

BULLETIN

ST. CHARLES' PRIMARY SCHOOL

June 2026

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Dear Parents,

I am delighted to share the good news that Mrs Kinsella will be returning to school prior to the summer holidays, after a period of absence. Sadly, this means that Mr McGoldrick who is currently Acting DHT (P4-7) will be returning to his substantive post in Our Lady of Peace Primary School.

I would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge the care, professionalism, & enthusiasm Mr McGoldrick has shown during his time at St Charles' Primary School. I know that pupils, staff & parents will join me in thanking him for his valued contributions.

CLASSES FOR SESSION 26-27

We are currently awaiting final staffing allocation for next session from Renfrewshire Council Children's Services. When that is confirmed, classes for session 26-27 will be advised. All parents will be notified of their child's class & class teacher before the end of June.

It is children's attainment & progress in learning which forms the basis of any decisions made regarding pupil class allocation. Parents are respectfully reminded that while we always ensure that children are placed with others, they are familiar with, we are unable to change classes for children to be with individual friends & such requests cannot be accommodated. In childhood friendship groupings regularly change & children are supported to form new friendships & extend their social circle.

All children will have a **"Bump-Up"/ Transition Day on Thursday 25th June** when they will spend time in their new classroom with their new teacher. We do this each year as we have found this to be a helpful exercise which all children have benefitted from. Transition days can often help allay any wee worries an individual child may have about moving on to a new stage or a new teacher. Transition information is passed on teacher-to-teacher and support staff are currently supporting some children who have additional support needs to complete transition passports which are shared with receiving teachers.

SCHOOL UNIFORM

Children should come to school each day wearing uniform. I understand that if your child has outgrown uniform at this time in the school year you may not want to replace. If this is the case, please let a member of staff know & we would be happy to provide uniform. We always have a number of high-quality items available in school so there is no need for children to wear alternative clothing. This also applies to footwear if anyone requires support, we are always able to help meet costs. Children are not permitted to wear club football colours or clothing with slogans that relate to alcohol or tobacco items to school at any time. We also discourage children from wearing sports shorts unless this is for PE lessons. Children can wear shorts, but these should be tailored short trousers. This applies to boys & girls.

If purchasing new uniform items for next session, please ensure you purchase items which are reflective of our agreed dress code which is

- **white blouse or shirt with school tie**
- **white polo shirt** (with or without school badge)
- **grey sweatshirt or jumper** (with or without school badge)
- **black or grey trousers/tailored shorts/skirts**
- **sturdy footwear** (suitable for outdoors)

As before, would respectfully ask that clothing emblazoned with other colours/ sports logos etc are not worn & school colours are retained as much as possible. Hoodies are not school uniform & should not be worn.

Pupils will also require a suitable outdoor jacket appropriate for seasonal weather (which may be of any colour).

SPIRITUAL LIFE OF OUR SCHOOL

As we come to the end of another school year, I would like to acknowledge the ongoing support we receive from Father Jim (School Chaplain) and parish volunteers who regularly escort pupils to mass in the church and activities in the hall. The parish community provides First Holy Communion and Confirmation gifts to P4 & P7 children, and a Parish representative attends every Parent Hub meeting convened during the school year. As a school community we are grateful for all this support and involvement.

Over the past 2 years a liturgy group involving senior pupils has been established. This has allowed children to be prepared as readers to participate in masses and special events in school and church. We are especially grateful to Margaret Convery for her ongoing hard work & commitment in supporting this group.

In addition, the Saint Vincent de Paul Society in the parish continue to offer support for any family who may find themselves in difficult position purchasing food or utilities. If you find yourself needing some assistance, please speak to Mrs Kelly or Mrs Hannigan who link in directly with the group. No personal information is ever shared with the volunteers.

Parish volunteers will continue to work alongside school staff to plan and co-ordinate Parish/School events next session

PUPIL ACHIEVEMENT

I am delighted to share some fantastic news. St Charles has a European Golf champion! Lucas Macauley won the 8-year-old European Golf Championships at Longniddry Golf club last week.

Lucas competed against 60 of the best 8-year-old golfers from all over the world, including competitors from the United States, South America, Australia and Europe and he won by ONE shot. Well done, Lucas! Congratulations on such a wonderful achievement.

I know Lucas's parents will rightly be very proud of this achievement and his teachers & friends in school are all delighted for him too, that his hard work and continued practise has paid off.

The official opening of Glasgow Airport took place on 27th June 1966 by Queen Elizabeth II. To commemorate this special occasion five children in our school won an art competition and have been invited to the official unveiling of the mural featuring all of the winning drawings at the airport. Eponine Elliot, Kiera Anhulo, Rachael McKenzie, Ava McLauchlan, Marcus Greenacre

CLASS TRIPS

The Parent Hub have very generously donated £1000 towards the cost of school trips to alleviate this financial burden from families. All classes have either already had a class trip or are going out over the next week or two. Thank you too to all the Parents who have accompanied the trips, as without volunteers the school is unable to meet the necessary adult-child ratio which make excursions possible.

