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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 I am writing our April/May Newsletter and that after the Easter Break, we will be entering our final term. Our final term will have lots of opportunities to become involved with your child's Educational journey. Please take note of our Diary Dates at the end of our Newsletter as some of the event dates have changed.

### Staffing

We are delighted to have Mrs Coyle back full time and again I would like to thank Miss Mortimer and Miss Fulton for supporting our Primary 3 children.

Over the next few months, we have we have three teaching students in the school, Miss Dalziel in P1, Miss Anderson in P4 and Miss Speirs in P 5, I am sure your children will enjoy have them in their class for a short time.

Recently I held interviews for Mrs Rennie's post, and we are currently going through recruitment checks on the Preferred Candidate, Ms Gillian Kelly. As soon as these checks are complete, I will be able to set a start date and I will let you know Ms Kelly will start in St. Fergus'.

Renfrewshire Council has advertised my post, and the interviews will take place on the 8<sup>th</sup> May. Our parent group are involved in this process and the council will inform the school following the interview.

### 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.

### Great News!!

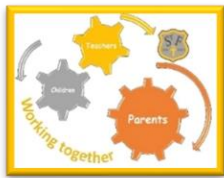


At the end of February, we received some great news about our ongoing partnership work with Glencoat's Primary. Our schools have been given recognition by the Charity 'Nil By Mouth', we are this year's recipients of 'Champion Change Award' for 2025.

The Charity's staff and Trustees have awarded this to both schools in recognition of the schools outstanding commitment to equality and our unwavering commitment in making Ferguslie Park, better and bolder than bigotry!

Both Mrs McCormack and myself are so proud of all the hard work over the years by our staff, children and community and we are looking forward to many more years of working together.

## St Fergus Families Together Update



Our Parent group will be running our Easter Egg hunt on Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> April, they will also be providing an Easter Egg for every child. Thank you to the group for all of your hard work this term.

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

## Autism Awareness Week

This week we will be getting involved in raising awareness of Autism as part of [#AutismAwarenessWeek](#).

On Wednesday the 2<sup>nd</sup> April we hope that everyone will wear blue (No football tops please) and the children will be learning about Autism in the classroom.



## Non-Uniform Days for our Final Term

We have four 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:

**Friday 4<sup>th</sup> April**

**Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> May**

**Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> May**

**Friday 27<sup>th</sup> June (no charge)**

## Pupil Leadership Groups – Updates



Our Laudato Si group have been busy this Lent. We decided to celebrate World Down Syndrome Day with the whole school. We planted sunflowers and watched them grow for 21 days and wore bright and bold socks to school to celebrate that every chromosome in our bodies is special. We have also organised an Easter raffle and guess the Bunny's birthday. All money raised will go to SCIAF and our local foodbank. During our Laudato Si assemblies we have been learning about the importance of water in scripture.



The Eco Leadership group have been busy planting! We teamed up with the Laudato Si Group to plant sunflowers to take home and to plant in our school garden. We have already brought our plants home, please send in some photos to [gw11devlincharlene@glow.sch.uk](mailto:gw11devlincharlene@glow.sch.uk) to let us see how your sunflowers are getting on. We have also planted some potatoes and are looking forward to harvesting them the third term. Look out for updates!



The pupil council have been working hard on fundraising during this time of Lent for Missio and the Royal Hospital for Children. We recently raffled off a signed St. Mirren's football which raised £86, well done to Rhyian in Primary 4 who won the football! We have also organised a 5K sponsored walk which we hope to raise lots of funds from. We will also be raising money at the Easter Egg hunt on the last week of term, we are looking for a small donation on this day to go to our chosen charities. The Pupil Council have continued to learn about the rights of the child and our global goals, and we hope to share our learning with other classes after Easter.





