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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 in October already, it has been a quick 8 weeks! Thank you to all parents and carers who have been supporting us in our Family Learning Events, Class Meetings and our Family Masses, it has been a wonderful start to the new school year.

### 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 Mrs. Gray who had a beautiful baby boy in September and it was lovely for her to pop into school last week where the children ( and Staff) were so excited to meet him!

Welcome to Mrs Nora Jaafar who has joined our school office, her working hours at 9:30am – 1pm, I am sure many have already welcomed her to our team.

Recently we have interviewed for 2 new Additional Support Needs Assistants (ASNA), one of the successful candidates has declined this post and the other is going through Renfrewshire Council's Recruitment process. There will be a re-advertisement for the second ASNA post and the interviews will take place early November, I will keep you updated on this process.



### New Primary 1 Registration for August 2024

Children who reach 5 years of age between 1 March 2024 and 28 February 2025 inclusive should be registered for education in their catchment school. **You must register your child in only one school**, either the denominational or non-denominational school for your area.

Registration will be live online from **1st - 7th November** through the Council website, [www.renfrewshire.gov.uk](http://www.renfrewshire.gov.uk). For those unable to register online we request that you telephone your local catchment school to make an appointment to attend in person during these dates.

Parents/carers must provide satisfactory documentary evidence of the age of their child and that their family reside within the catchment area of the school. This evidence includes:

- 1 Child's full Birth Certificate
- 2 Most recent Council Tax Notice or if not currently resident in the property either a concluded missive or a signed and witnessed tenancy agreement/lease.
- 3 Child Benefit Statement. In the event that a Child Benefit Statement is not available, a Driving Licence or a Bank Statement/utility bill showing transactions over the most recent 3 months and the applicant's address may be accepted. Or If appropriate to current circumstances – Court Order/Looked After Child/Foster Carer document(s).
- 4 Roman Catholic Baptismal Certificate (if applicable)

## School Attendance

Following this newsletter, parents/carers of children who are below 90% attendance after the first 8 weeks of our school term will be issued with an early advisory letter. Should you receive one I would ask that you consider this as we have a long way to go before the end of the school year and your child will have the ability to increase their attendance. This will help your child in their educational success at St. Fergus and we would like all children to be above 95%. 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

## Religious Life of the School



Thank you to our children, Ayda, Mikey, Ella, Siobhan and Daniel who represented our school in September for the Blessing of our new Church, we are incredible proud of how you were able to be part of the Liturgy and this significant event in our Parish's History.

Our Class Retreats have already begun with Primary 2, they were the first class to spend time with Father John in our new church, learning all about spreading good news, they had a great morning!

All other Classes will attend their retreats on the following Dates:

P3 Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> October

P7 Monday 6<sup>th</sup> November

P4 Monday 13<sup>th</sup> November

P1 Monday 4<sup>th</sup> December

P6 Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> January

P5 Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> January



Our Next Family Mass will be on the 1<sup>st</sup> November for the Feast of All Saints, which is a Holy Day of Obligation, all Parents, Carers and Parishioners are invited to join with us in our Gym Hall for Mass at 9:30am. Teas and coffees will be available after Mass in our Flexible Learning Room.

### St Fergus Family Together

Due to a number of issues our meetings have not taken place, our next meeting will be Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> October at 2pm, anyone is welcome to attend.

Our first fundraiser will be a Halloween Tuck on Friday 27<sup>th</sup> October children can bring in a maximum of £2 where they can buy their playtime snack. On Halloween, Tuesday 31<sup>st</sup> October, we are organising Halloween activities in class. More information will be given by the St Fergus' Families Together Group

soon. Children are welcome to come to school, if they wish, in their costume. Please ensure the costume your child wears does not include any props and is comfortable and manageable for them to wear all day.

### **Family Learning Events**



Our next event will take place following the October holiday on **Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> October at 6pm**, pizza, tea and coffee will be provided. Our focus will be on making writing fun. There will be Word Bingo with some Prizes and 3 family workshops where some of our teachers will be there to help you understand how we support your children when they are creating pieces of writing. To allow for catering, could parents please complete this simple online form:

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

### **Lost Property**

We have now created a lost property table at our main entrance, please take time to look at this every day and remind your children to look after their property. It would be helpful if all items that come into school have your child's name on them as it would be easier to return items to their owners!



