

BULLETIN

ST.CHARLES'
PRIMARY
School email:

stcharlesenquiries@renfrewshire.gov.uk

School website: www.st-charles.renfrewshire.sch.uk

August/September

2025

0300 300 0181

Dear Parents,

It was great to see all the children back last week after the summer break. Our staff team would like to extend a very special welcome to all our new Primary 1 children & parents as well as the many new children who have joined us our school community so far this session. We look forward to getting to know you and your children as we all work together to ensure your child has the very best possible learning experiences in St Charles' PS. We are all excited to see what lies ahead this year.

All pupils looked so well rested & so smart wearing full school uniform. It is very important that children maintain a high standard of school uniform every day they attend & staff will be regularly reminding children of this expectation. A very small number of children have returned to school wearing hoodies. As advised in an earlier newsletter these items are not part of our agreed dress code therefore children are asked to remove these inside the building & put in school bags until going outside. Hoodies may not be worn in or around the school.

If any parent has difficulty with this during the session, please advise any member of school staff who will be happy to help. We have lots of quality used/nearly new uniform items available in the school that we are happy to provide. Later in the year, when children may have taken a wee stretch &/or items may become tired or worn, we will host another school uniform sale. We plan to have a winter jacket sale on Wednesday 22nd October where new & quality used school jackets will be on sale for £5 each. More information to follow.

DAILY DROP OFF/COLLECTION ARRANGEMENTS

Drop Off- All children should now be dropped off at the school gate each morning any time between 8.45am-9.00am. Staff are always there to meet & greet at the gate and entrance doors to ensure children access the building safely. Children arriving on scooters or bikes should enter through nursery gates after dismounting to avoid stairs.

Bikes/scooters must be walked across the playground to ensure the safety of self & others.

Collection- Gates will be opened by janitor each day around 2.45pm. I respectfully ask that parents do not open the gates & enter before this time for the safety of our children. Each day P1 & P2 children will be dismissed in the playground at 2.55pm and all other classes will be escorted to the gate by teachers at 3.00pm. P1 & 2 parents are very welcome to enter the playground to collect however parents of P3-7 children could advise their child where to meet them outside the school gate. If, for any reason, a child is not collected at his/her usual meeting place he/she can return to the school gate and school staff will supervise until collected.

We need to do our best to ease congestion. allow children to identify their parent/carer with greater ease & for staff to ensure they are collected safely. The small changes we introduced last week have helped tremendously & we need to maintain these for the safety of our children.

I would ask that

- The path in front of stairs is kept clear. Please do not stand in this area as older children need to access the gate.
- Only one adult should come in to collect (P1 & P2) children at the end of each day from the playground as this would ease congestion considerably.
- Parents collecting from the ELCC must always keep children beside them. I understand it is tempting for children to wander off & explore but gates are open & when the space is congested, it is not safe for them to do so.

School Bus arrangements- All P1 & P2 children are escorted to the school bus collection point by a member of staff & settled onto the bus at the end of each day. All other children are dismissed by the class teacher and walk independently to the bus stop.

Please note- **NO DOGS ARE PERMITTED IN THE SCHOOL PLAYGROUND AT ANY TIME.**

If a member of your extended family is collecting your child from school, please advise them of this information. Thank you for your continued support.

STAFFING UPDATE

Senior Leadership Team continues to be Mrs Grace Hannigan (Headteacher), Mr John McGoldrick (Acting Depute Head P4 - P7)) & Mrs Pauline Kelly (Depute Head P1-P3 & Nursery). Parental queries should in the first instance be directed to the relevant departmental Depute Head. Miss Lorianne Tormey & Miss Katie Leck both hold post of Principal Teachers.

I am delighted to report we have welcomed some new members to our team this year. Ryan Craig, Eve McGarvey & Kelly McCrossan (Class teachers) as well as Tara Murray (Dining Support Assistant). Caitlin Robertson (Early Learning Childcare Officer) & Aimee Shannon (Additional Support Needs Assistant) will both take up post over the next few weeks.

