

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

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February 2026 **Nursery Newsletter**

HMIE Inspection

Our recent HMIE inspection across the school & ELCC has now concluded, and I would like to thank our whole school community for their support throughout the process. We expect to receive notification of publication of the formal report in the coming weeks, and I will advise when this is available.

The inspection team were highly complementary about many aspects of our school & ELCC. They were particularly impressed by our children and the way they consistently demonstrate and live our school values of KINDNESS, HONESTY & DETERMINATION in their learning, behaviour, and relationships.

Staffing update

We would like to take this opportunity to thank Caitlin Roberston for her hard work and dedication during her short time at St Charles ELCC. Caitlin has left us to undertake a new post and we wish her well in her new role.

Nursery application for 2026/27

Online nursery applications for the forthcoming session 26/27 have now closed and applications will be presented at the next Admissions Panel later this month.

If your child's third birthday is on or before 27th February 2027, or already three or four years old and aren't at nursery or a childminder, you need to apply for a funded place at the Nursery of your choice now.

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 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 have been 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. If you have not completed a form please speak to a member of staff to ensure your child is allocated a space at nursery. Parents/carers will be notified of their child's placement in May 2026.

Community Learning Project

We are delighted to participate in this year's community learning project with our local ELCC establishments. The activities will be sent home weekly for the children to complete and will help to support various aspects of your child's numeracy & STEM development. We would be grateful if you could send any photographs or activities which we will showcase at our celebration of learning day on Thursday 5th March. More information to follow.

Transition to school

Stay and play /transition visits to P1 classrooms will begin over the next few weeks. All new primary 1 entrants from St Charles ELCC will have the opportunity to visit the P1 classrooms with Rachael and join in with some learning that is taking place. Adults do not need to attend.

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.

Go safe with Ziggy

Ziggy and his Go safe roadshow will be delivering workshops for the children about road safety on 24th February. This is a great opportunity for all children to learn about the importance of keeping safe walking to and from nursery, travelling safely in a car, public transport etc and provide them with the skills and knowledge to keep themselves safe as they grow and develop.

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.

Healthy Choices & Lunches

Following the Scottish Government 1140 hrs Expansion scheme, all children who attend our ELCC are entitled to a free school meal each day. The lunch menu varies with a two-week menu of various food choices. It is vitally important that you discuss food choices with your child to ensure the menu is suitable for your child's dietary requirements. Alternatively, please provide your child with a packed lunch from home, this will prevent your child being hungry if they don't eat the food provided. **All packed lunches from home should be in a lunch box, with your child's name clearly written and should be taken home and washed daily. Lunches should also include carbohydrates, (sandwiches, bread roll), dairy (yoghurt, cheese), fruit and veg. Lunch boxes should not be filled with unhealthy snacks (chocolate bars).** We now have several children across the Nursery & 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 anything to Nursery that may contain nuts e.g. Kinder Bueno bars & Nutella.

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

Snacks

Snack is provided daily free of charge funded by the Scottish Government. Each child is entitled to **milk/water** and **one piece of fruit only** each day. It is important that your child eats their breakfast prior to them attending ELCC each day as no other snack items will be provided. If your child requires additional food for medical or any other reason it is the responsibility of parent/carers to provide these each day. Please alert staff and provide them with additional information/ snacks for your child.

Voluntary Contributions

To allow your child to access a wide range of learning experiences within our ELCC, a voluntary contribution of £3 per week can be made via our cashless Parent Pay app. Parent pay letters will be issued to all parents over the coming week.

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 18th March 2026** at 6.30pm. 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!

SAVE THE DATE – Friday 8th May 2026

Parent Hub are hoping to host a Summer BBQ Event this year on this date.

This has always been a very successful fundraiser in the past & is a great night out for all the family. More info to follow. Please save the date for now & if you are able to come along as a helper to this event, please let school office know or email stcharlesenquiries@renfrewshire.gov.uk

Please note: Helpers at this event DO NOT Require a PVG check as all children attending will be in the care of their own parents/families.

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
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
24 th February	Go Safe with Ziggy Roadshow	All pupils
5 th March	ELCC Community Learning Celebration	ELCC pupils & parents
3 rd April	School & ELCC closed for Easter holidays	All pupils & staff

20 th April	School & ELCC reopen	All pupils & staff
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Yours Sincerely



Pauline Kelly

Depute Head Teacher