PARENT PORTAL - ACTION REQUIRED

Next session we will continue to use Parent Portal. If you haven't already signed up, we need you to do so without delay. Noted below are the main information/forms that you will be able to view and update via Parent Portal each session for your child/children. I hope by using the portal we will help reduce the volume of paper updates you receive over a session as well as reducing time spent filling out these forms.

- Annual Data Checks –you will be able to view these at any time and make amendments yourself and oversee your own child's details throughout the school session (main carer only).
- Parents Evenings - We will be using the portal for booking of appointment times
- National bus pass - can be applied for directly via this site.
- Young Scot card replacements - Can be requested directly via this site.
- Attendance check – You can view your child's attendance throughout the session. This will be introduced in new school session.
- Reporting your child's absence – You can report school absence. This will also be introduced in new school session.
- Access Parent Pay (to consent and pay for trips) and Seesaw links will be available via this site.

Please can you register as soon as possible to make sure you are kept up to date with all our communications for your child in the new school session. If you need any help in Registering your child for Parent Portal, please contact the school office and staff can support you with this.

PARENT HUB SUMMER BBQ

The parent hub annual BBQ is now taking place on Friday 19th June, 6-8pm
Tickets are £5 per family. Adult £2 & child £1 (all children must be accompanied by an adult)

Mobile Phones



Next school year we will be looking at our Mobile Phone Policy. In the meantime, please can I ask that, as always, mobile phones are kept at home unless you feel your child needs to carry one to and from school for safety reasons or for medical reasons.

We are encouraging children not to bring their mobile phones to school unless completely necessary. If they do, it is school policy that they are switched off before entering the playground to ensure that no pictures or videos are taken of children. They must be placed safely in school bags and not removed again until the child leaves school premises at the end of the day.

Please can I also ask that Smart Watches are kept at home. Watches that can send messages, take photos and record are not permitted in the classroom. This is to safeguard our children and to prevent distractions. Technology is a wonderful tool, and we are incredibly lucky to have a wide range of technology available to us, we just ask that children keep their own electronic devices at home to prevent inappropriate use, accidental damage or loss. Thank you for your understanding and support with this.

Our children are vulnerable to inappropriate use of apps and social media.

Please check your child's devices and consider the apps and websites that they are using. Many apps have minimum age restrictions. For example, Snapchat is age 13+. Therefore, primary aged children should not have access to this.

Further information about age restrictions can be found at <https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/social-media/>

In the past parental concerns have been raised regarding children's use of social media outwith school which can often have a direct impact on pupil's emotions and their readiness to learn in school and can also result in school staff spending time trying to navigate and resolve the issues raised. This has a detrimental impact on the time spent on learning and teaching.

I am sure you will agree, the safety and wellbeing of our children is paramount, and I know that you will want to work together to ensure all our children have the best possible experience in our school. Not allowing access to social media can help with this. In school we regularly talk to our children about what they post online and how this can always be found. We remind them to consider the feelings of others, remembering our school values of **Kindness, Honesty & Determination**.

Again, we would ask that you regularly check your child's devices, bearing in mind deleted content can always be retrieved.

Our Health partners have shared a document to help support families who have children using WhatsApp. (information below)

Why It Matters

WhatsApp requires users to be **at least 13 years old** (in many regions) because of **privacy laws** like the **Children's Online Privacy Protection Act (COPPA)**. These laws are designed to protect younger users from:

- **Data collection** without parental consent
- Exposure to **inappropriate content** or adult interactions
- Risks like **cyberbullying**, scams, or harmful group chats
- The pressures of social media-style messaging before they're ready

Children under 13 often **aren't emotionally or socially equipped** to handle group chats, mature conversations, or peer pressure that can arise in WhatsApp groups. It's not just a legal issue—it's about **protecting children's mental health, safety, and personal information**.

Red Flags in WhatsApp Groups

- Strange or adult-themed group names or emojis
- Messages in unknown languages- International or unknown numbers
- Links to websites or files
- Bullying or inappropriate jokes or images
- Excessive late-night messages

How to Protect Your Child

1. Control Who Can Add Them
 - Go to Settings > Privacy > Groups
 - Set to "My Contacts" or "My Contacts Except..."
2. Talk About Leaving Unfamiliar Groups
 - Show them how to leave any group that feels wrong.
3. Check Groups Together
 - Regularly review which groups your child is in and who's in them.
4. Protect Personal Information
 - Teach your child not to share photos, school info, or full names.
5. Report & Block
 - Inappropriate group? Tap group name > Report.
 - Unknown person? Tap their name > Block.
6. Use Parental Controls
 - Android: Google Family Link
 - iPhone: Screen Time settings
 - Consider safe messaging alternatives for younger children.

Talk Openly

Help your child feel safe sharing concerns. Ask:

- Help them understand why the age limit exists.
- "Who created that group?"
- "Do you know everyone in it?"
- "How do you feel about the messages there?"

