



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,

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.

Congratulations

Congratulations to Mrs. McLean and Mrs Hunter who are both expecting babies in the new year. I will keep both the Primary 1 and Primary 4 parents updated on who will be covering the ladies when their maternity leaves begin.

News from the St. Fergus' Families Together Group

Thank you for supporting the Halloween Card, well done to Claire Reid who was our winner we hope you had fun spending your winnings.

Christmas Fayre

Our Christmas Fayre will take place on Thursday 7th December and more information will be provided nearer the time. If you can spare time to support us on the run up or on the day, can you please contact Laura or Kayleigh:

Laura laura_monica@hotmail.com

Kayleigh kayleigh.morrison89@gmail.com

Our final Non-uniform day for the parent group is:

Wednesday 29th November Fancy Goods - Candles, Gift Sets etc.

Our next meeting will be on Thursday 25th January at 2pm. Please join us if you can.

All information can be found on our Website:

<https://blogs.glowscotland.org.uk/re/stfergus/parent-council-2/>

Parents Evening

Thank you to everyone who took the time to meet with your child's class teacher about your child's learning journey. Please remember if you missed this opportunity, you can always make an appointment with the school office to speak to either your child's teacher during the school day or myself and Mrs Rowley at any time. Please see below the attendance rate of each class:

Primary 1	81%	Primary 5	75%
Primary 2	84%	Primary 6	94%
Primary 3	88%	Primary 7	83%
Primary 4	68%		

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.

Anti-Bullying Week



We had some great activities this week looking at the theme 'Listen Up! (Respect our Rights)'. In St Fergus we want our children to be able to thrive and achieve their full potential in an environment where they feel safe, nurtured, respected and free from fear, abuse and discrimination. We want all adults to understand that bullying is not an acceptable part of growing up and that it is a clear breach of children's rights. For more information or resources to use at home the Respect Me website can help:

<https://respectme.org.uk/>

School Attendance

In December, parents/carers of children who are below 90% attendance for Term 1 will be issued with an 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. So Far this year 16% of our children have had holiday and the total number of school days lost is 121. Please think carefully when you are booking a holiday within the school term. By the end of the school year we would like all children in St. Fergus 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

Catholic Education Fortnight



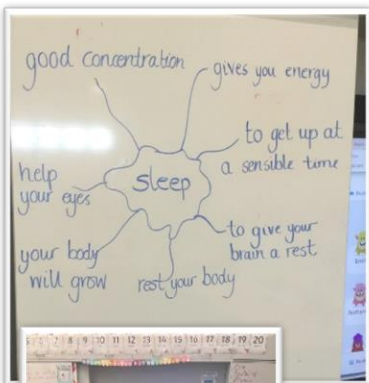
Catholic Education Fortnight runs from Thursday 16th November (Feast of St Margaret) – Thursday 30th November (Feast of St Andrew). This year's Theme is 'Pilgrims of Faith'. During this fortnight we will be celebrating our own feast day on Friday 24th November at our Family Mass, those children in Primary 3, 4 and 7 who will start/continue their preparation for the Sacraments will be enrolled and make their commitment to them at this Mass, all Parents, Carers and Parishioners are invited to join with us in our Gym Hall at 9:30am. Teas and coffees will be available after Mass in our Flexible Learning Room. An information leaflet about the Sacraments has been sent to parents this week.

On Sunday 19th November our Pupil Leadership Team will be speaking at Mass about how we as a Catholic School are 'Pilgrims of Faith' in what we do daily. When your child is attending Mass this weekend, please let them do so in their school uniform. Mass times in St. Fergus are:

- **Saturday at 6pm**
- **Sunday at 11:30am**

Pupil Group Updates

Wellbeing Warriors



The Wellbeing Warriors are full steam ahead planning our Wellbeing Wednesday afternoons and a Wellbeing Day for January. Our Wellbeing Wednesday last week had a focus of on the importance of sleep and the impact this can have on our physical and mental health. Thank you to Mrs Hunter and our Wellbeing Warriors for organising this.

In December, we will be introducing our Fruity Friday initiative where each class will add up the amount of fruit brought in as snack on a Friday over the course of 4 weeks. The fruitiest class will receive a special reward.



Our Happiness Heroes are also in the process of getting back up and running and we can't wait to make sure our playground continues to be a happy and inclusive environment.

School Librarians

Our School Librarians met as part of the Pupil Leadership Group afternoon. They discussed their favourite books and why they love them. They are also planning to promote reader engagement through a break time reading club and have started to design posters to advertise, 'The Story Club'. Thank you to Mrs McLean and the children for their hard work, I am sure that they will keep everyone informed of what they do next!!!