Our School Librarians planned a fun World Book Day and our whole school 'Read-a-Thon' was a success. Well done to Primary 4 who read the most books and chapters in the time given! We are moving forward with aiming to achieve our Reading School's Gold Award. Look out for book

recommendations from the School Librarians in each class window. We are hoping to start a Reading Podcast, where the Librarians will recommend and read aloud stories for our school. We are going to call it 'St. Fergus Story Finds'



This term our Spanish Ambassadors have been learning about our cultural diversity within St Fergus. Over the next few months each of our classes are going to be learning about culture and traditions from the different countries that are represented within our school. If you would be willing to come in and speak to some of our classes about your experiences growing up and living in

different countries, please get in touch as we would love hear from you. Keep Wednesday the 18<sup>th</sup> of June free to pop into school to share in our learning! Gracias



The Wellbeing Warriors have been working on the activities they would like to organise for Wellbeing day during health week, we have already came up with some great ideas and are planning our posters to promote wellbeing day. These will be displayed around the school.



The focus for the Digital Leaders this term has been to make the infants aware of the risks of being online.

They wanted to ensure that all pupils are aware of the dangers of clicking pop up boxes and of talking to strangers while playing online games. With the message that you never really know who you are talking to.

The book, Chicken Clicking by Jeanne Willis and Tony Ross deals with similar themes, with a funny story but a grizzly outcome for the chicken. The Digital Leaders used the different events in the story to create questions for a Kahoot. They read over the story and then played the game together consolidating their message.

Thank you to Lewis, Aden and Mark for guiding our younger leaders in two successful visits.



## **Primary 6 Events**

### **Beat Buddies**

Primary 6 have been working with Primary 5/6 in Glencoats and Graeme Barclay from Beat Buddies. The children will present a showcase on Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> April at 2pm for all parents. Please enter the gym hall via the playground.

### **Safe Kids Event**



The children will be attending this event at The St Mirren Stadium on Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> May. Safekids organised by Renfrewshire Council's Community Learning and Development team is a multi-agency experiential learning programme which aims to reduce the number of accidents in young people and also to promote positive behaviour and eliminate risks. The Safekids Programme has been running in Renfrewshire for over 10 years and has proven to be very successful. Safekids is founded on the experiential learning ethos: "Tell me, and I may forget. Show me, and I may remember. Involve me, and I will understand". Every Primary 6 pupil within Renfrewshire will have the



opportunity to learn vital life skills through participation in a variety of safety workshops delivered by Community Safety Partners.

### **School Trips - Term 3**

It is going to be a very busy last term with some school trips, Primary 7 will be teaming up with Glencoats primary for an open top bus tour related to the novel Divided City, they will be taking in the sights of Glasgow as well as a tour of Hampden Park on the 14<sup>th</sup> May. They will also have 2 Activity Days which will be run by our partners, OneRen. The children will have the opportunity to take part in several outdoor activities which will help them in their team building before they leave us for Secondary School, these will include Climbing, Archery, Fencing, Kayaking, Paddleboarding and Fire Lighting. Day one will be on **Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> June** at the KGV in Renfrew and Day 2 will be on **Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> June** at Loch Lomond. On the **24<sup>th</sup> June** Primaries 1-6 are going on 2 separate trips, last year our younger classes found Heads of Ayr a long day.

Primary 1- 3 are having a full day at Rouken Glen Park where they will be pond dipping, going on a forest walk to the water fall and having fun and games in the park.

Primaries 4- 6 are heading to Blair Drummond Safari Park and will return to school around 4:30pm. Parents will be asked to make contributions to all trips and this will be confirmed in separate letters which will be issued after the Easter Holidays.

**Should any parent have trouble in contributing to any of the trips can you please contact either myself or Mrs Rowley.**



Transition days are:

**Trinity High**

**Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> and Friday 16<sup>th</sup> MAY**

**St Andrew's Academy**

**Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> and Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> May.**

**St. Benedict's High School**

**Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> and Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> June.**

Children will be taken by bus from St Fergus' to St Andrew's Academy, for all other Secondary School visits the children are required to make their own way there. For children attending St Benedict's High there will be a Parent Information Evening on Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> June at 6:30pm.

Please note pupils should wear full school uniform (shirt and tie if available) for all visits and bring their school bag as normal. If your child is entitled to a free school meal, this will be provided, for those children wanting to purchase a lunch this will be available. For St Andrew's Academy, Mr Henry, has informed the schools that the cost of lunch on these days will be £2.50.

Please remember that all children attending High Schools could be entitled to travel on a school bus and this must be applied for by parents prior to starting. You can do this by clicking on this link:

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



We have planned a fantastic programme of transition for our new Primary 1 children and parents who will become part of our St. Fergus' family in August. This has been arranged alongside our Early Learning and Childcare Centres.

