



Telephone: 0300 300 1364  
School email: [stfergusenquiries@renfrewshire.gov.uk](mailto:stfergusenquiries@renfrewshire.gov.uk)  
School website: [blogs.glowscotland.org.uk/re/stfergus/](https://blogs.glowscotland.org.uk/re/stfergus/)

### Our Vision

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

Dear Parents/Carers,

Welcome back to St Fergus' for our new school session 2023/24. I hope you all have had a wonderful summer holiday. The term ahead is sure to be a busy one with lots of engaging and fun learning to be enjoyed, we are so looking forward to having parents and carers back into our classrooms. We have many events and activities taking place. I am looking forward to continuing our effective partnership and I am sure this will be a successful term for all.

I would like to offer a warm welcome to our new Primary 1 pupils and their parents/carers. The children have all settled very well and appear to be enjoying their new experience. Well done for an excellent start!



I was delighted to see almost all pupils return to school for the new term in uniform. School uniform contributes to success in many aspects of school life and encourages pupils to develop a sense of identity and pride in our school. Uniform also means that all children are equal with regards to clothing, and they are not competing with designer labels. Could I please remind all parents that our uniform is **plain grey** and **not black**. If black uniform or grey tartan has been purchased in error, please contact the school as we have a fund that can help parents replace these items of incorrect uniform.

The wearing of uniform is something I would strongly encourage throughout the year and would like to thank all parents for their support in this by getting their children off to an excellent start.

Of course, all uniforms are very similar, so it is very important that individual items of clothing are clearly labelled with each child's name. This will help to minimise the number of items lost as this can cause much unnecessary anxiety for children and expense for 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.

### Staffing Update

Congratulations to Miss Galvin who got married over the summer break and has now become Mrs. Wilson. Congratulations to Mr Reid who welcomed his second baby over the summer and will be taking Paternity Leave the first two weeks of this term. Good luck to Miss Bryan who has now left our school to study



Primary School Teaching at University, we all know she'll be a great teacher! We will shortly be interviewing to replace Miss Bryan.

We welcome Miss Hannah Fulton as our Newly Qualified Teacher (NQT) in Primary 4 and we are delighted to have Miss McAdam back in Primary 2 to cover Mrs. Gray's Maternity Leave, who stops next week.

### School Attendance

Attendance is key for your child's success, at St. Fergus we would like all children to be above 95% and it features in our school improvement plan. See below for some important facts:

#### **Why is attendance at school and punctuality important?**

Because every second counts.

**90%** attendance may sound good. However, this is the equivalent of missing a **half day of schooling EACH WEEK**.

If this continues **over every five years** a child spends at school, a child with **90%** attendance will miss **HALF A YEAR'S** schooling.

A child with **80%** attendance will lose **A FULL YEAR** of schooling over the same period.



#### **Did You Know?**

A 2 week holiday during the school term means that the highest attendance your child can achieve is 94.7%

#### **Did You Know?**

If you are 15 minutes late each day you will have missed 2 full weeks of School in one year!!



#### **Attendance Ladder**



**5 minutes**  
late per day  
**3**  
school days



**10 minutes**  
late per day  
**6.5**  
school days



**15 minutes**  
late per day  
**10**  
school days



**20 minutes**  
late per day  
**14**  
school days

### Communication

Newsletters are issued regularly, via email, to provide general information and keep you informed of school life. On each there will be a list of dates for your diary to give advance notice of events taking place in school.

Meetings with teachers can be arranged through senior staff at a mutually convenient time. The school telephone number is 0300 300 1364 please feel free to use it.

Your child will receive an envelope on Friday 18<sup>th</sup> August with a paper copy of the yearly calendar and annual forms from Renfrewshire Council . Please complete and return to the school office by Friday 25<sup>th</sup> August:

- Annual Data Check
- Local Trip Parental Consent Form
- Parental Permission for Medication to be Administered (Selected Pupils)
- Image Release Form (Selected Children)
- Social Media Information and Consent Form
- Photograph Consent – School Meals ( P1 only)
- Parent Pay Activation Letter ( P1 only)
- Media Permission ( Selected Children)

We apologise for the number of forms, if anyone has difficulty in completing these please contact the office where Mrs Ingram or Ally can support you in this.

### Main Office Times



Just a reminder of 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 or telephone, please leave a message on the phone and Mrs Ingram will get back to you.