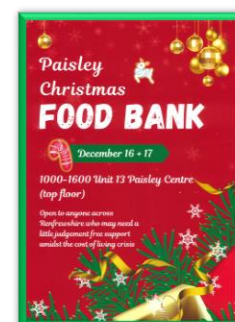
Christmas Activities

Children's Christmas Panto

On Thursday 14th December Shoogalie Road will perform, 'Sleeping Beauty' for the whole school, there is no cost to families due to the funds raised in our non-uniform days. I am sure the children will enjoy this experience.

Paisley Christmas Foodbank

Graham and Lynsey Welsh, two of our ex-parents, for the 5th year running, are continuing to support local people with their annual Food Drive. Our Mini Vinnies group would like to hold a Non-Uniform day on Friday 8th December for donations. The Christmas food bank will be open to anyone who needs help on Saturday the 16th and Sunday 17th December.



St Fergus' Presents 'A Twinkly Nativity and Carol Concert'

Our Annual Nativity and Carol Concert will be held on **Tuesday 19th** and **Wednesday 20th December** at 1:30pm. Due to capacity of our school hall each **FAMILY** will be provided with 2 tickets. To reserve your family tickets please complete the online form to choose either the Tuesday or Wednesday performance. Please use this link below:

<https://forms.office.com/e/qF40UpAXjE>

This form will close on **Friday 8th December at 12 noon** and any extra tickets will be issued **Monday 11th December**. Please note that tickets will be issued on a first come basis. Thank you.

Christmas Lunch



Christmas Lunch will be available to pupils on **Friday 15th December**.

Mrs Ingram/Mrs Jaafar have already collected your children's orders. See the flyer for details of the menu, children who have dietary needs will be catered for. Please note, no other options will be available on this day.

Christmas Parties

These will take place on Thursday **21st December**. P1 and 2 children will have a special visitor. The children will be given a packet of crisps, good quality chocolate and a drink of juice provided by the Parents Group. Children should come to school dressed in their party clothes. Please be mindful of the weather and encourage them to wrap up as they always do. Children should not attend school wearing high heels to prevent unnecessary accidents. Thank you for your co-operation.

Child Safety/Car Parking- Reminder

Could I please remind all parents at the end of the school day it is only the Primary 1 and 2 parents who should enter the playground this is to ensure that our younger children are collected by an adult. Could I also ask that you leave the playground as soon as you have your child/children, this is to enable the 'Out of School Care' Staff are able to complete a final headcount prior to walking to Glencoats Primary. Recently we have had a number of complaints from our neighbours regarding parked cars. Could I please remind everyone of the following:

- No Parking on the yellow zigzags
- No Parking in front of our Neighbour's Driveways
- 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 drops off or collects your child/children of the reminders above in the interest of keeping everyone safe.

Thank you.

Lost Property

On Friday 24th November all property left on the table will be removed and sent to the Tannahill Centre for their Market. Please take time to see if your child has anything on the table.



After School Activities

One Ren offer Active School Clubs to sign up for these you must access the links below.

This term's clubs are:

One Ren Club	Classes	Day/Time	Links
Multisport	P4-5	Monday 3-4pm	https://oneren-stfergus.classforkids.io/info/68
Multisport	P2-4	Friday 3-4pm	https://oneren-stfergus.classforkids.io/info/69
School Clubs- No requirement to sign up			Teacher/Support Staff
Netball	P5-7	Thursday- 3-4pm	Mrs Wilson/Mrs Paterson
Football Teams Only	P5-7	Tuesday 3-4pm	Ally
Family Fun Club	P1-7	Monday 3-4pm	Various Teaching Staff . Mrs Paterson and Ally
Mini Vinnies	P5-7	Monday 3-4pm	Miss McAdam

Family Fun Club

School staff will be running a Family Fun Club after school from Monday 30th October until Monday 4th 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.

St Andrew's Day Holiday

The school will be Closed on Thursday 30th November and reopen on Friday 1st December.

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

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 23rd 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).

