



Telephone: 0300 300 1364
School email: stfergusenquiries@renfrewshire.gov.uk
School website: blogs.glowscotland.org.uk/re/stfergus/

Our Vision

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

Dear Parents/Carers,

I hope you had a lovely long weekend with your families during our February break. As always, I have a lot of information within our newsletter. Please make sure you take note of important dates for your diary.

Staffing

Mr Reid, who has been seconded for the last 16 months, will return to St. Fergus' on Monday 6th March, he is due to replace Miss McAdam. Miss McAdam will remain for a short time in St Fergus' prior to her taking up post in another school.

Miss McAdam has been a valued member of our school staff over the past 2 years, and I am sure you will join with me in thanking her for her love, support and care she has given the children of St. Fergus'.

We are still trying to recruit an Inclusion Support Assistant to replace Elizabeth, as soon as I have any further information on the post, I will inform all parents.

Nut Allergies

We are a nut free zone as we have children with a severe nut allergy which, for these children contact with someone who may have eaten nuts could be **FATAL**. Please always check the ingredients of your child's snack and lunch. I would ask for your co-operation and ensure that there are no nuts brought into school for snack or lunch. Please note that these ingredients can be found in chocolate spread, biscuits, cereal bars etc. Please always check the ingredients.



Wellbeing Wednesday



Our next Wellbeing Wednesday is on the 8th of March we would like to invite parents/carers into the school to be part of our wellbeing journey for a coffee, breakfast, and chat. All welcome.

Wellbeing Warriors Update

The Wellbeing Warriors have been working very hard this term to continue to deliver a

positive wellbeing approach to our school. Our Happiness Heroes continue their good work out in the playground, ensuring no one is upset or left out. If your child finds themselves alone at this time, please encourage them to find a Happiness Heroes (they are wearing badges) and they will make sure to turn a frown, upside down!



We are currently planning our next Wellbeing Day which will take place on the 8th of March. Casual, comfortable clothing should be worn - **not jeans/dresses/skirts.**

Interim Reports/Parent Meeting Appointments

Interim Reports and Parent Meeting appointments are due to go home on **Friday 24 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.

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 of 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>

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

All children are required to apply for school transport, this can be done online:

<https://www.renfrewshire.gov.uk/article/3486/Home-to-school-transport>

Should you need support with this please contact our school office.

Primary 7 Activity Days

Due to the cost of a residential (which was in excess of £6000 for all P7 children) and staffing, a decision was made in consultation with our Parent Group that alternative arrangements would be looked at to ensure that our Primary 7 would not miss out but would experience a range of activities that would normally be provided on a residential trip. We have organised 2 separate Activity Days for our Primary 7 children, Tuesday 28th March and Thursday 4th May.

Active Schools will be providing for our children a range of outdoor activities including Gorge walking, Caving, Archery, Rock Climbing, Escape Room and many more. The cost of these 2 days is £432 for the activities and £400 for the buses. A separate letter and consent form will be issued soon, we are asking that all P7 parents contribute £10 via ParentPay. Should you have any issues paying this please contact either myself or Mrs Rowley.

World Book Day

The School Librarians have been plotting and planning for World Book Day on Thursday 2nd March 2023 and have come up with a few activities for throughout the day. These activities are focused on sharing books across the school and reading for pleasure. As part of our Nursery Transition Primary 6 will be sharing stories with Ferguslie Early Learning and Childcare Centre. They would also love for everyone to come to school dressed as their favourite book character, but this is optional and please do not go to any expense. Happy reading!



Stay and Play in Primary 1



Miss Galvin would like to invite all P1 parents into the classroom on a monthly basis to allow parents/carers to engage with their child's learning journey. Our first date is **Tuesday 7th March at 2pm**. Should this be popular we will make this a more regular occurrence.

Open Afternoon in Primary 3

Primary 3 would like to welcome their families into our school on **Monday 27th of March at 2pm** for an extra special afternoon. We will be performing our exciting new play 'Time Warp - Ancient Egypt' and then showcasing some of our topic learning this term. We would be delighted to see you all there!

