, who is the School/Parish Link Person appointed by Fr Jim, continues to work with school staff to support the spiritual formation of our children. We are very grateful to Mrs Convery for her time & support.

Some dates for your diary

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

Date	Event	Target Group
Monday 9 th December	Confessions in school	P5, 6 & 7 pupils
Tuesday 10 th December	Confessions in school	P5, 6 & 7 pupils
Wednesday 11 th December	P6 Swimming at Lagoon Leisure Centre (AM)	
Wednesday 11 th December	Christmas Dinner for school and nursery- wear something Christmassy	
Thursday 12 th December	Carols by Candlelight-wear something Christmassy	Grandparents & Elderly in Parish
Friday 13 th December	Carol singing @ Sight Scotland Veterans Centre	Singing Club
Friday 13 th December	Christmas Jumper/Non-Uniform Day - Donations of Toiletry items for Renfrewshire Foodbank	All pupils
Tuesday 17 th December	PACE Christmas Panto 2-4pm (20 tickets allocated)	Selected Children
Friday 20 th December	Whole school Christmas service with Father Jim	
Friday 20nd December	EARLY CLOSURE for ALL CHILDREN in SCHOOL & ELCC	

Please remember there will be an **early closure on FRIDAY 20th DECEMBER** for Christmas holidays. As usual **P1 children will be dismissed a couple of minutes early at 2.25 pm** to ease playground congestion. **ALL other classes will be escorted to the gate at 2.30 pm. ELCC children should be collected in usual way.**

New term begins 09.00am on **MONDAY 6th JANUARY 2025.** (Gates open 08.45am Breakfast Club resumes normal service.)

On behalf of St. Charles' Primary School staff team, I would like to wish you and your family a happy & peaceful Christmas and a prosperous year to come.

Yours sincerely



Grace Hannigan
HEADTEACHER