

St. David's Primary School



Newsletter

August 2020



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St David's Primary



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Head Teacher's note

Dear Parents/ Carers,

Welcome back!

Everyone at St David's PS would like to extend a warm welcome back to all our pupils. We would especially like to welcome our new Primary 1 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 the new session gets underway I would like to take the opportunity to say a big well done to all of our children . They have been amazing at adapting to the new routines in place and they also look great in their new, relaxed uniform. I am delighted to see the school colours of grey and green throughout the school and to see the children dressed for the great outdoors each day. 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. This year, the majority of our school communication will be done electronically and will be available via our school website. Please check this regularly and ensure the school have up to date contact numbers for you.

If at any time you would like to discuss a query or issue with us, please don't hesitate to get in touch. Either call the school office to make an appointment or contact the school via email. This information can be found on the front cover of this newsletter. Please note that our Social Media platforms are not monitored and therefore **should not** be used as a way of contacting the school.

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 Fletcher, Mrs Lamont, Mrs Lavelle and Mrs Wilson
Lunch Assistant: Mrs McGoldrick

Teaching Staff:
Primary 1 - Miss Crawford
Primary 2 - Mrs Foy
Primary 3/4 - Mrs McCann
Primary 4/5 - Mr Kerr
Primary 6/7 - Mrs McFaite

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

Labelling

Please remember 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.

It is important that pupils are independent with all their items - please take some time to help your child practise opening and closing water bottles, tying shoelaces, zipping coats, opening snack packets etc. These independent skills will help us all to stay safe.

We need your help:

The children are doing incredibly well with new school routines, especially at the beginning and end of the day. I have been so impressed with how they have adapted and taken things in their stride. However, to keep everyone safe, we need everyone in our school community to play their part.

Mornings:

There is currently no breakfast club operating at the moment. When it is safe to do so, we will inform you with details of this. Please also be aware that we are unable to offer any early entry to the building, even on wet mornings. Please ensure your child is dressed appropriately for the weather and does not arrive before their allocated time slot.

We are operating a staggered start for pupils throughout the school to ensure space and time for a safe entry to school. Wherever possible, pupils should only be supported in the playground by **one** adult. Please arrive promptly for your child's start time - we must stress that no-one should be congregating in the playground at any time. If your child starts at 9.05am, please arrive no earlier than this.

Pupils should line up in their allocated space at the front of the building and wait there to be collected by their teacher. There are no bells ringing in the school at the moment due to the staggered starts and finishes across the campus but please be assured that staff will be prompt at these times of the day.

If you are dropping off in the morning, please maintain a safe distance (2m) from all other households and staff in the playground. When your child enters the building, please leave the playground as soon as possible.

Afternoons:

We are also operating staggered finish times throughout the school that you will already be aware of. Again, these are to allow a safe exit for everyone across the campus.

As with our morning routines, we ask that the number of adults collecting pupils is kept to a minimum and that parents/carers do not arrive until their child's finish time. Children will not be dismissed early and school staff will be supervising them at this time.

Children in P1-P3 will be dismissed at their line up point at the front of the building. For safety and security of our pupils, it is essential that school staff are able to dismiss pupils safely to a known person. Please stand back from the pick up point towards the perimeter fence to allow school staff to have a clear view and to be able to dismiss children safely. We must ask that parents/carers **do not** wait at the pupil exit doors as this causes confusion and distraction for both pupils and staff.

P4-P7 pupils who are making their own way home will be dismissed by the class teacher from the pupil doors. All other pupils will then be brought to the front of the school by the class teacher and dismissed at the pick-up point.

As with drop-off arrangements, please vacate the playground with your child as soon as possible after collection. Please also maintain a safe distance from others at all times, including staff. If you wish to speak to a member of staff, please wait until they have dismissed all children and maintain 2m social distance from them. If this is unsuitable, please contact the school via telephone or email to arrange a suitable time to speak with the teacher or pass on a message.

It is important that we all adhere to the guidance and work together to create and maintain a safe school environment for everyone in our school community. We appreciate that the new arrangements pose challenges for some families and we would encourage you to get in touch with us directly and discuss these with us.

Uniform

Prior to the summer, we informed you of our relaxed uniform approach this session. Pupils should come to school prepared to learn both indoors and outdoors each day. We never quite know what weather we are going to get in Scotland so we ask that pupils bring a jacket to school daily and wear comfortable, weatherproof shoes that will allow them to participate in outdoor P.E. Outdoor Learning has always been 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.

Over the next few weeks, we look forward to welcoming a new member of staff to the school via our Active Schools team. This coach will be supporting our pupils in the playground and also during outdoor P.E. sessions. We will update you on this exciting project in the next newsletter.

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.

During these unprecedented times, our office staff may have to ask a few extra questions to determine how long your child should remain at home and the earliest possible return date for them. If your child is displaying any of the main symptoms of COVID-19 (a new and continuous cough, high temperature or loss of taste/smell), we will advise you to have your child tested. Your child will only be able to return to the school if they receive a negative test result or after 10 calendar days of self isolation. Additionally, it is important to note that the whole household must self-isolate until a negative test result is returned, this includes siblings.

More information can be found here: <http://www.renfrewshire.gov.uk/covid-cases-schools>

Once again, thank you for your continued support of our school and school community. Should you have any questions regarding this information, please do not hesitate to contact the school office.

