



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 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 Showcases 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



Mrs Nora Jaafar has returned from maternity leave, her working hours at 9:30am – 12.30pm, I am sure many have already welcomed her back to our team.

Congratulations

Congratulations to Mrs Wilson who had her beautiful baby girl at the end of August, thank goodness she began her Maternity Leave early!!!



New Primary 1 Registration for August 2025

Children who reach 5 years of age between 1 March 2025 and 28 February 2026 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 - 8th November** through the Council website, 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



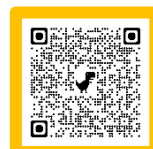
15 minutes
late per day
10
school days



20 minutes
late per day
14
school days

Religious Life of the School

Thank you to Father Thomas who celebrated our Family Mass this week, this was a lovely celebration. Due to Father having two Parishes we have had to make amendments in our Mass Schedule. I have updated this on our Website and you can access this by scanning this QR Code:



Or by clicking on this link :

<https://blogs.glowscotland.org.uk/re/public/stfergus/uploads/sites/2285/2024/10/03085919/Parent-Calendar-2024-25.pdf>

Our Next Mass is a Holy Day of Obligation and will be on Friday 1st November at 11:15am, there will not be tea and coffee after Mass due to it being too close to Lunch time.

Primary 7 – Sacrament of Confirmation Preparation

Thank you to our P7 Families who attended the retreat in St. Andrew's Academy this week for the start of the children's preparation for the Sacrament of Confirmation. As highlighted in the letter given to you at there will be 3 Masses in November where parents are requested to attend with their children these are:

Mass 1 1.45pm Wednesday 6th November
 Mass 2 1.45pm Wednesday 13th November
 Mass 3 1.45pm Wednesday 20th November

Catholic Education Fortnight



Catholic Education Fortnight runs from Saturday 16th November (Feast of St Margaret) – Saturday 30th November (Feast of St Andrew). This year's Theme is 'Pilgrims of Hope'. There will be a Cluster Mass on Thursday 21st November in St James' Parish Paisley at 7pm. All families will be invited to attend.

St Fergus Family Together (SFFT) Update



Thank you so much to our parents who attended the Annual General Meeting on Thursday 7th September. We had lots of discussions around the plans for the coming year. The roles of our parents' group were agreed in line with our Constitution. These are as follows:

Chairperson :	Laura Cardona	laura_monica@hotmail.com
Treasurer:	Kayleigh Morrison	kayleigh.morrison89@gmail.com
Secretary:	Terrianne Docherty	teriannedoc96@gmail.com

The Children had fun at our first Tuck shop of the new session and our next one will be **Friday 25th October**.

On Halloween, **Thursday 31st October**, the staff will have Halloween activities in class with the cost being covered by the SFFT group. 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.

Christmas Fayre

Our Christmas Fayre will take place on Thursday 5th 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.

Our Non-uniform days for the parent group are:

Friday 8th November – Bottles

Friday 15th November – Candles and Toiletries

Friday 22nd November – Chocolates

Friday 29th November – Tins for Christmas Fooddrive

Our next meeting will be on Thursday 7th November at 2.15pm. Please join us if you can.

All information can be found on our Website:

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

School Values

In St. Fergus we pride ourselves in living our school values of God's Love, Honesty, Positive Attitude, Respect and Responsibility daily. The children know these and understand how they can show them in our school. I would be most grateful if the children are reminded of these at home to enable school and home to work together to promote our values. Thank you



Just 2 Easy



From August this year we have been informed that we can no longer use Seesaw due to GDPR. Our staff have now received training in a new application called Just2Easy (J2E). Within J2E we are able to share aspects of your child's learning journey with you. Each child will have their own unique learning journal which can only be viewed by their own parent/carer and staff. The teacher/child may use the journal to upload learning targets, latest and best work and/or photographs and videos of the child and their work. More

information can be found online at: <https://just2easy.com>

Following the October Holiday all children will receive their QR Code that will grant you access to your child's learning journal, **please note this code is only valid for a short period of time therefore we would ask parents/carers to scan this QR Code on their chosen device as quickly as possible**. When you scan the QR Code for the first time you will be asked to set up an account/download an app. Thereafter you should be able to access your child's journal through the app. Mr Reid will be delivering a Parent's information session on this on Wednesday 23rd October at 2pm which will allow you to explore the app. The school now

has public wifi 'Renfrewshire Public Wi-fi' which we invite you to connect to when in our building, this will allow staff to give you help setting up this new application.

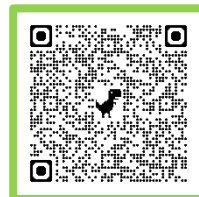
RAMH Discovery Trail and Panda Trail

We hope that you had fun taking part in the trail over the summer holiday and the September weekend, if you took part could you spare 5 mins of your time over the October break to complete an evaluation for RAMH.

October Holiday. This can be done by scanning this OR Code or using this link:

[https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=_2-](https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=_2-ggN_w90iPPr_0obdiH241jFtpBnlHqz6VOeXGuKdUM0ZWWEo3WUNXT01SSk5LRDNOVzZaOTcyTi4u)

[ggN_w90iPPr_0obdiH241jFtpBnlHqz6VOeXGuKdUM0ZWWEo3WUNXT01SSk5LRDNOVzZaOTcyTi4u](https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=_2-ggN_w90iPPr_0obdiH241jFtpBnlHqz6VOeXGuKdUM0ZWWEo3WUNXT01SSk5LRDNOVzZaOTcyTi4u)



Free Bus Travel

Many of our children already have their National Entitlement card. However, we know that sometimes these get lost and need replaced. For more information see our School Blog on our Website using this link:

<https://blogs.glowscotland.org.uk/.../10/09/free-bus-travel/>

FREE BUS TRAVEL

Children and Young people in Scotland aged between 5 and 21 are entitled to free bus travel

Have you applied for the National Entitlement Card to get free bus travel yet? Find out how to and get help if you need it.

