



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,

### Thank You

Thank you for all your support, kind messages and flowers sent to the school this week following the sudden death of Mrs Dawn Rennie. As a school community we are all devastated for our loss, but we are holding Mrs Rennie's family and friends in our thoughts and prayers. At the moment we are unsure of funeral arrangements and how we will accommodate staff to attend but I will keep you informed of them.

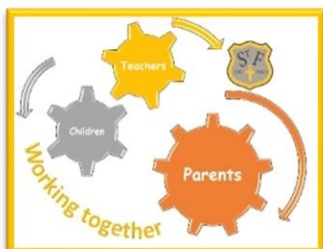


### Nut Allergies



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.

### News from the St. Fergus' Families Together Group



Thank you for supporting Halloween, well done to Caleb Arnott-Collins who was our winner of the Halloween Raffle.

#### Christmas Fayre

Our Christmas Fayre will take place on Thursday 5th December, if you can spare time to support us on the run up or on the day, can you please contact Laura or Kayleigh: [stfergusfamiliesitogether@gmail.com](mailto:stfergusfamiliesitogether@gmail.com)



### Anti-Bullying Week

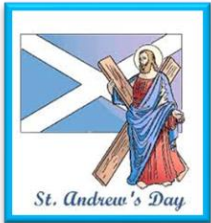


We had some great activities this week looking at the theme 'Respect- What does it mean to you?'. In St Fergus we want our children to be able to thrive and achieve their full potential in an environment where they feel safe, nurtured, respected and free from fear, abuse, and discrimination. We want all adults to understand that bullying is not an acceptable part of growing up and we encourage everyone to talk and think about how the power of

respectful relationships can help prevent bullying. For more information or resources to use at home the Respect Me website can help:

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





### **St Andrew's Day Holiday**

The school will be Closed on Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> December and reopen on Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> December.

### **Just 2 Easy**

After the October Holiday Mr Reid ran a parent workshop on our new Children's profiling tool, unfortunately there was only 4 parents who attended. We are aware that some parents are having difficulty in using this new app, we would like to ask parents to complete this online form:

<https://forms.office.com/e/UNWjmaBFA2>

Or click on the QR Code:



By providing the school with this information we will be able to get an overview of these issues and enable us to resolve these issues. Once resolved we will be moving away from posting class pictures on our school Facebook page, this will only contain pictures from whole school events, including assemblies, awards, and achievements.

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



Thank you to the children and parents who joined with the Parish to celebrate Catholic Education at both our Cluster Mass at St. James' and on Education Sunday. Thank you to both Father Thomas and Father John for being a great support to our school community this year. Our children were a credit to our school as they participated in both Masses and our Pupil Leadership Team spoke so well about Catholic Education. Thank you to Mrs Rowley and the staff members who attended to support our children. We are so proud of you all and thank you for living our School Values in our community.

On Monday 9<sup>th</sup> December, at 9:30am. we will be having our Mass of Enrolment /Commitment for all those children in Primary 3, who will receive their Sacraments in **March and April of 2026** , Primary 4 , who will receive their Sacraments in **March and April of 2025** and Primary 7 who will receive the Sacrament of Confirmation in May . It is important that families are represented at this Mass just as they were at their child's baptism. There will be tea and coffee with your children after Mass.



Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> December is the first Sunday of Advent, and our children will be learning how to prepare for Christmas. Once again, our children in Primary 1, 2 and 3 are taking part in the Paisley Diocese's 'Travelling Crib', we are looking forward to seeing your pictures from home and hearing all about how you are helping your children understand the true meaning of Christmas. Father Thomas would like children to lead the Carols at the Children's Mass on Christmas Eve, please do your best to be part of this lovely Celebration and remember that 'Jesus is the reason for the Christmas Season'.

**Carol Service and First Mass of Christmas -24<sup>th</sup> December 2.00pm and 25<sup>th</sup> December 11.30am.**



## Christmas Activities

### **Children's Christmas Panto**

On Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> December Shoogalie Road will perform, 'Peter Pan' 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 Food Giveaway**

For the 6<sup>th</sup> year running, Graham and Lynsey Welsh two of our ex-parents, are continuing to support local people with their annual Food Drive. This year they are teaming up with Streetcare Volunteers and they will be delivering food parcels to families in need on Christmas Eve. We will be collecting for this on our non-uniform day on Friday 29<sup>th</sup> November and the following week. If you think you would be able to support this initiative more information can be found on their Facebook page, Renfrewshire Food Giveaway or by contacting Paul on 07800 543728.



### **St Fergus' Presents 'Whoops-a-Daisy Angel and Carol Concert'**

Our Annual Nativity and Carol Concert will be held on **Thursday 12<sup>th</sup>** and **Friday 13<sup>th</sup> 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/qF40UpAXjF>

This form will close on **Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> December** at 12 noon and any extra tickets will be issued **Friday 6<sup>th</sup> 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 **Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> 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 19<sup>th</sup> 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 that in the morning our playground is a parent free zone and 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 to complete a final headcount prior to walking to Glencoats Primary.

Recently we have had a number of complaints from our neighbours regarding the speed of cars in the morning and cars parked on Bankfoot Road. 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.**
- Do not allow your children to exit your car at the entrance to the drop off zone.
- Please drive slowly entering and leaving the drop off zone as there could be children and parents crossing and, at times, cars leaving the staff car park.
- 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.