For Kids: Quick Rules

- Only stay in groups with people you know
- Never share private info or photos
- Leave any group that feels wrong
- Talk to a parent or trusted adult if something worries you

FREE SCHOOL MEALS & CLOTHING GRANTS

All children in Primary 1-5 now receive a free midday meal. If your child, or the child you care for, is in Primary 6 or Primary 7, and if you satisfy certain financial conditions, you will be eligible to apply for free school meals and/or a clothing grant for each school aged child.

I would strongly encourage all families to apply for free school meals if they think they are entitled, as currently there are additional payments being made by Renfrewshire Council to cover the cost of this entitlement over holiday periods. 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.

Apply online at: <https://www.renfrewshire.gov.uk/article/14351/Clothing-grants-for-children-at-school>

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 will be paid for each child during any school year.

LUNCH & BREAKFAST CLUB COSTS

I would urge all parents to check their child's Parent Pay account each week & ensure there are sufficient funds to cover the cost of school lunches. Like any other retail or hospitality transaction items selected must be paid for at point of sale. A few children accrue debt on a weekly basis as no funds are being deposited in their account for long periods of time.

The cost of attending the breakfast club is minimal compared to other local services. While we would love to provide a free daily service unfortunately the school is unable to meet the cost of food & safe adult supervision before the school day. Parents should ensure all allocated days are paid for. This applies even if their child does not attend.

Please speak to me at any time if your family is experiencing any financial difficulty. We will always do what we can to help!

GETTING READY FOR A NEW SCHOOL YEAR

As the summer holidays approach, we know many families are already thinking ahead to the new school year. To help make the return to school next session as smooth and stress free as possible, here are a few helpful tips for supporting your child over the break:

Re-establish Routines

In the final week or two of the holidays, start bringing back familiar routines—bedtimes, wake-up times, and mealtimes. This helps children adjust gradually and feel more settled when the new term begins.

Check Uniform and Supplies

Take some time over the summer to check school uniforms, gym kits, indoor shoes, and any stationery your child might need. Label everything clearly to help items find their way home!

Keep Learning

Keep children's skills sharp with relaxed, everyday learning—reading stories together, practising times tables, writing postcards, or even cooking and measuring in the kitchen. Little and often can make a big difference.

Talk About What to Expect

As children move into a new class, talking about what will stay the same and what might feel new or different can help reduce any worries. Reassure them that it's normal to feel a bit nervous—and that their teachers are there to help.

Look After Wellbeing

Summer is a great time to rest and recharge. Enjoy time outdoors, see friends and family, and keep the focus on fun and connection. A well-rested child is more ready to learn when returning to school.

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 1 st June	P7 football friendly – St John Ogilvie – 3.30pm	Selected P7 pupils
Tuesday 2 nd June	School show – Matilda	
Wednesday 3 rd June	School show - Matilda	
Wednesday 3 rd June	P7 fundraising day	All pupils
Thursday 4 th June	P6 Curriculum Swimming lessons – Lagoon Leisure Centre	P6 pupils
Thursday 4 th June	Fab club – session 2 – 3.15-4pm	Selected pupils & families
Friday 5 th June	Non uniform day	All pupils
Monday 8 th June	P6 stage trip – all information available on parent pay	P6 pupils
Tuesday 9 th June	P5 stage trip – all information available on parent pay	P5 pupils
Tuesday 9 th June	P4 Stage mass in school – 2pm all welcome	P4 pupils & families
Wednesday 10 th June	Sports Day (information shared on seesaw)	All pupils
Wednesday 10 th June	Afterschool club – Commonwealth games	Selected P4-7 pupils
Thursday 11 th June	Fab club session 3 – 3.15-4pm	Selected families
Friday 12 th June	P7 Leavers Event – 7pm (school hall)	P7 pupils
Friday 12 th June	Non uniform day – donate a Scottish item	All pupils
Friday 12 th June	P4 stage trip – all information available on parent pay	
Tuesday 16 th June	P7 stage trip – all information available on parent pay	P7 pupils
Wednesday 17 th June	Afterschool club – Commonwealth games	Selected P4-7 pupils
Thursday 18 th June	Fab club – session 4 – 3.15-4pm	Selected pupils & families
Friday 19 th June	ELCC end of year celebration – 1.45pm	ELCC preschool pupils & families only
Friday 19 th June	Parent Hub – summer BBQ – 6-8pm	All welcome
Monday 22 nd June	P7 leavers & PFFA mass – 7pm St Charles Church	P7 pupils & families
Wednesday 24 th June	Afterschool club – Commonwealth games	Selected P4-7 pupils
Thursday 25 th June	“Bump Up Afternoon” when children visit new classroom & new teacher to support transition	
Tuesday 30th June	SCHOOL AND ELCC-1PM Early Closure*	

Early closure- On the last day of term (Tuesday 30th June) school will close at 1pm. Gates will open at 12.45 pm with Primary 1 & Primary 2 children dismissed in the playground at 12.55 pm. P7 will leave the school via the front entrance to a guard of honour from the whole school community P3-6 pupils will then be escorted by class teachers to the gate in line with normal dismissal arrangements.

Yours sincerely



Grace Hannigan
HEADTEACHER