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

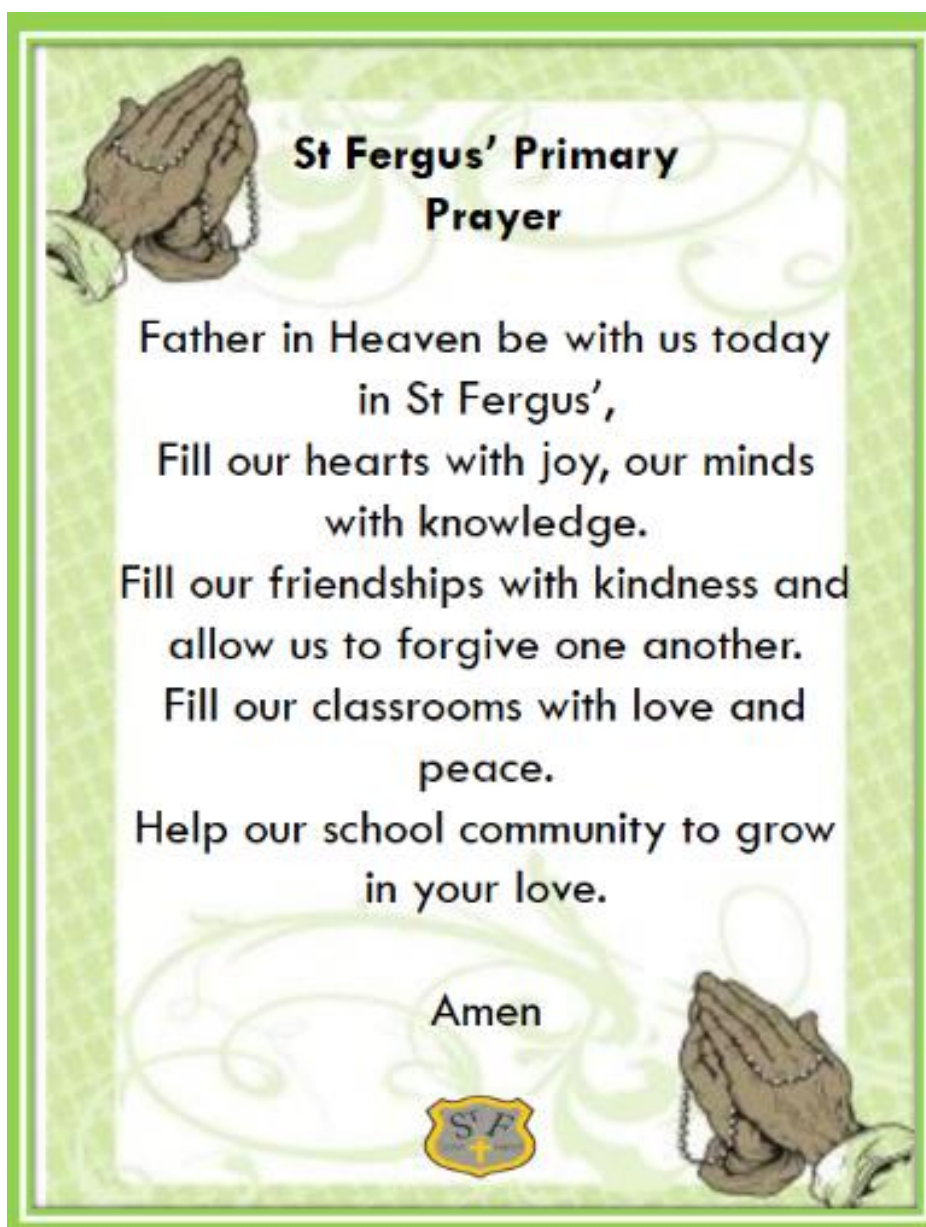
£120 per eligible pupil. **This year there is an extra winter payment of £50 for each child receiving school clothing grant to help buy winter clothing.** A maximum of one grant will be paid for each child during any school year.

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

Kind Regards,

Mhairi McDonald

Mhairi McDonald
Head Teacher



November/December 2023 School Diary

Our Vision:

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

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
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 Crazy Hair Day - Bottles	18
19	20	21	22	23	24 Feast Day Family Mass 9.30am School Hall- Mass of Commitment/ Enrolment P3, P4 & P7	25
26 Primary Advent Day St Mary's Paisley 2-5pm	27 P3 to Mass	28	29 Non-Uniform Day – Fancy Goods P2 to Mass	30 School closed. St. Andrew's Day	December 1 P2 to Mass	2
3 1 st Sunday of Advent	4 P1 to Mass + Retreat P1-3 Travelling Crib Begins	5	6 P7 to Mass + Confessions	7 Christmas Fayre- 3:15pm	8 P6 to Mass + Confessions Non-Uniform Day for donations to the Food Bank	9
10 2 nd Sunday of Advent	11 P5 to Mass + Confessions P5-7 Parents welcome for Musical Showcase 1:30pm	12	13 P4 to Mass	14 Shoogalie Road Panto 9:30am – Sleeping Beauty	15 P3 to Mass	16
17 3 rd Sunday of Advent	18	19 Christmas Show 1:30pm	20 Christmas Show 1:30pm	21 Christmas Party	22 Non Uniform Day £1 School closes 2.30pm	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31	January 1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8 School Reopens 9am	9	10	11	12 Family Mass 9.30am School Hall	13

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.