## School Attendance- Key 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



## Pupil Leadership Groups – Updates



During our November meeting our Laudato Si group have been talking about Christmas. Mrs McDonald is allowing us to wear Christmassy things all of December. Our group thought a good idea would be to ask other classes if they could bring in old Christmas jumpers/t-shirts/accessories that don't fit them or like. This would help those children in our school who don't have these things to wear, and we can recycle these items.



Eco Schools is turning 30 this year! To celebrate the 30th Anniversary, a special tartan has been created, The Planet Earth Tartan. You can have a look at the tartan and find more information here:

<https://www.keepsotlandbeautiful.org/eco-schools/celebrate/the-planet-earth-tartan/>.

This month, the Eco Committee took part in a live lesson arranged by the pupils of Arrochar Primary School. We learned about the Arrochar litter sink and why litter is a massive problem in Arrochar. We shared our thoughts and opinions about the marine litter issue in Scotland and what we would like to do about it. We are taking part in an art competition in 2025 to raise awareness of marine litter. Look out for our creation.



The pupil council came together to discuss our progress so far. In our last meeting they had emailed local shops to ask about fundraising and so we discussed their replies and our next steps. The Pupil Council came up with a plan for the sponsored walk which will hopefully be happening soon. We also looked at how we are going to promote Children's Rights across the school next term and what we can do to teach other children about their rights.



Our School Librarians have been busy planning and hosting activities for Book Week Scotland. Well done to everyone who received Reading Awards and to the winners of our front cover and blurb competition. We are planning on spreading more love of reading into our wider community. Look out for some St Fergus' Secret Book Bags in and around Ferguslie.



Last month our Spanish Ambassadors really enjoyed our Dia De Los Muertos celebrations. Each class worked really hard to contribute to a school ofrenda and everyone took part in a costume parade. We have been busy preparing for Christmas, and we are looking forward to planning fun activities to help us learn about Spanish Christmas traditions.



The Wellbeing Warriors have been creating posters to display around the school to promote the Happiness Heroes in the playground so that no one feels sad or lonely at playtime or lunchtime. They will be given a lanyard with their badge on to wear so that all children will know who they are and how they can help them feel safe and happy.



The Digital Leaders have been learning how to create a SWAY newsletter and plan to keep parents up to date with what is happening across the school. Our Leadership Group will be gathering information from our staff on all individual successes, for example: books being read, literacy and numeracy topics, who attended Hot Chocolate Friday and head teacher awards. They will also use the photos to update the screen in the reception area so that visitors entering the school can see the varied learning activities and styles used across the bases.

### **Sculpture House Art Exhibition - 'Bend, Fold, Move'**



Our Primary 7 children have had the opportunity to work with the lovely staff at The Sculpture House over the last few years. The children from St. Fergus' Primary and Glencoats Primary look forward to showcasing their fantastic creations at the Tannahill Centre and celebrating their wonderful work between Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> December and Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> December at the 'Bend, Fold and Move' Exhibit. The exhibit is free to enter, and refreshments will be available on Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> December. Pop along to see your children's fantastic creations.

### **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](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>

### **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 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.** A maximum of one grant will be paid for each child during any school year.

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

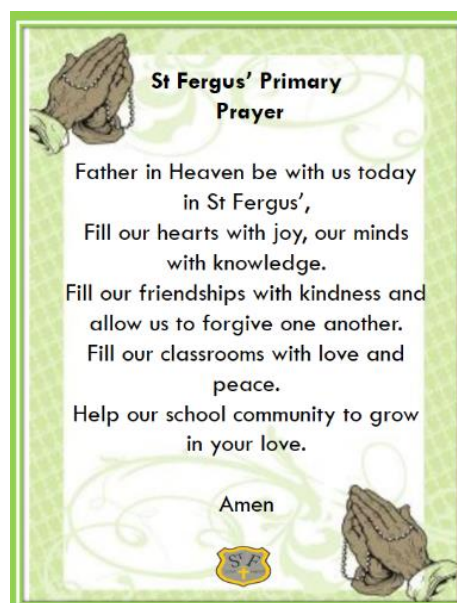
### **Christmas Break**

The school will close on **Friday 20<sup>th</sup> December at 2:30pm.** We will reopen on **Monday 6<sup>th</sup> January** at 9am.

Kind Regards,

*Mhairi McDonald*

Mhairi McDonald  
Head Teacher



## Our Vision:

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

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2	3	4 P7 to Mass & Confession WB Wednesday	5 SFFT Group Christmas Fayre 3:15pm	6 P6 to Mass & Confession. Faith Friday Assembly	7
8	9 Family Mass 9.30am School Hall – Mass of Enrolment & Commitment, For P3, P4 and P7	10	11 Christmas Lunch at School	12 Christmas Show- 1:30pm	13 Christmas Show- 1:30pm	14
15	16 P 5 to Mass + Confession	17	18 Shoogalie Road Panto 9.30am Peter	19 Christmas Party- Party Clothes	20 School closes 2:30pm Non Uniform	21

## School Holiday

5	6 School re-opens / Family Mass	7	8	9	10 Faith Friday – Assembly 2.20pm	11
12	13 P3 to Mass	14	15 P1 & P2 to mass Class Learning	16	17 P7 to Mass	18
19	20 P6 to Mass	21	22 P5 to Mass	23 SFFT GROUP Meeting 2.15pm	24 P4 to Mass	25
26	27 P3 to Mass	28	29 P1 + P2 to Mass	30	31 P7 to Mass	1

## 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.