REPORTING PUPIL ABSENCE

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 the absence. 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 leave school early for any reason the school office must be contacted in advance to arrange collection. On collection you will be asked for the reason for early departure & this is recorded on the child's record. No child will be permitted to leave early unless collected & signed out by an authorised adult.

SCHOOL HOLIDAYS

Family holidays should be avoided 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 the head teacher before the holiday is booked. If the head teacher does not give permission before the holiday, it will be recorded as **unauthorised absence**. The head teacher may also exercise discretion when a parent can prove that work commitments make a family holiday impossible during school holiday times. Normally, your employer will need to provide evidence of your work commitments. Absence approved by the head teacher on this basis is regarded as authorised absence.

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

School holiday dates for session 25-26 can be found alongside other useful information on Renfrewshire Council Website
www.renfrewshire.gov.uk

HOME LEARNING

During session 25-26 Primary 1-3 home learning tasks will be presented in a learning grid issued weekly on Seesaw (P1-3 pupils) & on Microsoft Teams (P4-7 pupils). We hope that this allows families maximum flexibility for children completing tasks and helps children manage their time around after-school clubs & family activities. Tasks should be completed in the jotter provided and be returned to school each Friday morning. Home Learning tasks will be varied & will include all or some of the following depending on the age/stage & ability of the child.

- phonics/spelling tasks
- Big Cat eBooks
- Reading tasks
- Numeracy tasks (written or oral)
- Mental maths challenges
- Mathematics tasks (written or oral)
- ICT tasks
- Family learning activities
- Religious Education tasks.

Children should continue to practise their number bonds (P2 & 3) or times tables (P4-7) regularly and read a book for enjoyment every day. P1 home learning will begin on Monday 8th September.

COMMUNICATION

Please download our School App, at your earliest convenience. (**School App for Parents**- available via App Store for apple & android) The School App is an important means of home/school communication. This monthly bulletin will be posted on the School App every month and push notifications are regularly used to issue reminders of events/activities. Further information specific to groups/stages of pupils will also be issued in this way. School App can be downloaded by all family members, and I would advise this for anyone involved in your child's care arrangements e.g. Grandparents etc. Please call the school office for help if you are having trouble downloading.

Monthly bulletins are also posted on the school website www.st-charles.renfrewshire.sch.uk where you will find more information on many aspects of school life. At the start of the school year information is updated. This will be completed by mid-September.

It is crucial that pupil contact details are kept up to date as important information is now routinely sent by text to the **main parent/carer** mobile number you have provided for your child. Often letters and other information are sent via text link. The automated service can only send texts to **one number** so if your child has shared care arrangements across two households it is very important this information is passed on by the recipient.

Pupil successes, achievements & school information is regularly shared on the Bluesky social media platform. You & extended family can follow us on [@stcharlesprimary.bsky.social](https://bsky.app/profile/stcharlesprimary.bsky.social) if you download the Bluesky App.

HEALTHY CHOICES

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

We have 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 e.g., 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 grateful for your support on this matter.

PARENT HUB

In St Charles' Primary School our Parent Council is known as the Parent Hub. This group meets regularly throughout the school year to discuss the work of the school & plan fundraising events to benefit the children. All meetings start at 6.30pm & are held on Wednesday evenings. The first meeting of the year is the Annual General Meeting which will be held on Wednesday 10th September. At this meeting a new committee will be established & new office bearers will be elected. If you are interested in joining the committee or would like to find out more about this group, please come along. Meetings are open to all parents/carers in the school & ELCC. Hope to see you there.

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ADMINISTRATION OF MEDICATION

Medication will only be administered by an authorised member of staff on receipt of a completed Parental Permission Form which is available from school office. 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 it is essential. All essential 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. **Antibiotics are not routinely administered by school staff.**

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

Please note: School staff are not permitted to give non-prescribed medication to pupils (e.g., over the counter remedies such as paracetamol etc.)

OUTDOOR LEARNING & PE

During the school week children spend a lot of time playing and learning outdoors. Please ensure your child comes to school each day with a jacket suitable for rainy days as children may be outside. It is easy to forget this particularly if children are being dropped off & picked up by car as many children are.

