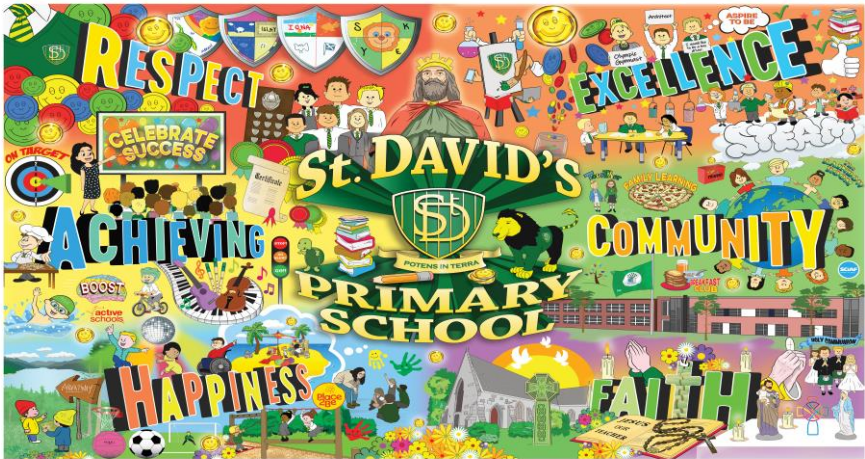




St. David's Primary School

Newsletter

September 2020



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St David's Primary



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REACHing with Faith

School Values Focus – Respect

This session, we are going to have a monthly focus on each of our school values starting off this month with Respect. At St David's we try to treat everyone with respect through our words and actions. We value kindness and using our PATHs strategies we are learning to pay each other compliments and celebrate our uniqueness, talk respectfully about our feelings and manage these. Through our Building Learning Power programme, we are learning to understand how we learn but more importantly, that we all learn differently and that's ok. We value our mistakes and learn from them– just ask us about our Stuck of the Week or how we have persevered with a task and used our BOOST strategies. Outside, our Active Schools Coach and Support Staff are helping us to play together and learn the skills of good sportsmanship – we know that winning is nice but isn't everything.



We have just elected our new House and Vice Captains from P6 and P7. Their role will be a bit different this session and they will be leading our weekly virtual assemblies. We are looking forward to them helping us celebrate our Pupils of the Week again – look out for certificates in bags on Fridays. Our values are at the heart of everything we do and we hope you can recognise Respect in our school community too.

Disabled Parking

We are very fortunate to benefit from a large parking area in our school grounds with 5 disabled bays for Blue Badge Holders. These spaces are essential to provide access by allowing badge holders to park close to where they need to go. We respectfully ask that you only use the disabled bays if you are a Blue Badge Holder and in all other cases, you find an alternative, safe parking space. As a community, we must be respectful of the needs of everyone and we are committed to ensuring our car park is a safe extension of our school.

Drop-off/Pick-ups

We are delighted that we have been able to continue welcoming our parents, carers and wider school community into the school playground at these important times of the day. We would ask that when you are in the school grounds, that you please ensure you are mindful of the government advice and maintain a 2m physical distance from other households at all times. Additionally, it has been brought to our attention that some adults are using inappropriate language and again we would ask you to be mindful of this when in the presence of pupils. We thank you for your co-operation in making our school playground a safe and respectful place.

ParentsPortal

During September, you will have received lots of information from us about registering for ParentsPortal – this is a new system being used by Renfrewshire Council for parents and carers where you can access your child's school details and lots more functions as these are rolled out. You can find some additional information and support videos on the Council website at the link below:

<http://renfrewshire.gov.uk/article/10557/ParentsPortal>

If you have any queries about ParentsPortal, please contact the school office who can help you with your enquiry. This school session, we are asking you to complete your child's Annual Data Check through ParentsPortal. If you have been unable to do this, we have also issued paper copies of these forms. Please return these to school as soon as possible to ensure we have up to date contact information for you as well as your consent to use your child's photograph on our school website and Seesaw so that we

can start using these resources to communicate with you all at home. If you need another copy, please just get in touch.

