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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 it is February already. Thank you to the parents who supported our Class Showcases in January. We now only have 8 weeks left of this term and we have lots planned. Please make sure you take a note of the diary at the end of the newsletter as some dates may have changed.

Staffing

Mrs Coyle still absent due to illness, we are all missing her in St Fergus. Thank you to Miss Mortimer and Miss Fulton for teaching the children in her absence.

Mrs McDougall is due to begin her maternity leave the week beginning the 31st March, Miss McAdam will then teach the P1/2 on a full time basis with Miss Fulton Covering her Non Class Contact Day fortnightly.

Currently we have two teaching students in the school, Miss Speirs in P1/2 and Miss Dalziel in P6, I am sure your children will enjoy have them in their class for a short time.

I have received information that Mrs Rennie's post will soon be advertised on Renfrewshire Council's My Job Scotland page. Should you know anyone who would like to apply for her post please let them know to look out for the advert. I will keep you updated on this recruitment process.



Lost Property

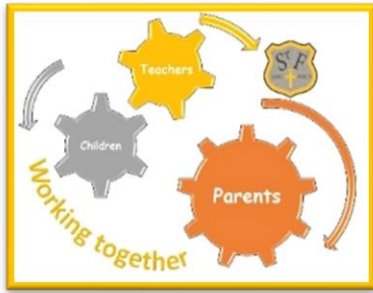
There has been an increasing number of items left in the school at the end of each day, please make sure you label all uniform so that we can return items back to their owners. I have reminded all children that it is their responsibility to look after their property.

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.



St Fergus Families Together Update



Our Parent group have been hard at work already this new term, they have applied for funding from the Flightpath Fund for our school playground and they are awaiting a decision on this project.

During December, our parent group raised a total of £1,153.70 through the Christmas Fayre and raffles. This will be put towards various activities this year.

Events coming up....

The next Tuck will be on Thursday 13th February and Easter Fun Day 3rd April.

Date of next meeting is Thursday 24th April at 2:15pm, all parents are welcome to attend.

PE Reminders



P1/2	<u>Monday</u> and Friday	Please Note Change of Day
P2	Monday and Thursday	
P3	<u>Tuesday</u> and Thursday	Please Note Change of Day
P4	Tuesday and Wednesday	
P5	Wednesday and Thursday	
P6	Tuesday and Friday	
P7	Monday and Wednesday	

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, including suitable footwear. All items of jewellery should be removed for P.E. lessons, earrings should be covered at home by a plaster, if they cannot be removed, (teachers are not allowed to do this) and the school cannot accept responsibility for any item which is lost or stolen.

This term we have Young Sports leaders from St Andrew's Academy working with Primary 3, please note a change in PE days for both Primary 1/2 and Primary 3.

Parental Involvement

Every year we ask parents to be involved in the Self Evaluation of our school, this is an important way of ensuring your views are taken into account when planning for improvement for our school. This is a process that we do each year with pupils, staff, parents and our partners. Please take time to complete this questionnaire and if you would like to be put into a draw please leave your name and you may be a winner of a £25 Asda gift card. This form will close on Friday 28th March.

<https://forms.office.com/e/7s3cdHsjCf>



Family Fun Night- Technology Theme

Our next Family fun night is on Thursday 20th February, pizza, 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 by Wednesday 19th February:

<https://forms.office.com/r/LSF6EhgvKd>

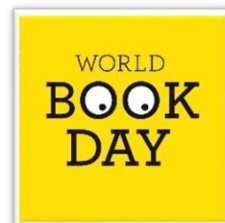
Non-Uniform Days this Term

We have two Non- Uniform Days this term and we ask that you contribute to these by pay £1 into your child's Parent pay account. They are:

Thursday 13th February
Friday 4th April

School Librarians

Our Leadership group will be coordinating activities for Celebrating World Book day on Thursday 6th March. They are looking forward to planning and creating a range of activities which promote and celebrate reading for pleasure across the entire school. Again, children can dress up, if they want, as a character from their favourite story. Our Primary 6 children will be visiting some of our Early Learning Centres and we have invited some of our new Primary 1 children to come and join with them to read some of our favourite stories.



Reading School Award



We are delighted to announce that we have been awarded the Silver Reading Schools Accreditation. Reading Schools Scotland acknowledged our hard work and dedication we put into the programme and enjoyed looking through our evidence provided by our School Librarians, they are looking forward to seeing what we do next!!! Work has already begun on our Gold Accreditation journey!!



Primary 7 Transition to Secondary School

All parents/carers should have received a letter from Renfrewshire Council confirming their child's place in the relevant Secondary School. Should you not wish to send your child to this school a placing request should be submitted by the 15th of March, and you should receive the decision during the month of April. More information can be found here:

<https://www.renfrewshire.gov.uk/article/3470/Change-schools>

Mrs Rowley has been liaising with the relevant Secondary Schools regarding your children, should you require further information please contact the school office to arrange an appointment.

All children are required to apply for school transport, this can be done online:

<https://www.renfrewshire.gov.uk/article/3486/Home-to-school-transport>

Should you need support with this please contact our school office.