To gain access at the main entrance please follow the guidance at the keypad as the door cannot be operated from within the office until this has been followed.

### Parent Pay

We are a cashless school, and every child requires a ParentPay account whether they receive a free school meal or not. All new parents to our school will receive information on how to set this up over the next week. Should you need support in creating your ParentPay account please speak with Ally who can help you with this. More information can be found on the Renfrewshire Council's website:



<https://www.renfrewshire.gov.uk/parentpay>

### **Religious Life of the School**



Thank you to Father John for his continued support and guidance to our school community. As a Catholic School we are committed to sharing the Gospel Values in everything that we do. This year we will be continuing with our regular Class Masses in our Parish, please see the dates of these on our calendar. This year we will be continuing with our Faith Friday's, the first Friday of each month and we are inviting all parents and carers to join with us at our Family Mass in our school hall followed by tea, coffee, and a chat. We hope to see many of you there. Our First Family Mass will take place on Friday 1<sup>st</sup> September at 9:30am, Parents can enter via the gym hall doors.

### **Class Meetings**

This year we are returning to Class meetings at the start of each term to allow parents to be invited into your child's classroom to have a chance to find out what is happening in the class and for parents to have a chance to be involved in their child's learning journey. Our first Class Meeting will take place on

**Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup> August at 2pm.** Parents can enter the school via their child's class door.

### **Family Learning Events**



Following on from the success of last year's events we would be delighted to see many families at our first event on **Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> September at 6pm**, snacks, tea and coffee will be provided. This event will give all parents and carers the opportunity to spend time with their child, their teacher and support staff in their class. To allow for catering could parents please complete this simple online form:

<https://forms.office.com/e/RqDv2tUTy8>

### **The Cost of Going to School**

There are several expenses connected with going to school: uniform, lunches, snacks, travel, PE kit, etc. In addition, from time to time, parents may be asked to contribute to the cost of school activities. At St Fergus' we try as much as possible to subsidise costs using school funds, however, the school recognises that families may still find it difficult to meet some of these expenses at times. I would ask that any parent concerned about expenses related to going to school, contact me. All such approaches will be dealt with in the **strictest confidence** and the school will always try to help.

### **P.E. Days**



P1	Monday and Wednesday
P2	Tuesday and Thursday
P3	Tuesday and Thursday
P4	Wednesday and Thursday
P5	Tuesday and Wednesday
P6	Monday and Friday
P7	Monday and Friday

Children are encouraged to change for PE in our changing rooms and we ask that children ensure that they have their kit with them on these days. All items of jewellery including earrings must be removed for P.E. lessons and the school cannot accept responsibility for any item which is lost or stolen.

### **Outdoor Learning**

Please remember that a lot of our learning takes place outside, in our ever-changing Scottish weather, we ask that your child comes to school every day with suitable outdoor wear including a waterproof jacket. If any families are experiencing difficulties in providing a suitable jacket, please contact myself or Mrs Rowley as we are always here to help.



### **Child Safety/Car Parking- Reminder**

We are always concerned about our community's safety especially with regards to parking safety at the start and end of the day regarding parked cars. Could I please remind everyone of the following:

- No Parking on the yellow zigzags
- No Parking in front of our new neighbour's driveways on Bankfoot Road.
- No Parking in the staff car park unless using the disabled space. This must be authorised by the school on proof of Blue Badge.
- No parking in the drop off bays at **any time**, cones will be in place at the end of the school day to stop this from happening.
- Do not allow your children to exit your car at the entrance to the drop off zone.
- Please encourage both children and adults to use the school crossing.

**Please inform anyone who is due to collect your child/children of the reminders above** in the interest of keeping everyone safe. Thank you.

### **Home Link**

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](mailto:karen.fraser@renfrewshire.gov.uk)

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

### **Team Around the Child Meetings**

As part of our yearly calendar of support meetings all children will be discussed this term with regards to the Wellbeing Indicators of Safe, Healthy, Achieving, Nurtured, Active, Respected, Responsible, and Included.

During these meetings myself, Mrs Rowley, your child's class teacher and Ally, our Inclusion Support Assistant will be present for these discussions. Should you wish more information regarding this please do not hesitate in contacting the school office to arrange a suitable telephone appointment with myself or Mrs Rowley.

