

St. David's Primary School



Newsletter

August 2019



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St David's Primary



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Head Teacher's note

Dear Parents/ Carers,

Welcome back!

All of us here at St David's PS would like to extend a warm welcome back to all our pupils. We hope that you have had a wonderful break and are looking forward to the new session as much as we are. We would especially like to welcome our new P1 pupils and those who have joined us throughout the school who have already had a very positive start to their learning journey at St David's.

As always, the children look fantastic in their school uniforms. I am delighted to see the school colours of grey and green throughout the campus. They are an absolute credit to you all.

This brief newsletter today is just a few pieces of key information for you as we start off the session as well as a few reminders of school policies and practices. Next week, you will also receive a copy of the school calendar for the year - we are delaying sending this home as the Local Authority are discussing a change to the holiday arrangements to commemorate VE Day. As soon as these are finalised, we will issue our calendar. As always we hope to keep changes to a minimum, but where these are necessary, we will try to give you as much notice as possible. Please stick the calendar on your fridge door or somewhere you can find it to keep track of what is happening throughout the year. You will also find a copy on the school website when available.

If at any time you would like to discuss a query or issue with us, please don't hesitate to get in touch. Pop in or call the office to arrange an appointment - our door is always open.

Linda Berry

Staffing

Just a reminder of our staffing here at St David's this year:

Head Teacher - Mrs Berry

Principal Teacher - Miss Munro

Office - Mrs Wilson

Support Staff:

Mrs David, Mrs Fletcher, Mrs Lamont, Mrs Lavelle and Mrs Wilson

Lunch Assistant: Mrs McGoldrick

Primary 1 - Miss McAtear/Mrs McLeish

Primary 2 - Mrs Foy

Primary 3/4 - Mr Kerr

Primary 4/5 - Mrs McCann

Primary 6/7 - Miss Crawford

Mrs Kinney and Mrs McLeish will also be working throughout the classes and you may see them in your child's class.

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Mrs Thomson will be delivering strings tuition to P6/7, Ms Panaretou will continue to work on Music and Recorder Tuition with P1-4 and Mr McPherson will be working with P4 and P5 on tin whistle.

Labelling

Please take a moment this weekend to label all of your child's personal belongings - clothing, lunchboxes, pencil cases, shoes etc. Lots of pupils have the same or similar items and it is easy to get these mixed up. Clearly labelled items are much easier to identify. If you would like to borrow a permanent marker to do this, please just ask.

Family Start/Finish

This is a valued part of the day for many of our families which provides a relaxed entry and end to the day. The doors will be opened at 9am by our Classroom Assistants and Parents/Carers are welcome to come in with their child to the school. During this time, you can help your child to get organised, select their lunch option as well as reassure them and settle them in for the new day before leaving. Class Teachers will be waiting for your child to arrive in the classrooms and get started straight away. Parents/Carers should leave via the pupil exit and not the main doors. To avoid congestion and to allow a safe pathway for all in the downstairs corridor, we ask that where prams cannot be left outside, please park them in the stairwell at the pupil exit, away from the fire doors. This will ensure there is enough space for everyone to move about safely.

Pupils who attend breakfast club can be dropped off at the main entrance from 8.15am when it opens, until 8.45am. Parents/Carers are asked to say their goodbyes here - staff are waiting in the dining hall to welcome your child and help them get breakfast. Pupils are not permitted to leave breakfast club - at the end, Mrs Fletcher will escort the children to the library where they have a short story time before going to class when the bell rings. Mrs David or Mrs Wilson will be in the playground from 8.45am.

At the end of the day, our classroom assistants will once again open the doors at 2.55pm. Parents/Carers are invited to come in to the school and meet with their child, find out how their day has been, as well as help them to get organised for home.

This format of the school day helps all of our children to feel settled and secure and reassures them that we value all of our pupils, parents and staff. It is also an excellent opportunity to have a quick word with staff if required. If you would like more time to speak with a member of staff, just let us know and we will make a suitable appointment.

P1-3 pupils must be collected by a known adult - any changes to this arrangement must be communicated to the school office in plenty of time. Pupil safety is the highest priority for us and as such, it is essential that you inform us directly of any changes to plans. For extra security, a member of staff may call you back to confirm. Unless we have had a direct communication from the child's parent, we are unable to allow a child to leave with another adult.

Please note that the pupil doors at the side of the building are the only exit and entrance that should be used by pupils and families in the morning and at the end of the day. The main entrance is not in use at this time and should only be used for pupils arriving after the usual entrance has been closed.

Rainy Days

We never quite know what weather we are going to get in Scotland! On rainy days, we endeavour to open the doors a little early to allow people to come in to the school without getting soaked! Children are asked to stay in the cloakroom at this time. As such, the cloakroom area can become very busy, parents/carers are of course still welcome however the

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children will also be supervised so feel free to leave when you and your child are settled. Please note that due to staffing, this is a goodwill gesture on behalf of our staff and unfortunately there may be times when this is **not** possible.

Indoor Shoes

Just a reminder that we ask our children to change their shoes throughout the day. All of our children have access in the cloakroom to a shoe storage box where they should leave their indoor shoes throughout the year. Please ensure that as with all uniform, these are clearly labelled with your child's name.

Outdoor Learning

Outdoor Learning is a core part of our curriculum and also the way in which our pupils prefer to learn. Pupils go outside for learning experiences, break times and Daily Mile. Living in Scotland, we can't wait around for the next sunny day and we aim to prepare our pupils to make the most of the weather and to discover that there is not bad weather, only unsuitable clothing! With that in mind, we ask that you send your child to school each day prepared to be outside at some point - we find that layering their clothing is the best way to stay warm. We also have a stock of outdoor clothing so that no-one misses out just in case they forget something.

P.E Days

This year, P.E. Days will be Tuesdays and Thursdays. Pupils must remove all jewellery independently prior to participation. Where possible, please leave any jewellery at home on these days. Pupils must also remove solid headbands/clips for safety reasons.

Just a reminder that P.E. kit is black shorts and white t-shirt or polo as well as gym shoes (many pupils use their indoor shoes for this, where suitable). Classes all have a supply of spare kits just in case so that no-one has to miss out. P.E is an essential part of the school curriculum - if there is a medical reason as to why your child cannot participate at all, please speak to the Class Teacher in order to advise what they can do or how they will continue to participate in the P.E. lesson e.g. writing the rules of the new game being taught, observing good practice and giving feedback etc.

Parent Council

Our Parent Council have already set some dates for events and fundraisers throughout the year - the money raised by the Parent Council goes directly to supporting our children in St David's. As always, we would like to extend a warm welcome to all of our parents and carers to get involved in the Parent Council. We are always looking for new members - this might mean taking a role such as chairperson or can also just be that you attend if and when you are free to get involved in discussion and planning for events/trips. The more, the merrier - we would love to have you. We'll share the date of the first meeting as soon as it is confirmed.

Absence

Please contact us as soon as possible if your child is going to be late or absent - you can call the school office on 0300 300 0198. If you know in advance please let us know. Also, where possible, please send in your child's appointment letter. This helps us to record absences correctly in the register.

On the diary dates, you will see the school holiday dates for the session. Please bear these in mind when booking holidays - holidays can only be authorised in exceptional circumstances.

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