



Faith Respect Responsibility Trust Team Work Success



St. Fillan's Primary School Newsletter

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February/March 2022

Our shared vision - "We are all learning, growing and succeeding together"

Our Shared Values:

R - Respect **R** - Responsibility **T** - Team work **F** - Faith **T** - Trust

S - Success



Head Teacher's February Message:

We hope that all of our families enjoyed some quality time together during the Christmas holidays despite the many challenges that we all continue to face in our daily lives.

The children have returned to school, full of vigour and enthusiasm for learning, which is always a delight and, the children have settled back into the school routine with a 'readiness to learn.' We continue to be grateful to our families who support our 'Dressing for Excellence' uniform policy, and it is lovely to see a large number of school shirts, ties, jumpers/cardigans and of course, school shoes being worn. Our school uniform is unique and wearing it nurtures a strong sense of identity, pride and belonging.

Our children have been busy and 'unleashing their creativity' by exploring the wonderful world of Art and Design. Each class has studied a different artist of choice and produced some lovely pieces of art that have filled our corridors with life and colour! We will share these with you through our Fillan Bear Facebook Page.

One of the many highlights since our return to school has been the opportunities that many classes have experienced through engaging in music inputs from visiting specialists. The children in Primaries 2/1, 3 and 4/3 have enjoyed 'Singing Games and Rhymes' inputs from NYCOS (National Youth Choir) and Primary 7 have been perfecting their skills in accompanying a specialist Jazz musician using a range of percussion instruments. It has been a pleasure and a privilege to have our corridors filled with the children's voices and music.

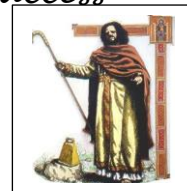
We have lots of exciting things planned for the children as we progress towards Easter and our Class Teacher's are looking forward to sharing more detailed information about your child's individual progress at our forthcoming Parent's Evenings in March.

Please continue to take care and stay safe,

Claire Mackenzie

Head Teacher

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The Religious Life and Ethos of our School:

December Class Masses:

Many thanks to the parents/carers and families who were able to attend the children's Class Mass during the month of December. Many Parishioners commented on the excellent behaviour, dress, respect, and reverence shown by the children. Showcasing the 'St. Fillan's Standard' at it's best!

Sacramental Update:

The Primary 7 'Mass of Enrolment' has been rescheduled to take place on: **Sunday 6th March at 11am** in the Church. Primary 6 are invited to attend and all further information can be found on the letters that were circulated last week.

We are looking forward to seeing as many of our children and families in attendance as possible.

Primary 4 will make their Sacrament of Reconciliation in St. Fillan's Church on Tuesday 29th March at 6.30pm. Further details will be circulated to families via letter in due course.

Please continue to keep the children in your prayers as they continue to progress in their journey of faith.

Journeying through Lent:

Mrs Mackenzie will shortly be liaising with Father Andrew and Sister Mary Frances to review our Annual Lenten Calendar and we will keep you updated in due course.

Laudato Si' Programme:



Pope Francis has invited all schools to work together as a school community to think about the ways that we can actively care for our planet and the people who live within it.

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In St. Fillan's, we have accepted this challenge and we are a registered 'Laudato Si' school. We have made a commitment/promise to look after our school community and world as best we can. Participation in this programme is like having a whole school 'New Year's Resolution!' with a shared common goal.

We have been inspired by the COP26 Climate Conference in November and we will endeavour to contribute to the development of the '17 Sustainable Development Goals' through awareness raising and taking action. The Laudato Si Programme also has 7 goals that link well with the development goals and through our work, we hope to become leaders of change.

Each class will engage in the programme in a variety of collective ways over the next few weeks before we focus on specific learning around the first of Pope Francis's quotes:

"What kind of world do we want to leave to those who come after us, to children who are growing up now?"

We know that it is our duty and responsibility to look after our world just now for the benefit of our future generation and we are looking forward to showcasing our thoughts, reflections and acts of hope with you.



School Vision, Values and Aims:



Our school vision, values and aims are the beating heart of our school and the core beliefs of what we are aiming to achieve. As a Catholic School, we also follow the
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'Charter for Catholic Schools' and our core values echo the values contained in the Gospels.

This month, we will focus on our core value of 'Respect' and the Gospel Value of 'Love.' We are looking forward to 'catching' our children going 'Above and Beyond' when displaying these values in their thoughts, actions and words.

Th school aim that we will focus on is: 'Show and Radiate Enthusiasm" and this will be a focus in learning opportunities that are provided in the classroom.



Gospel values are what Jesus said, what Jesus did and what He told us to do. They are at the root of Catholic social teaching and so they are what we abide by behaving towards others here in St. Fillan's. All of the Gospel values begin with and 'derive from Jesus' Law of Love and are a perfect example for how our children should be.