### **Administration of Medicine**

During any year some pupils will require to be given medication at school. Parents are asked to note the following points should this apply to their child:

- Medication will be administered by authorised members of staff at the discretion of the Head Teacher. This will only be possible when a Parental Permission Form is completed. Forms are available from the school office, when required
- School staff are not permitted to give non prescribed medication to pupils (e.g., Calpol, antihistamines, cough medicines etc)
- Pupils requiring antibiotics should have dosage arrangements made, such that the antibiotic can be taken before and after school wherever possible
- Medicines will be stored in a secure location not accessible to pupils. Exception to this is asthma inhalers which **MUST BE READILY AVAILABLE WHEN REQUIRED**. Inhalers will be kept by pupils in school bags and pupils will self-administered as required. Supervision by school staff can be arranged if parents are concerned about their child's ability to administer correctly. This arrangement would normally apply only to younger children in Primaries One and Two or pupils recently diagnosed.
- No pupil will be allowed to take part in school outings without essential medication. This includes **ASTHMA INHALERS**. It is the responsibility of parents to ensure that **INHALERS** and other essential



medications are provided. If these are not available, then unfortunately pupils must be asked to remain in school.

A copy of Renfrewshire Council's policy "Guidance on the Provision of Health Care in Schools" is available from the Head Teacher by request. The above advice, relating to practice in St Fergus' Primary school, is reflective of this policy.

### **Diary Dates**

The diary dates have been provided to all families in their child's envelope and can also be viewed on our website:

<https://blogs.glowscotland.org.uk/re/stfergus/information-2/diary-dates/>

however **please note that some may change**. I will do my best to keep you informed of any changes in our newsletters and on our website.

### **Pupil Achievements**



We are always looking for reasons to celebrate pupils' successes here at St. Fergus' Primary and I have been overwhelmed by the amount of pupils who are keen to share information about their personal achievements. Please continue to share these with us by sending an email to the school, a Facebook/Twitter message, or via their SEESAW account.

Please note that their achievements do not need to be something that they have won a medal or certificate for. Pupils who have worked hard at something and reached a target or goal will be very welcome.

All the children will have their photograph taken for our Achievement Wall in the Gym Hall. I am sure we will soon have a fresh and plentiful display of Confident Individuals, Successful Learners, Responsible Citizens, Effective Contributors and Faith Disciples.

### **School Photographs**

This Year's school photographs will take place on Thursday 31<sup>st</sup> August. All children will have the opportunity to have an individual/family photograph and class groups taken. Their proof photos will be in their school bags the next day. Please note you only have 1 week to order them online to receive free delivery to the school, thereafter there is a charge and will be sent straight to your home address. The school will receive commission on all photographs ordered.

### **Bikes and Scooters**

It has been lovely to see so many of our children cycling or scooting to school as it contributes to children's general health and well-being. However, to ensure the safety of everyone entering and exiting the school playground we would ask you to remind your children to come off their bikes or scooters prior to entering Bankfoot Road.

### **A Reminder from the School Nurse**

Head lice can be present in a small number of children at any time. They are easily treated with prescribed lotions or removed by regular bug busting. To help keep your child free from head lice we recommend weekly bug busting with a fine-toothed nit comb used on wet hair. If no lice are found repeat this once a week. If you do discover live, walking head lice and are unsure what to do, please seek advice from the pharmacist, your GP, or the School Nurse.

### **Flu Vaccination Date**

This year the Flu Vaccination date is Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> October.

### **Are You Getting What You Are Entitled To?**

The Scottish Government provides free school meals to all children in Primary 1-5. Our new school lunch menus are available to view on Renfrewshire Council's Website by following this link:

<https://www.renfrewshire.gov.uk/article/2880/Primary-school-lunch-menus>

The week beginning the 21<sup>st</sup> August will be WEEK 1.

### **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

Mhairi McDonald

Head Teacher

# August 2023

# School Diary

### Our Vision:

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

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
20	P6 to Mass 21 + Confessions	22	P5 to Mass 23 + Confessions P6 At Tweedie Hall	24	P4 to Mass 25	26
27	P3 to Mass 28	29	30 Class Meeting 2pm	31 School Photographs- Class Groups/ P1 Individual Photo		

### 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.





## **St Fergus' Primary Prayer**

Father in Heaven be with us today  
in St Fergus',

Fill our hearts with joy, our minds  
with knowledge.

Fill our friendships with kindness and  
allow us to forgive one another.

Fill our classrooms with love and  
peace.

Help our school community to grow  
in your love.

Amen