### **Mental Health Drop In**



Following the low attendance at our Well-Being Wednesday Parent Group it has been decided that we are unable to continue this, however, James Power from RAMH is willing to provide a "Drop-in" service, here, at St. Fergus', throughout the week. He is quite flexible and has asked for anyone wishing to have a 1:1 chat, seek support or get some advice, to call the school office and arrange an appointment time.

### **After School Activities**

One Ren offer Active School Clubs to sign up for these you must access this link:

<https://oneren-stfergus.classforkids.io/>

New clubs will be advertised after the October break.

### **Family Fun Club**

School staff will be running a Family Fun Club after school from Monday 30<sup>th</sup> October until Monday 4<sup>th</sup> December. Each Monday between 3- 4pm any child is invited to attend with their parents, for learning games, place to do homework and time to chat. Should you wish to join us please enter the school via the main entrance as the club will take place in our Flexible Learning Room.

### **Mini Vinnies**



Miss McAdam is restarting our Mini Vinnies Club after the October Holidays, all children from P5-P7 can join.

The Mini Vinnies is a club that is run alongside the International Christian Voluntary Organisation of St. Vincent De Paul which is dedicated to tackling poverty in all forms and providing assistance to people in need. Our children will be encouraged to live out the mission of 'See, Think, Do' and support our school and Parish community.

The Club will take place on Monday after school between 3-4pm. Children interested should collect a consent form from Miss McAdam this week and return it to her.

### **Non-Uniform Day**

Thank you to all families who contributed to our last "Non-Uniform Day", the total collected was £39. Our next 'Non-Uniform Day' will be on **Friday 13 October**. The cost of this is £1 all money should be donated via Parent Pay.

### **Interim Reports**

Interim reports are due to go home on **Friday 13<sup>th</sup> October**, 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.

### **October Holiday**

The school will close for the October Holiday on Friday 13<sup>th</sup> October at 3pm and will reopen for children on Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> October at 9am. We hope you all enjoy a lovely break and fingers crossed it doesn't rain.

## 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.

## 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 23<sup>rd</sup> October 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>

**Should your application be accepted Free School Meal payments are made during school holidays.**

## **Who will get the payments:**

If your child is in P6 or P7 and they get free school meals on the basis of low income (family on certain benefits), you'll get the payment automatically.

If your child gets a school meal because they are in primary 1, 2, 3, 4 or 5, you'll only get the payment if:

- they're entitled to a free school meal on the basis of low income (family on certain benefits)
- you've applied for free school meals for this school year (August 2023 to June 2024).

## **What the Payment includes:**

£21.15 per child will be paid directly into bank accounts by Friday 13 October 2023.

This is based on a payment of £2.35 per weekday per child and covers:

- October break and in-service day
- three strikes days in September.

You do not need to apply again to get this payment.

## **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 2023-2024, the level of clothing grant is £120 per eligible pupil. **This year there is an extra winter payment of £50 for each child receiving school clothing grant to help buy winter clothing.** 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



## Our Vision:

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

8	9 P6 to Mass +Confessions	10	11 P5 to Mass +Confessions	12	13 P4 to Mass Non-Uniform Day £1 Interim Reports out	14
15	16 School closed	17 School closed	18 School closed	19 School closed	20 School closed	21
22	23 In-Service Day 3 Closed to Pupils	24 Pupils return	25 P3 to Mass + Retreat Family Learning Night	26 St Fergus' Families Together Meeting 2pm	27 P2 to Mass Halloween Tuck	28
29	30 P1 to Mass	31 Children can come to school Dress Up	November 1 Feast of All Saints Family Mass- 9:30am	2	3	
5	6 P7 to Mass +Retreat	7	8 P6 to Mass Fluoride Varnishing P1-4	9	10 P5 to Mass	11
12 Book Week & Anti Bullying Scotland Begins	13 P4 to Mass + Retreat	14	15 P5 To Mass Parent's Night 3:15- 8pm	16 Catholic Education Fortnight begins Parent's Night 3:15- 6pm	17 P4 to Mass World Youth Day School Celebration	18
19	20	21	22	23	24 <b>Feast Day</b> Family Mass 9.30am School Hall	25
26 Primary Advent Day St Mary's Paisley 2- 5pm	27 P3 to Mass	28	29 Non-Uniform Day £1 P2 to Mass	30 School closed St. Andrew's Day		

## 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