We have a webpage for this Transition Programme which will be updated on a regular basis, please use this link to access it :

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

Below you will find the dates of the Transition Programme we can offer your children this year. Mrs Rowley will oversee this along with your child's nursery.

Date	Activity
<b>6<sup>th</sup> March</b>	<b>World Book Day – Buddies visit the Nursery to read stories with the children-</b> Glencoats Lodge – 9.15am Ferguslie ELCC – 10.00am All other nurseries – 11am - Children are welcome to visit St. Fergus' on this day. (Douglas Street, Orchard Grove, Leaps and Bounds, Puddle Lane, Carriage Hill)
<b>1st May</b>	<b>Meet the Teacher (11.00-11.30 am)</b> – introduction to Primary 1 and the Class Teacher with a shared story about starting school and a tour of the classroom. (Parents/Carers/Keyworkers welcome to take part)
<b>7<sup>th</sup> May</b>	<b>Emotion works (1.45-2.30pm)</b> - Health and Well-being lesson around Emotion Works. Children will discuss, draw, dramatize emotions from a story stimulus. Children will be introduced to a different member of staff each week. (Parents/Carers/Keyworkers welcome to take part)
<b>15<sup>th</sup> May</b>	<b>Teddy Bear Picnic (2.00-2.45 pm)</b> –Primary 1 children, Buddies and our School Librarians will showcase school library. The children can bring their own teddy and snack.
<b>19<sup>th</sup> May</b>	<b>Outdoor Learning (1.45-2.30pm)</b> – Nursery children will visit the school and be introduced to their Buddies. Their outdoor adventure will involve the children being Bug Detectives and going on a Bug Hunt.
<b>29<sup>th</sup> May</b>	<b>Buddy School Tour (2.00-2.45 pm)</b> – Nursery children will visit the school and will be given a tour with their Buddies followed by a snack and playground fun.
<b>10<sup>th</sup> June</b>	<b>P.1 Parent Induction Day 1 (1.30-2.30 pm)</b> – Meet the Senior Leadership Team while your child meets with their Class Teacher. Children and parents should be in attendance due to the amount of important information given by the staff team.
<b>17<sup>th</sup> June</b>	<b>P.1 Parent Induction Day 2 (1.30-2.30 pm)</b> – Meet the School Community Staff while your child meets with their Class Teacher. Parent's tour of the school. Children and parents should be in attendance due to the amount of information given by the School Community.
<b>19<sup>th</sup> June</b>	<b>School Dinner Tasting Day (11:30-12.30pm)</b> - Enjoy the morning in our School Dinner Hall with your child sampling our school meals. (Options of food will be given nearer the time.)

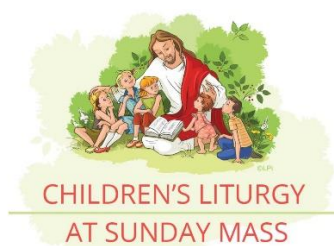
## Religious Life of the School

### Sacramental Classes



Well done to our Primary 4 children who received the Sacrament of Reconciliation (Confession) for the first time last week. It was a lovely prayerful celebration. Thank you to Mrs Cryans, Mrs Rowley and Father Thomas for your support and guidance in preparing our children. The next step on their Faith Journey will be to receive the Sacrament of First Holy Communion on **Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> April at 10am and 11.30am.**

Our children from Primary 7 will receive the Sacrament of Confirmation on Thursday **7<sup>th</sup> May at 6.30pm.** Please keep all our children preparing for their Sacraments in your prayers.

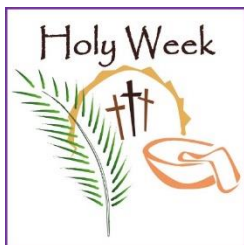


A reminder that Weekend Mass times in St Fergus Church are:

**Saturday Vigil - 6pm**

**Sunday Mass – 11:30am**

Father Thomas has asked the school to let everyone know that at there will be a children's Liturgy every Sunday at the 11:30am Mass. We would love if our children could attend and live our School and Gospel Values.



As the school will be on holiday during Holy Week, Palm Sunday is the 13<sup>th</sup> April and I would like to remind all parents about Services and Mass during Holy Week.