Uniform

A gentle reminder that we have a relaxed uniform in place this session. As you are aware, we are spending an increasing amount of time learning outside and we ask that you consider this when sending your child to school each day. Please ensure that they always bring a jacket and are dressed appropriately for the Scottish weather. If you would like us to provide your child with a waterproof jacket and trousers, please just get in touch. We would like to thank you for your continued support with our uniform - we always receive lovely compliments about how smart our pupils look and it gives them great pride to be recognised as part of the St David's community. Please ensure all items are labelled with your child's name and check for any mix-ups going home.

Water Bottles

Just a reminder that all pupils are invited to bring a water bottle to school with them. It is important that the bottle can be sealed to prevent leaks in school bags and in the classroom. There are water fountains around the school where they can fill these up when they need to but we ask that they bring them to school filled each day and take them home to be cleaned each evening. We all know the benefits of staying hydrated and also **plain water** is the best choice. Fruit juice/squash can be provided in packed lunches or snacks but is **not** permitted for drinking during class time.

Hallowe'en

This Hallowe'en we will be unable to enjoy our usual campus celebrations however we want to ensure our pupils still have the opportunity to be safe and have fun. On Friday 30th October, we invite children to come to school in fancy dress if they wish. As always, we ask that all costumes are appropriate for our school community and appreciate your co-operation with this. Please also ensure your child can still independently manage their costume to allow them to go outside, use the bathroom etc. Please note that we do not have the space for pupils to change in to their outfit at school. Each class will have some Outdoor Learning themed activities on the day as well as class based craft activities, Hallowe'en parade and a Hallowe'en movie afternoon.

Parent Council

The Parent Council at St David's have always been an active part of the school life with a focus on fundraising to provide fantastic opportunities for our pupils. Unfortunately, at the moment, these events are on hold however we are still keen to engage with the Parent Council and work alongside them. After October week, we will send out a simple survey to find out if there is interest in and a way in which we could perhaps meet virtually and get regular meetings back on track.

Home Shared Learning

After the success of using Seesaw as a great tool to share learning between school and home during lockdown, this session we are hoping to continue to use Seesaw to communicate and we are starting with our Home Shared Learning approach. Recently, your child should have brought home their Seesaw QR code – this can be scanned directly from your camera app and will log you in to the app directly. (If you need any help with this, please contact the office) Through the app, you can upload text, photos, videos and voice-notes to share your Home Shared Learning Tasks back to class.

Our Home Shared Learning approach is based on pupils having the opportunity to spend some quality time with their families and sharing the skills they have mastered in school, engaging in their local environment and making links between home and school. Home Shared Learning also helps our staff get to know your child and what they are interested in. We know that our families have busy lives outside of school so the tasks are presented in a monthly grid to be completed and shared via Seesaw throughout the month at your leisure. Home Shared Learning helps to create a home-school link so that we all work together to share and support your child's learning journey. If you still have any questions, or would like to find out more, please don't hesitate to get in touch. Home Shared Learning Grids are distributed on the 1st of each month (or the nearest Monday) and are also available on the class blog.

October Week

Our next school holiday is October week. School will close on Friday 9th October at 3pm and pupils return on Tuesday 20th October.

Attendance

Excellent school attendance is key factor in achieving your full potential. We fully understand that there are times when your child is too unwell to come to school and we know that you are best placed to make that decision about your own child. When this is the case, we ask that you please contact the school office to inform us that your child won't be in and also to give an indication of when they expect to return. If your child has any potential COVID-19 symptoms, please follow the current government guidance. You can find the most up to date information here:

<http://www.renfrewshire.gov.uk/coronavirus-schools>

Wherever possible, please make appointments outside of school hours, however, where this isn't possible, please show us your appointment letter (if you have one) and let us know in advance of the absence. This helps us to ensure that the absence is marked correctly on the register.

We all know the value of family holidays and the positive impact these can have on young people however, wherever possible these should be booked during school holiday periods and not term time. Family holidays cannot be authorised unless in exceptional circumstances. When booking holidays, we ask you to please also consider the quarantine restrictions in place under current guidance and the impact of this on your child's attendance and learning journey.