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Our Vision

'Working together to promote, excellence in achievement and well-being for all.'

Dear Parents/Carers,

I can't believe that we are nearly at the end of January, I would like to thank everyone on behalf of the whole staff team for the lovely cards and gifts we received prior to the Christmas Holidays.

Nut, Mango and Kiwi Allergies

We are a nut, mango, and kiwi free zone as we have children with severe allergies which, for these children, is life threatening. I would ask for your co-operation and ensure that no nuts, mangos or kiwis are brought in to school for snack or lunch. Please note that these ingredients can be found in flavoured water, chocolate spread, biscuits, cereal bars etc. Please always check the ingredients.

Change of Holiday Dates

Schools have been asked by Renfrewshire Council to highlight the change of May holiday date in response to the Queen's Platinum Jubilee Bank Holiday and an error that was published on the Renfrewshire Council's website at the start of term. Holiday dates remaining this session are:

February Holiday	School Closed to Children Monday 14 th February	School Reopen Thursday 17 th February
Easter Holiday	Monday 4 th April	Tuesday 19 th April
(Close at 2:30pm Friday 1st April)		
1 st May Bank Holiday	Monday 2 nd May	Tuesday 3 rd May
Inservice Day	Thursday 5 th May	Friday 6 th May
2 nd May Bank Holiday	Friday 27 th May	Monday 30 th May
Queen's Platinum Jubilee	Thursday 2 nd June	Monday 6 th June

Last day of Term is Tuesday 28th June when we close at 1pm

COVID 19 Update

Unfortunately, Covid-19 continues to have an impact on our day to day lives. Please remember to follow our mitigations at the school gate, including wearing of face coverings and physical distancing, as schools are still required to follow the guidance issued by the Scottish Government on 7th January 2022, this document can be found here:

<https://www.gov.scot/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-guidance-on-reducing-the-risks-in-schools/pages/overview/>

Given that there have been some recent changes regarding self-isolation rules, I thought it would be helpful to provide some questions and answers:

If I have a positive LFD test but I have Covid symptoms, should I take a PCR test?

Yes, people with Covid symptoms should continue to take a PCR test, regardless of whether or not they have a positive LFD. People who test positive on an LFD but have no Covid symptoms should treat that as a positive test and follow the isolation guidance that applies to them.

I have symptoms of Covid-19, do I need to book a PCR test or do an LFD test?

PCR and LFD tests work in different ways to identify people who have COVID-19 infection. If you have any symptoms – a new continuous cough, high temperature or loss/change of taste/smell - you should book a PCR test as soon as a slot is available.

If I have symptoms, does my household need to isolate whilst I wait my PCR results?

Some of your household may need to isolate. If they are not fully vaccinated, they will need to isolate. If they are a fully vaccinated adult or under 18 years and 4 months, they do not need to isolate as long as they continue to return daily negative LFDs until the test result is received and follow appropriate guidance thereafter. (Please note fully vaccinated means both vaccines and the booster more than 14 days ago).

My PCR was positive, what should members of my household do?

All household members who have symptoms should isolate immediately and book a PCR test. Fully vaccinated household members (three doses with a final dose at least 14 days ago) and household members aged under 18 years and 4 months may take 7 daily LFD tests as an alternative to isolation so long as they do not have symptoms and test negative each day; Anyone aged over 18 years 4 months who has less than three vaccine doses should book a PCR test and, even if negative, isolate for 10 days.

How long will it be before I get my PCR test results?

Test results are usually returned within 24 to 48 hours, however during times of high demand turnaround times are generally within 72 hours.

I have tested positive on a LFD test but have no symptoms, do I need a follow up PCR?

Given the current high incidence and prevalence rates, there is no longer a requirement to book a PCR test to confirm the LFD positive result. You should only book a confirmatory PCR if the individual, parent or carer is planning on applying for the Self-Isolation Support Grant. Eligibility for the grant is that a person earns less than the real living wage, is asked by Test and Protect to isolate and will lose income as a result of isolating.

Where can I get LFD tests?

LFD tests can be collected at a local pharmacy, collection point, regional and local test sites and can also be ordered online for home delivery. To find out where, please see here:

<https://maps.test-and-trace.nhs.uk/>

Do I have to report my LFD positive result?

Yes, it is crucial you report your test result online as soon as possible, positive or negative. This enables us to understand the prevalence of COVID-19 in the country and, for those with positive results, so the correct advice can be given to you and those you've been in close contact with, to prevent onward spread of coronavirus. This only takes a few minutes to do, and you can report tests for the current day and the previous day.

I've been identified as a close contact, but I've had a positive PCR in the last 90 days, should I test?

If you have tested positive on a PCR test within the last 90 days, you should take an LFD instead of a PCR test.

What does fully vaccinated mean now for the purposes of self-isolation policy?

Fully vaccinated now means an individual having received both primary doses and a booster dose of an MHRA approved vaccine, plus 14 days for protection to build. You need to have been fully vaccinated by the time the contact occurred, e.g. if the case is in your house you need to have been boosted 14 days before their onset of symptoms.

Christmas Fundraising

Thank you again for your support during our festive calendar, the amount raised from the Pupil Council Christmas Crafts, Parent Council and children's raffles was a fantastic £ 576.88! All of these funds will go towards our school fund that provides your children with treats and various events throughout the school year. Well done to Primary 4 who raised £140.55 from their Christmas shop, the children will be using these funds to help a local charity, more information will be posted soon on our social media accounts.

Thank you once again to all our parents who gave up their time to organise and help at these events.