### **Holy Thursday**

Holy Thursday (Mass of the Lord's Supper ) 7pm at St. Mary's Church.

### **Good Friday**

9.30am Morning Prayer at St. Fergus

1pm Solemn Veneration of the Cross at St. Fergus'

### **Holy Saturday**

9.30am Morning Prayer at St .Fergus'

7pm Easter Vigil St Peter's

### **Easter Sunday**

11.30am at St. Fergus

End of Term Mass is Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> April at 2pm and our next Family Mass will be celebrated the day before Ascension Thursday and Canon Oliver will be celebrating with us on Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> May at 9:30am, Teas and Coffee will be available after this Mass.



### **Wellbeing Week**

Our Health week, including our Sports Day will take place next week, Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> May – Friday 30<sup>th</sup> May, Our Theme this year is 'Healthy Minds'. Children can come into school each day in their sportswear. Please remember football tops/tracksuits are not permitted.

### **Sports Day**



Following requests from our children we will revert to a traditional Sports Day with races only, including a Mum's/Dad's race... make sure you have your running shoes ready! This will take place on Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> May.

P1-3 Sports Day      9:20am      P4-7 Sports Day      11am

### **Primary 7 Enterprise**

After Easter our Primary 7 children will be running several enterprise events to raise funds for their end of year celebration. The Children will send out a separate flyer with all of their great ideas and dates for events.

### **School Uniform**

This term we have noticed a deterioration in the wearing of full school uniform. Should anyone require support with this please contact the school office to speak with either myself or Mrs Rowley. Please remember that our agreed school uniform is:

- **Girls**      **Grey Skirt/Trousers**
- **Boys**      **Grey Trousers**
- **All Pupils**      **Gold Polo Shirt or White Shirt and School Grey Jumper Sweatshirt or Cardigan**

### **Mobile Phones**



We are encouraging children not to bring their mobile phones to school unless completely necessary. If they do, it is school policy that they are switched off on entering the playground to ensure that no pictures or videos are taken of children. Your child's teacher will request that they are handed in and stored in a secure place until the end of day. Thank you for your understanding and support with this.

### **School Holidays**

School closes for the Easter Holiday on Friday 4<sup>th</sup> April at 2.30pm, **this is also a non-uniform day** and reopens on Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> April at 9am.

There are two Bank Holidays in May these are:

- Monday 5<sup>th</sup> May      Schools Closed
- Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> May      Inservice Day – School is closed to our children
- Monday 26<sup>th</sup> May      Schools Closed

## 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 2024 to June 2025).

### 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,

Whain McDonald

Head Teacher











## Our Vision:

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

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	30	1	2	3	Non Uniform Day 4	
		End of Term Mass 2pm	Wear Blue- World Autism Day	Beat Buddies Parent Showcase 2pm	School Closes 2:30pm-	
Holiday						
Holiday/Holy Week						
Easter Sunday	Easter Monday	22	23	24	25	26
		School reopens	P1/P2 to mass 9.30 am P4 to mass 1.45 pm		P7 to mass 9.30 am	FIRST HOLY COMMUNION
27	28	29	30	MAY 1	Non Uniform Day 2	3
	P4 Thanksgiving mass 9.30 am	Stramash visit from music specialists 1.30 pm	P6 to mass 9.30 am Class learning showcase 2 pm		P5 to mass 9.30 am	
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
	School closed		P4 to mass 9.30 am fluoride varnish P1 – P4 9.00 am CONFIRMATION P7 to St Mirin's Cathedral 6.30 pm		P3 to mass 9.30 am	
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
	Family mass 9.30 am		P7 joint activity with Glencoats PS		P1-P2 to mass 9.30 am ANNUAL REPORTS TO PARENTS	
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
	P7 to mass 9.30 am	P7 visit to St Andrew's	P6 to mass P7 visit to St Andrew's P6 to Safe Kids Parent's evening 3.15 pm	Non Uniform Day Parent's evening 3.15 pm	School closed	
25	26	27	28	29	30	31
	School closed	Health week begins- sports clothes Sports day: P1-3 at 9.20 am P4-7 at 11 am	Family mass in school hall at 9:30am Wellbeing Wednesday			

## 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.