The Daily Mile will continue this session. Children only change footwear for this activity but again a suitable rainproof jacket is necessary as often this activity is undertaken in the rain. School staff would of course exercise the same discretion, as we do at break times if the weather is particularly inclement then the activity would not go ahead.

PE days have already been advised by text. On assigned days it is important that children bring a PE kit that is suitable for the environment they will be learning in (INDOORS or OUTDOORS). Children are required to wear shorts/leggings, a polo shirt/tee-shirt and suitable footwear such as trainers. **House slippers, Crocs or sliders are not safe for this activity.**

It is preferable that children do not wear jewellery to school any day, but this is particularly important on PE days as they are required to remove it before each lesson. If your child has pierced ears the earrings must be removed to ensure the safety of your child & others.

I would also ask that all clothing items are clearly labelled with your child's name. While school staff do all they can to ensure items are not separated from their owners, personal belongings including clothing are children's own responsibility. Name labels help greatly to re-unite lost items with their rightful owner.

FREE SCHOOL MEALS

Parents are reminded that ALL children in primaries 1-5 are eligible to receive a FREE midday meal daily. Currently P6 & P7 children must pay for all meals taken.

All children NOT eligible for FREE school meals **must pay in advance** or on the day for all meals taken 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 be 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.

Parents should pay for lunches through ParentPay. Cash payments cannot be made. Any parent unable to pay for school lunches due to financial difficulties should speak to a member of the management team.

The current school lunch menu is available on www.renfrewshire.gov.uk where you will also find information about allergens if required.

PARENT PAY

If you have not already done so, please activate your child/children's Parent Pay account. The school office does not routinely handle cash. There may be an occasional school event where cash payments will be accepted but this will be the exception rather than normal practice. Please contact the school office on 0300 300 0181 if you need assistance.

Reminder- School bulletins will be available on the School App/ School Website each month. Please contact the school office if you need help to download the App which is available on apple & android.

Some dates for your diary

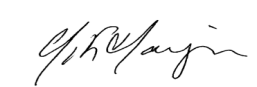
I have issued advance notice of as many future events as possible to help you plan until October holiday. Please note that these dates may be subject to change. Additional dates will be issued next month.

Date	Event	Target Group
Mon 8 th September	Confirmandii to visit St Charles Church – holy mass & reception	Confirmandii
Tues 9 th September	Confirmation information meeting in school @ 2.15pm	P7 parents

Weds 10 th September	Holy Mass at St Mirin Cathedral – Main Celebrant Bishop John Keenen	P7 pupils
Weds 10 th September	Parent Hub Meeting – AGM @ 6.30pm	All Welcome
Thurs 11 th September	Vocations Mass @ 7pm St Mirin Cathedral – All families invited to attend. Children should wear school uniform.	
Weds 17 th September	P1 Curriculum Evening 6-7pm – more info to follow	P1 Parents
Sun 21 st September	P1 welcome Mass @ 10.00am in St Charles Church	P1 Families
Thurs 25 th September	Lego Workshops with Skills Development Scotland	P5-7
Fri 26 th September	Local holiday- School & ELCC closed	
Mon 29 th September	Local holiday- School & ELCC closed	
Tues 30 th September	McMillan Coffee Morning - more information to follow – 9.15am	Ticketed event
Weds 22 nd September	Winter Jacket Sale @ 2pm	All welcome
Fri 3 rd October	First Friday Mass in St Charles Church	Room 15
Sun 5 th Oct	P6 Pope Francis Faith Award- Welcome Mass in St Charles' Church	P6 children & families
Mon 6 th October	Confirmation Parents Meeting @ 7pm- St Andrew's Academy	Confirmandii & Parents
Weds 8 th October	Parent Hub Meeting in school @ 6.30pm	All welcome
Fri 10 th October	Non-Uniform Day - £1	All School

We will be holding a series of “OPEN DOORS” days in October & November. More information to follow.

Yours sincerely



Grace Hannigan
HEADTEACHER