

St. David's Primary School

Newsletter



October 2019



Contact us: St. David's Primary School,

Beith Road,
Johnstone,
PA5 0BB

Telephone: 0300 300 0198



St David's Primary



@StDavidsPS

E-mail: stdavidsenquiries@renfrewshire.gov.uk

REACHing with Faith
Dream, Believe, Achieve



Head Teacher's note

Dear Parents/ Carers,

I hope you find this newsletter useful and interesting. Our monthly newsletter is designed to keep you up to date with what is happening in our school and community. More detailed updates on what is happening in your child's class can be found on our school blog and Facebook page.

We love to hear your views and opinions - if you have any feedback you would like to share with us, please get in touch. As always the best way to get in touch with us is to catch up at the family start/finish but if you would like a more private discussion, please contact the school office to make an appointment. Our school enquiries email address can be found on the front of this newsletter - this is useful for sharing photographs for Home Shared Learning etc

Linda Berry

St Benedict's Cluster

One of our core school values is Community. For us, this starts here in St David's Primary school with our pupils, staff and families in our local area. However we are also privileged to be part of a much bigger extended family within the St Benedict's Cluster. The cluster is made up of our school, St Margaret's Primary School, St Anthony's Primary School, Our Lady of Peace Primary School, St Fillan's Primary School and our associated secondary school, St Benedict's.

Having a sense of belonging is a human need, just like the need for food and shelter. A sense of belonging to an extended community improves motivation, health and happiness and it can enhance our effort, sense of achievement and engagement in our school and community. As such, we would like to ensure that all members of our schools' communities feel part of the wider St Benedict's cluster community (nursery, primary and secondary schools jointly). To support us with achieving this, our cluster are currently undertaking a very short and simple survey for all of our pupils, staff and families. Please take time to answer and return the two survey questions which will allow us to understand if you feel part of the extended St Benedict's cluster community and what a sense of belonging to St Benedict's cluster means to you.

We will share the results of the survey and our next steps as a cluster over the next few months.

Anti-Bullying Week

Anti-Bullying Week is always an important part of our school calendar and this year we are kicking off the celebrations with the launch of our Joint Campus Anti Bullying Policy which we have been developing in consultation with pupils, families, staff and partners throughout the last year. The launch event will take place on Tuesday 12th November at 9.30am and we would like to extend a warm welcome to all of our families to come along and hear all about the new policy from our pupils: What is bullying? What happens when incidents are reported? What can we all do to help? Whether it is verbal, physical, online or in-person, bullying has a significant impact on a child's life, well in to adulthood. By making small, simple changes, we can break this cycle and create a safe environment for everyone. Because together, we can challenge bullying. Change starts with a conversation. It starts with checking in. It starts with working together.

We really hope you can make it along and join us on the day and we look forward to seeing you there.

REACHing with Faith

Dream, Believe, Achieve

Book Week Scotland

Another special week that we celebrate in November kicks off on the 18th November. Book Week Scotland is an annual celebration of books and reading that takes place across the country. As always we will be getting involved in a number of ways including:

- P1 Bookbug Gifting session with the Skoobmobile,
- P2 & P3 Read, Write, Count Gifting Session,
- P4 & P5 will be playing 'hide and seek' with books joining in with a national book hunt, encouraging children to find, read and re-hide their favourite stories in their local area.
- P6 & P7 will be organising a timetable of invited guests to come in to our school and share their favourite children's book with us. **If you would like to get involved or know anyone who would be willing to share a story with some of our children, please get in touch. Feedback from previous events tells us that this is one of the most valuable and memorable events for our pupils.**

A more detailed list of events will be sent out nearer the time - please join us wherever you can and if you can help in any way we would love to hear from!

Catholic Education Week

St Margaret's Parish is a very important part of our school community. Our pupils, especially those in P6 and P7 who are enrolled in the Pope Francis Faith Award scheme, are getting more and more involved in the daily life of the church by taking on roles helping out by reading, serving and singing.

Catholic Education Week is an annual celebration of the significance of education, not only for young people but for society as a whole. The theme for this year is how we promote Gospel Values in our homes, schools and parishes. As a cluster, our schools will be represented in the parishes throughout this time and we would love to celebrate with our families and pupils at mass. Dates will be confirmed as soon as possible.

St Andrew's Day - Sharing the Learning Event

On the 29th November, we will be celebrating the feast of St Andrew with our friends in Cochrane Castle. From 1.30pm, parents/carers are invited to come in to school and enjoy a Scottish snack with their children and also enjoy some ceilidh dancing with each other in the gym hall on the day. Our Joint Campus value is 'Together' and we hope to see this in practice on the day as well as find out a bit more about what binds us 'together' here in West Johnstone.

Details will be sent home closer to the event but keep the date in your diary and we look forward to seeing you there.

Parent Council

A massive well done to the Parent Council who raised an amazing total of £1300 at the recent Race Night - thank you to all involved and everyone who supported this event. This fantastic sum of money will provide great opportunities for the children here in St David's primary school. The Hallowe'en Disco was another huge success and everyone had a brilliant night. Without the hard work and dedication of all those involved, events such as these just would not happen. We are so grateful for all your support.

The first meeting of the year was held on Tuesday 29th October and there was lots of discussion about the rest of the year, future events and better ways to communicate with others. The Parent Council are a very welcoming and inviting

REACHing with Faith

Dream, Believe, Achieve

group and would be delighted to have any new members come along. If you can spare any time to get involved, please give it a try.

Future meeting dates will be released shortly as well as information about the next Parent Council event which is the Family Christmas Movie Night on the 4th December.

Christmas Events

Now that Hallowe'en is over, is it ok to mention Christmas?! Over the last few years we have been very aware of the 'Cost of the School Day' and try to remove, or at least minimise, any costs for trips etc. wherever we can. As a school we are also preparing to move to cashless system in line with other Renfrewshire schools and as such we are having to re-think the way that we fundraise.

This year we are planning on making some big changes to our usual Christmas events but you can still expect lots of family friendly fun and events. We will be sending home final details and ticket information for the Nativity shows soon. All dates can be found in the Annual Parent Calendar - extra copies can be requested from the office and also found on the school website.

*****CHANGE OF DATE - Please note that due to announcement of the General Election, we have no choice but to change the date for our Nativity Performances. These will now take place on Friday 13th December*****

Active Schools

Our Active Schools Coach, Amy Couttie, has provided another brilliant timetable for our campus. The best thing of all is that our clubs are still absolutely free of charge! If you would like to sign your child up to attend, please do so at <https://rl-stdavids.class4kids.co.uk/>. In our first term this session, we have been able to represent our school at football and netball tournaments in the local area and we couldn't be prouder of our young sports ambassadors. The clubs are an excellent training ground for not only the game but good sportsmanship as well as skills to manage their own personal health and wellbeing.

Aldi Stickers

A huge thank you to everyone who has already sent stickers in to school - we have made great progress and have now completed the poster. Thank you to everyone for getting involved and supporting the school in this venture. The completed poster will now be sent back to Aldi and we can register for a free sports kit as well as the chance of winning £20 000 to create a health legacy for the pupils here in St David's.

Pupil Entrance/Exit

A gentle reminder that for safety and security reasons, we must ask that you do not enter or exit the building outwith the St David's pupil doors. This allows us to monitor who is in the building and to ensure that safety of the children is paramount. As such, the Cochrane Castle pupil doors are only for Cochrane Castle Parents/pupils and should not be used by our families, even in wet weather.

Your support in keeping all of our children safe is greatly appreciated.

REACHing with Faith
Dream, Believe, Achieve