Children aged between 5 and 10 years old

Apply for the Junior card

- Apply online at getyournec.scot or scan the QR code below
- If you have a Parent's Portal account set up you can also apply there
- Apply at the primary school office (Renfrewshire Council schools only)
- Email us at nec@renfrewshire.gov.uk if you need help or advice

Young people aged between 11 and 21 years old

Apply for the Young Scot Card

- Apply online at getyournec.scot or scan the QR code below
- Pop into any Renfrewshire library to apply
- Email us at nec@renfrewshire.gov.uk if you need help or advice

Need a replacement or upgrade from a Junior to a Young Scot card? Email us: nec@renfrewshire.gov.uk

I CAN GET ON THE BUS FOR FREE!

Lost Property

Our lost property table has returned 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!



Pupil Leadership Groups – Updates



Our Laudato Si group will continue to promote the themes, Reduce, Reuse and Recycle throughout our school community. Don't forget 'Wrapper Free Wednesdays'. On Wednesdays try your best to bring in a snack that doesn't have a wrapper to help reduce litter in our playground. The quote we have chosen to focus on this year is **Quote 11**.

“Access to safe drinkable water is a basic and universal human right.”

We have decided that we want to learn about the importance of water in our lives, water pollution, safe drinking water and water in the Bible.



This month, the Eco Leadership Group reintroduced the WOW Travel Tracker. WOW is a pupil-led activity where children self-report how they get to school each day. If children travel sustainably (walk/cycle/scoot) to school once a week for a month, they will earn a badge. We look forward to giving out lots of badges this year! Look out for our progress on our social media channels.



The Pupil Council came together to decide on charities that they would like to fundraise for. They chose MISSIO and Royal Hospital for Children. They will also be looking at Rights within the UNCRC and how we can share this with the whole school.



Our School Librarians have been busy thinking of ideas to spread their love of reading and books with our school. They're keen to make more links with our local community and nurseries too.



The Spanish Ambassadors have been busy planning for a fun year ahead. Our first event will be celebrating Dia de los Muertos this Halloween. On Thursday 31st October we ask that all children dress up for Halloween. We will be learning about the day of the dead celebrations in Spanish speaking countries, taking part in a fancy dress parade and partying in class.



The Wellbeing Warriors have introduced our belonging video to the school and each class have been given a new belonging word to discuss on their wellbeing time on a Friday.



The Digital Leaders are planning an Infant Digital Fun afternoon after the October week holiday. They plan to introduce the Spheros and Marty Robots and explain how coding a set of instructions can control these devices and be a lot of fun. They also plan to get the digital information board at the foyer updated with photos and information for visitors.



Parent Voice- Be Part of our group !

We need your help, could you spare an hour or two to give your voice to school improvement. If so, can you sign up here using our QR Code. Thank you.

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 or myself and Mrs Rowley at any time. Please see below the attendance rate of each stage:



Primary 1	90%	Primary 5	93%
Primary 2	93%	Primary 6	76%
Primary 3	74%	Primary 7	84%
Primary 4	71%		

October Holiday

The school will close for the October Holiday on Thursday 10th October at 3pm (Friday 11st October is an In-Service Day for staff) and will reopen for children on Monday 21st October at 9am. We hope you all enjoy a lovely break and fingers crossed it doesn't rain.

Home Support

Should anyone require support from our Family Wellbeing 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>

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 £9,552/year), child tax credit only (if you earn less than £19,995) 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 2024 to June 2025).

What the Payment includes:

£21.15 per child will be paid directly into bank accounts by .

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 2024-2025, 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.** This payment will be paid this winter 2024

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

Kind Regards,

Mhairi McDonald

Mhairi McDonald

October/ November 2024 School Diary

Our Vision:







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

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
20	21 P4 to Mass	22	23 P3 to Mass	24	25 P1+2 to Mass	26
27	28	29	30 WB Wednesday	31 SFFT Group Halloween Treat in school		

November

					1 All Saints Day Family Mass 11.15am School Hall	2
3	4 P7 to Mass	5	6 P6 to Mass P7 Mass 1 – 1.45pm	7 SFFT GROUP Meeting 2:15pm P7 Information Evening – St Andrew's 5pm	8 SFFT GROUP Non Uniform Day – Bottles P5 to Mass	9
10 Antibullying week	11 P4 to Mass	12	13 P3 to Mass P7 Mass 2 – 1.45pm	14	15 SFFT GROUP Non Uniform Day – Candles and Toiletries	16 Catholic Education Week 2024-26 "Pilgrims of Hope" Prep for Jubilee Year
17 Scottish Book Week	18 P7 to Mass	19	20 P5 to Mass P7 Mass 3 – 1.45pm	21 Cluster Mass St James' Paisley 7pm	22 SFFT GROUP Non Uniform Day – Chocolates P4 to Mass	23
24	25 P3 to Mass	26	27 P1 + P2 to Mass	28	29 Pupil Council Non Uniform Day – Tins for Christmas Fooddrive	30

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.

