

St. Charles' Primary School & ELCC
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Children's Services

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January 2026 **Nursery Newsletter**

I would like to take this opportunity to wish everyone in our extended school community a happy & prosperous new year. I am hoping 2026 will be a great year for us all filled with good health & happiness. As always, I will do my best to keep parents informed by issuing a Bulletin each month. Information can also be found on our School App, website & reminders will be posted on Seesaw.

Staffing update

We would like to extend a warm welcome to Diane Marshall who has joined our team temporarily. Diane will be supporting children in the orange group whilst Rachael undertakes the ELCC Graduate role in Patricia's absence. She is currently out on secondment to another educational establishment.

HMIE Inspection

We are looking forward to welcoming the HMIE inspectors to St Charles Primary School & ELCC this week, when they will be spending a full week with us. We are excited to share the high-quality learning that takes place in our school & ELCC and, most importantly, to showcase our wonderful children who demonstrate our school values of kindness, honesty and determination every day. We are proud of our whole school community and look forward to this opportunity to celebrate all that we do together.

Nursery application for 2026/27

Nursery applications are now open for the forthcoming session 26/27. If your child's third birthday is on or before 27th February 2027, you should apply online by 31 January 2026 for a free nursery place or childcare.

If your child is two and you've already applied for their place for when they turn three, you don't need to apply again. If your child is already three or four years old and aren't at nursery or a childminder, you should apply for their free place now.

If your two-year-old child is eligible for free early learning and childcare, you can apply just before they turn two. They can start nursery and childcare in the term after their second birthday.

ELCC Returners – 2026/2027

Parents will be asked to complete a preference sheet stating their preferred choice of ELCC establishment for the forthcoming 2026-27 session. It is important that you record your 1st, 2nd and 3rd choice as this information is required when places are allocated at the February Admissions Panel, especially if you would like your child to move to another establishment. Parents/carers will be notified of their child's placement in May 2026.

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. If you find yourself needing some assistance at any time, please speak to Mrs Kelly or Mrs Hannigan who link in directly with the group, no personal information is ever shared.

School Attendance & Reporting Pupil Absence

Term dates, school holidays, and teacher in-service days for 2025-2026 and 2026-2027 school sessions can be found on Renfrewshire Council Website (www.renfrewshire.gov.uk) **Please remember....** If your child is going to be absent from our ELCC you should contact the school office before 9.30am or email school enquiries stcharlesenquires@renfrewshire.gov.uk. Renfrewshire Council policy is that if a child is absent without us knowing why then we must contact the family. If we are unable to do so we must inform HQ. It is therefore very important that you inform us if you or your emergency contact change mobile phone numbers. Thank you for your co-operation in this matter.

Administration of Medication during the nursery day

It is accepted that some pupils may need to take medication (or be given it) during the nursery day at some time in their nursery life. Often this need will be for a short period for some pupils, or it may be longer.

Medication should however only be taken to nursery when absolutely essential.

Please note the following points-

- Medication will only be given by staff on completion of a Parental Permission Form (speak to a member of staff)
- Nursery staff will not administer non-prescribed medication to pupils (e.g., over the counter medicine such as, CALPOL, Nurofen etc.)
- **All medications must have a pharmacy label.**

Children requiring antibiotics should either remain at home when the illness is acute or, when attending school, dosage arrangements should be worked out to allow the antibiotic to be taken before and after nursery wherever possible.

Children with asthma - Parents must ensure their child brings an inhaler to Nursery. This will be stored in a medical cabinet and will be administered if and when required by staff.

Dolly Parton Birthday celebration

Dolly Parton is 80 on Monday 19th January. Dolly is the ambassador for the Imagination Library and is dedicated to inspiring a love of reading by gifting books free of charge from 2 – 5 years in Renfrewshire. To help celebrate her birthday we are having a party in Nursery for all children. Children can come to Nursery dressed up in country inspired clothing if they wish. Please see Carolanne McWilliams if you have not signed up.

Celebration of Cultures

The Nursery will be celebrating a culture week. We will be looking for some information from each family relevant to your family/child. A post card will be sent home to allow you the opportunity to share what's important to you.

Spring Afternoon Tea

We are planning an afternoon tea March/April for Grandparents. Please watch out for further information.

Forest Kindergarten with Parents

Parents will be invited to attend Forest Kindergarten sessions 2026. This is an excellent opportunity for parents to become involved in outdoor learning with their children within our local community. More information and dates to follow.

Stay and Play

There will be a stay and play event on Friday 30th January at 2.00pm focusing on Health & Wellbeing. We would be delighted if you could join us.

Parent/Child cookery club

We are delighted that our Cookery Club is continuing for the remainder of the school year with Cohort two well underway, led by Debbie. These sessions will run for 4 weeks and will take place in the school towards the end of the school day.

Personal Care

All nappies, pull ups', nappy sacks and wet wipes **MUST** be provided by parents and sent in with your child each day. A change of clothing is essential especially children who are following a toilet training programme.

Personal belongings & Outdoor Learning

Children are experiencing both indoor & outdoors learning opportunities each day in nursery. We would ask that all children come to Nursery wearing comfortable/suitable clothing, as well as a change of clothing in the event of an accident. We have a selection of outdoor jackets and waterproofs for children to wear. It is essential that all clothing & footwear have your child's name clearly marked on them so they can be identified.

Clearing out?

If you are already thinking about Spring cleaning and are having a clear out and would to re-home any loose parts e.g. old buttons, cotton reels, curtain rings, kitchen utensils e.g. ladles, wooden spoons, kitchen tongs etc that the children could use through play we would be grateful if you could send them in with your child.

Parent Hub

The next planned meeting of this session will be held in the school on Wednesday 21st January 2026. All parents/carers are welcome to attend Parent Hub meetings so please come along if you can. The Parent Hub use Facebook and Instagram for updates & are soon hoping to introduce a new announcement board at the front gate each day. Please check out their socials for exciting things happening this term!

Information Updates

We are keen for all parents to download our school APP which is suitable for apple & android phones. We regularly share information via the APP. Please search for **School App for Parents** in the Google Play or Apple App Store. When you have downloaded the app, please search for our school's name to see our dates, news & receive messages.



Dates for your diary

Date	Event	Target Group
6 th January	School & ELCC reopen	All pupils
12 th January	HMIE inspection	All pupils
19 th January	Dolly Imagination celebration day – Dolly Parton’s 80 th birthday	All pupils
30 th January	Stay and Play (Health & Wellbeing)	All welcome
13 th February	Valentines Day – children can wear something pink/red	All pupils
Mon 16th & Tues 17th February	School & ELCC closed to pupils	All pupils
18th February	In-Service Day for school & ELCC	All pupils
19 th February	School & ELCC reopen	All pupils

Yours Sincerely

A handwritten signature in purple ink that reads "Pauline Kelly".

Pauline Kelly

Depute Head Teacher