Primary 7's World War 2 Afternoon

The children would like to invite their families after the school day on **Wednesday 19th April at 3:15pm** to showcase their learning. They will be sharing their artwork, learning through displays, drama, songs and even some war recipes for you to enjoy.

St Fergus Families Together

I would again like to thank our Parent Group for working hard to support the school and our children. They will be providing all our children with an Easter Treat and more information on Easter Activities will be provided in March.



After winning community funding last year our parent group have organised a movie night for all families, this will take place in the Tannahill Centre, and each child will be given 2 tickets. Primaries 4-7 are invited to attend on **Friday 17th March at 4:30pm** and Primaries 1-3 on **Saturday 18th March at 11am**. Food and drinks will be provided. More Information will be issued by the Parent Group in March.

Our next meeting is **Thursday 27th April at 2:15pm**.

Religious Life of the School

As we are entering the season of Lent our children will be learning about the importance of kindness, almsgiving, and prayer. Bishop John has issued the Lent Calendar for prayer for our Priests, Deacons, and Religious Orders. Our children will be using this daily in their classrooms.

2023 Lent							
Please join us each day as we pray for Vocations to the Priesthood and Religious Life							
MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	SUN	
		February 22 Bishop John Keenan	23 Religious Sisters	24 Deacons in our Diocese	25 Paul Laverty, Seminarian	26 Sick & Retired Priests	
27 Fr Vincent Byrne	28 Canon Oliver Freney	March 1 Fr Thomas Erambil	2 Canon Jim Duggan	3 Priests who minister abroad	4 Priest in the armed forces	5 Priests who work in Rome	
6 Canon Des Berry	7 Fr John Eagers	8 Fr Laurent Bahati	9 Fr Matthew Carlin	10 Fr Dan Fitzpatrick	24 Canon Edward Cameron	11 Canon Michael McMahon	
12 Fr Paul Brady	13 Msgr John Torney	14 Msgr Denis Carlin	15 Msgr Andrew McFadden	16 Msgr Gerry Gallagher	17 Canon Tom Boyle	18 Fr Eoin Patten	
19 Fr Joe McGill	20 Fr Maurice Callaghan	21 Fr Gerry McNellis	22 The Jericho Community	23 Canon Danny McLoughlin	24 Canon David Boyd	25 Canon Stephen Baillie	
26 Canon Peter McGarry	27 Fr Joseph Balmer	29 Fr Jonathan Whitworth	30 Fr John Morrison	31 Fr Joseph Burke	April 1 Fr Ryan Black	2 Fr Douglas MacMillan	
3 Msgr Charles Cavanagh	4 Canon Sean Cunney	5 Priests who minister in Hospitals	6 Priests who minister in Schools	7 Priests who minister in Prisons	8 Deceased Priests	9 Easter Sunday All of our Priests	

Lent Reflection Day for Primary School Pupils – Sunday 12th March

The Diocese of Paisley will be facilitating a day of reflection and activities for Primary School pupils (P4-7) on Sunday March 12th at St. James, 50 Greenock Road, Paisley. This will begin at 2pm and end with dinner at 5.00pm (collection time 5.30pm), the afternoon will include activities, catechesis and Mass. Pre-booking is recommended but not required. All P4-7 children have received a consent form, please return this to the school office and we will pass this to Father John. For further information or queries please contact Father John Tel: 01418892026 or e-mail vocations@rcdop.org.uk

St Andrew's Cluster Lenten Evening Masses in Paisley

Bishop John would like schools to advertise that the cluster parishes are providing evening Masses during Lent from Monday 27th February.

Masses will be held in the following Parishes at 7pm:

Mondays (St Mary's)

Wednesdays (St Mirin's) Except on the 15th of March

Tuesdays (St Peter's)

Thursdays (St Charles')

Confessions will be heard at:

St Peter's and St Charles' from 6.20-6.50pm,

St Mirin's from 6.00pm during adoration.