Religious Life of the School

As you will be aware, this year our Parish will be transitioning from the Church to the Church hall, this has taken a little longer than was hoped due to some Health and Safety issues having to be resolved. Father

John is currently working with our Parishioners to establish what everyone wants to take from the Church into the Hall. Should you want your say please contact Father John.

We will be continuing to support our children in their Spiritual Wellbeing by attending Mass on a regular basis as individual classes, for information on the specific dates please see our diaries at the end of this newsletter.

Sacramental Classes

Primary 4 and 7 have been working hard and preparing to receive the Sacraments of Reconciliation, Communion and Confirmation. An information leaflet and Candidate Forms were issued in term 1 out of both classes we have only received **11 forms**. Should you need a replacement please contact the school office. We are asking that all children who are to receive their sacraments this year to return the information to the school office by 31 January. Thank you.

Just a reminder of Mass times at St Fergus' every weekend:

Saturday: 6pm (Vigil Mass)

Sunday: 11:30am

Should you wish to get your child Baptised please contact Father John on 0141 889 5056 or by email

stfergus@rcdop.org.uk

Primary 7 Transition to Secondary School

All parents/carers should have received a letter from Renfrewshire Council confirming their child's place in the relevant Secondary School. Should you not wish to send your child to this school a placing request should be submitted by the 15th March and you should receive the decision by 30th April.

More information can be found here:

<https://www.renfrewshire.gov.uk/article/3470/Change-schools>

Mr Henry the Head Teacher of St Andrew's Academy is having a virtual parental information meeting on Monday 7th February at 6pm. A letter and information on how to access this will be sent shortly. I will send out a text message when your child has this in their bag as well as emailing you a copy.

Mrs Rowley will be liaising with the relevant Secondary Schools regarding your children, should you require further information please contact the school office to arrange an appointment.

Interim Reports

Interim Reports are due to go home on **Friday 25 February**, please check your child's bag on this date. You and your child's feedback on their reports are important and I would ask that you discuss their report with them.

Child Safety/Car Parking- Reminder

Please to not park on the yellow zigzags, the drop off bays or allow your children to exit your car at the entrance to the drop off zone. Could I please encourage both children and adults to use the school crossing to ensure that our children understand the importance of crossing the road safely.

Building Site Safety

We are working closely with AS Homes who are the contractors on the site of our old school. On 31st March our children will have a visit from the AS Homes Team where they will have the opportunity to learn about building site safety. On the 9th and 10th of June all classes will visit the building site where they will learn about the different types of jobs you can have in the building trade.

School Office Times

We regularly have a number of enquiries/phone calls to our office during the support staff lunch and I would like to apologise for the reminder again about our office times, 8:30 -1:20pm and 2- 4pm. Please be patient out with these times as there may not always be a member of staff to answer the door. We now have an answer phone service to allow you to leave a message and Mrs Ingram will do her best to get back to you as soon as she can.

Free School Meal Entitlement

The Scottish Government introduced free school meals to all children in primary 5 this month, which means that all children in Primary 1-5 now receive free school meals. Our new school lunch menus are available to view on our website by following this link:

<https://blogs.glowscotland.org.uk/re/stfergus/2022/01/10/new-menu-january-2022/>

The plan is to introduce free meals to children in Primary 6 & 7 in August 2022. We are still encouraging all families to apply for free school meals (if they think they are entitled, see the information below) as currently there are additional payments being made by Renfrewshire Council to cover the cost of this entitlement over holidays.

Are You Getting What You Are Entitled To?

Free School Meals

Your child may be entitled to free school meals if:

- Your child attends a Renfrewshire school or has been placed in an educational establishment outside Renfrewshire by Renfrewshire Council, or;
- You receive income support, any income-related element of employment and support allowance, maximum working tax credits (if you earn less than £6,420/year), child tax credit only (if you earn less than £16,190) or pension credit

Apply online at: <http://renfrewshire.gov.uk/Freeschoolmealsandclothinggrants>

Clothing Grants

Parents or carers of children attending Renfrewshire primary, secondary or additional support needs schools during the school session who satisfy the financial conditions are eligible to apply for free school meals and/or clothing grants. A clothing grant is a payment made by Renfrewshire Council to qualifying parents or carers to assist with the purchase of school uniforms. For session 2020-2021, the level of clothing grant is £100 per eligible pupil. A maximum of one grant will be paid for each child during any school year.

Apply online at: <http://renfrewshire.gov.uk/Freeschoolmealsandclothinggrants>

Kind Regards,



Mhairi McDonald
Head Teacher

St Fergus' School Calendar



PLEASE NOTE ALL DATES SUBJECT TO CHANGE AND ADDITIONAL ACTIVITIES TO BE ADDED

Our Vision

'Working together to promote, excellence in achievement and well-being for all.'

Our Aims

- ✚ To understand the value of God's Love in our school and local community.
- ✚ To promote a positive attitude and mindset to learning.
- ✚ To use our voices to promote positive changes for all.
- ✚ To provide a happy, safe and stimulating learning environment for all.
- ✚ To develop skills for learning, life and work in our curriculum.
- ✚ To support each child's needs in their unique learning journey.



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
23	24 P2 to Mass	25	26 P1 to Mass	27	28 P7 to Mass	29
30	31 P6 to Mass	February 1	2 P5 to Mass + Confessions	3	4 P4 to Mass	5
6	7 P3 to Mass	8	9 P2 to Mass	10	11 P1 to Mass Non-Uniform Day £1	12
13	14 Holiday	15 Holiday	16 Inservice Day 4 Closed to Pupils	17 School re-opens	18	19
20	21 P7 to Mass + Confessions	22	23 P6 to Mass + Confessions	24	25 P5 to Mass Interim Reports Out	26
27	28 P4 to Mass					