Religious Life of the School

As we enter the season of Lent, Ash Wednesday 5th March, our children will be learning about the importance of kindness, almsgiving, and prayer. Our Pupil Council will be organising various fundraising events for our chosen Charities, MISSIO and The Children's Hospital, more information on these events will be issued after the February Holiday.



Lenten Retreat

For information, The Diocese of Paisley, Youth Office, invite pupils from P4-P7 to join them in a Retreat Day. The Retreat will be held in St. James' Church Paisley from 1.45pm-5pm on Sunday 9th March

2025. Registration is essential, and parents/carers can sign their child up by using this QR Code.



Sacramental Classes



Primary 4 and 7 have been working hard and preparing to receive the Sacraments of Reconciliation, Communion and Confirmation.

Primary 4 Parents

Dates for the P4 Sacraments have been on our yearly Calendar since August:

Reconciliation: Thursday 27th March at 2pm – St Fergus Church

Communion: Saturday 26th April at 10 am/11:30am – St Fergus Church

Over the course of the next term, the parishes in Paisley will be helping our Primary 4 children prepare for the Sacrament of First Holy Communion. This year, our parishes will include a programme entitled "Do This in Memory of Me". This programme aims to help parents and carers to become more actively involved in the Sacramental preparation. These Masses are held in St Fergus' Church at 1:45pm. Dates of Masses are:

Wednesday 5th March
Wednesday 19th March

Wednesday 2nd April
Wednesday 23rd April

Primary 7 Parents



Bishop John will be visiting our Primary 7 children on Thursday 24th April in preparation for their Sacrament of Confirmation on **Wednesday 7th May in St Mirin's Cathedral at 6:30pm.**

Please keep all our children preparing for their Sacraments in your prayers.

More information will be provided regarding all Sacraments will be sent out to all parents nearer the time.

Mass times

A reminder that Weekend Mass times in St Fergus Church are:

Saturday Vigil - 6pm

Sunday Mass – 11:30am

Family Mass

Thank you to the families who are attending our monthly Family Masses in school, it has been lovely to welcome so many of you and afterwards for Tea, Coffee, and biscuits. Our next Mass is **Wednesday 5th March 9.30am**, please note, due to this being Ash Wednesday there will be no refreshments afterwards.

Early Year to Primary 1 Transition

We have now received the names of the children in the catchment area who have been registered to start school in August. Mrs Rowley has been liaising with the local Early Years Centres and our new Transition Programme is currently being finalised. All Early Year Centres will be provided with this soon and an email will be sent to all new parents. We are looking forward to welcoming parents new and current into our school community as their wee ones start in St Fergus'. All Transition information will be published on our website. The link to this is:

<https://blogs.glowscotland.org.uk/re/stfergus/transitions/>



STEM Week 7th March

Each year our classes have a STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) focused activities during British Science week, this year's theme is Change and Adapt.



Primary 6 Beat Buddies

This term Primary 6 will be working with Primary 5/6 in Glencoats with Graeme Barclay from Beat Buddies. This is a series of musical lessons, and they will present a showcase on Thursday 3rd April at 2pm for parents.

School Holidays

February Break

The school will be closed to pupils on Friday 14th February, Monday 17th February and Tuesday 18th February. The school will reopen to pupils on Wednesday 19th February.

End of Term

School closes for the Spring Holiday on Friday 4th April at 2.30pm and reopens on Tuesday 22nd April at 9am.

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



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

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

Yours sincerely,

Mhairi McDonald

Head Teacher









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Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
9	10 P6 to Mass	11 P6 Swimming	12 P5 to Mass	13 SFFT Group Tuck Shop Non Uniform Day £1 P6 Beat Buddies	14 In-Service Day- School Closed to children	15
16	17 School closed	18 School closed	19 P4 to Mass P6 To St. Mirren Park	20 P6 Beat Buddies	21 P3 to Mass	22
23	24 P1 + P2 to Mass	25 P6 Swimming	26 P7 to Mass P5 Library Visit	27	28 P6 to Mass	MARCH 1
2	3	4	5 Ash Wednesday 9:30am - School Hall P4 Mass 1 – DTMOM P4 1:45pm	6 World Book Day P6 Beat Buddies	7	8
9 Primary School Day P4-P7 St. James' 2-5pm	10 P5 to Mass British Science Week begins	11	12 P7 to Mass and Confession	13 P6 Beat Buddies	14 P3 to Mass	15
16	17 P1 +P2 To Mass	18	19 P6 to Mass and Confession P4 Mass 2 – DTMOM P4 1:45pm	20 P6 Beat Buddies	21	22
23	24 P5 to Mass and Confession	25	26 P4 to Mass Wellbeing Wednesday	27 P4 First Confession 2pm	28 P3 to Mass	29
30	31 Family Mass 9.30am School Hall	1	2 P4 Mass 3 – DTMOM P4 1:45pm	3 SFFT Easter Fun Day P6 Beat Buddies Parent Showcase 2pm	4 Non- Uniform Day £1 School closes 2:30pm	

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.