Family Mass and Refreshments

Thank you to the families who are attending our monthly Family Masses and it has been lovely to welcome you into school afterwards for Tea, Coffee, and biscuits. Our next Mass is **Friday 3rd March**.

stfergus@rcdop.org.uk

Sacramental Classes

Primary 4 and 7 have been working hard and preparing to receive the Sacraments of Reconciliation, Communion and Confirmation. Thank you to Father John who has been providing weekly liturgy lessons in our school. Dates for the P4 Sacraments have been on our yearly Calendar since August:

Reconciliation: Thursday 16th March at 11am – St Fergus Church

Communion: Saturday 22nd April at 10 am – St Fergus Church



Our children from Primary 7 will receive the Sacrament of Confirmation on **Thursday 11 May in St Fergus' Church at 5pm**. Bishop John will be visiting prior to their Confirmation and as soon as this date is issued, I will inform all parents.

Mrs Rowley issued an overview leaflet in November, should you need a copy of this, or any further information required please speak to Mrs Rowley or Father John.

Please keep all our children preparing for their Sacraments in your prayers.

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

Saturday: 6pm (Vigil Mass)

Sunday: 11:30am

School Teams

Netball

Thank you to Miss Galvin, Mrs Paterson, and Mrs Moran for their commitment to the school netball team. The next tournaments will take place on Monday 27th February and Monday 20th March at St Andrew's.



Football

Thank you to both Mr Murphy and David Rose for organising our children to attend football tournaments. Last week our girls football team had a fantastic morning at Ferguslie Sports ground, and they even won a match! Well done girls! Good Luck for the School's mixed team who will

attend another tournament on Thursday 23rd February again at Ferguslie pitches.

Early Year to Primary 1 Transition

We have now received the names of the children in the catchment area who have been registered to start school in August. Mrs Rowley has been liaising with the local Early Years Centres and our new Transition Programme is currently being finalised. All Early Year Centres will be provided with this in March and an email will be sent to all new parents. We are looking forward to welcoming parents new and current into our school community as their wee ones start in St Fergus'. All Transition information will be published on our website. The link to this is: <https://blogs.glowscotland.org.uk/re/stfergus/transitions/>



Easter Activities

The Pupil Council are working hard to put together a plan for our annual fundraising and activities during Lent. Keep an eye out for their flyer.

STEM Fortnight 13-24th March

Each year our classes have a STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) focused activities during the 10 days of British Science week, this year's Theme is 'Connections'.

Home Link Support

Should anyone require support from our Home Link worker, Karen Fraser, she can be contacted in the following ways:

Mobile number: 07717275207

Email: karen.fraser@renfrewshire.gov.uk

OR: Leave a message for Karen with Mrs Ingram in our school office.

End of Term

School closes for the Spring Holiday on Friday 31st March at 2.30pm, **this is also a non-uniform day** and reopens on Monday 17th April at 9am.

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>

Yours sincerely,

Mhairi McDonald

Head Teacher

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.



Our Vision:

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

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
12 School closed	13 School closed	14 School closed	15 School closed	16 School Reopens	17	18
19	20	21	22 Ash Wednesday Whole School Mass	23	24 Interim Reports/Parent Night appointments	25
26	27 P3 to Mass Netball Tournament	28 Teacher Strike	MARCH 1 Teacher Strike	2 World Book Day- Children can dress up as Characters	3 Family Mass 9:30am St Fergus Church	4
5	6 P3 to Mass	7 P1 Stay and Play 2pm	8 P2 to Mass	9	10 P1 to Mass	11
12 P4-7 Lent Day – St James Church Paisley	13 STEM Fortnight P7 to Mass + Confession	14	15 Lenten Station Mass 7pm St Mirin's Cathedral P6 to Mass + Confession	16 First Confession 2pm	17 P5 to Mass + Confession P4-7 Movie night	18 P1-3 Movie Morning
19	20 STEM Fortnight P4 to Mass Last Homework Club Netball Tournament	21	22 P3 to Mass	23	24 P2 to Mass	25 Feast of Annunciation
26	27 P1 to Mass P3 open afternoon	28 Parent's Night	29 P7 to Mass Parent's Night	30	31 P6 to Mass School Closes 2.30pm Non-Uniform Day £1	