In St. Fillan's, we value and love all of our children. It is important for them to know that they are loved and part of our St. Fillan's family, a community of faith, learning and love. When children feel loved, they feel safe, secure, and happy and they are ready to learn. Having a 'Readiness to Learn' is the basis for all effective learning to take place. Without this, our efforts have no fruition.

One of the most famous ten Commandments is: 'Love one another as I have loved you.'" This is mirrored in our PATHS Our PATHS (Promoting Alternative Thinking Strategies) Golden Rule which is: 'Treat other people the way that you would want to be treated.' We promote this Gospel value and the PATHS Golden Rule by encouraging our children to make good choices in their thoughts, words, and actions.

Ensuring Equality, Inclusion and Health and Wellbeing:



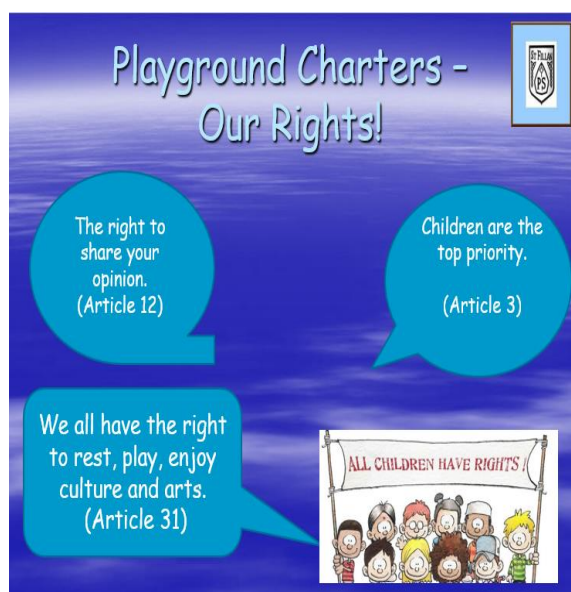
Ready, Respectful, Safe:

In St. Fillan's, our class and playground charters are founded upon the three key principles of our children being: Ready, Respectful, Safe. Our school rules/expectations of: Kind Words, Kind Feet, Kind Hands and Kind Heart also fit into this expectation.

The children have worked collaboratively to create a set of expectations around each of the three principles. The children know this as: the 'St. Fillan Standard' and this is how we expect our children to behave.

Our children know that this cannot be achieved in isolation, and we all need to work together as a team and a family to support one another in making good choices. Our children also understand that they each have the right to play but that each child has a part to play as part of the collective responsibility to ensure that a successful playtime is experienced by every child.

This term, we have been focussing on the principle of being 'Ready' and the children have been working hard like little bees to earn house tokens which will earn them an extra playtime if they are successful in their mission!

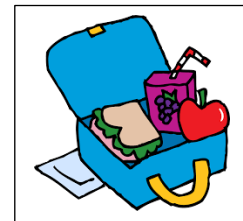


Lunchtime Arrangements:

Free school meals are now available to all children in Primaries 1 to 5 as per Scottish Government funding. A copy of the school lunch menus has been circulated and are posted on a Sunday evening via the Fillan Bear and Parent Council Facebook Page as a reminder.

It would be really helpful if a discussion was facilitated at home around a child's lunch choice. Class Teacher's reinforce the choices and provide an explanation at the beginning of each day, but often children will select a choice and we have noticed later on in the day that the children do not appear to like their choice, and therefore refuse to eat their lunch. We are no longer a 'Cooking Kitchen' and as such, we do not have any extra lunches or alternatives to offer the children.

We thank you for your continued understanding and support with this.




Lunchtime Slips:

We have a duty of care in ensuring that our children make a reasonable attempt to eat the main part of their lunch at lunchtime. Whether this be as part of a school lunch or a packed lunch which has been provided from home. A school day can be long, and we would want for our children be feel nourished, energised, and ready to learn.

We have reviewed our policy and practice and created an 'Un eaten Lunch Slip' that will be issued to children who have not eaten the main part of their lunch (main meal, sandwich, wrap etc) as we feel it is important that parents/carers are aware of this situation. Our Lunch Hall Supervisor, Mrs Edmiston will liaise with the Class Teacher and slips will be discretely placed in the children's schoolbags for you to view/ return to school.

We do appreciate that children's appetites are all different and a child's ability to eat their lunch is dependent upon many things including the way they feel, if they had a big snack at playtime, if they feel unwell, if they have specific medication etc. Please also be advised that no child will ever be forced to eat anything that they do not wish to eat. However, we feel that it is important that our parents/carers are updated with this information.

If you would prefer a phone call home instead of a slip, then please notify the School Office regarding this request. Please also contact us if there are any other concerns/issues you would like to share with regard to your child's eating behaviours.

<i>Faith</i>	<i>Respect</i>	<i>Responsibility</i>	<i>Trust</i>	<i>Teamwork</i>	<i>Success</i>
<u>Uneaten Lunch Update</u>					
Dear Parent/Carer					
<p>We have a duty of care to ensure that your child <u>makes an attempt</u> to eat some lunch during the school day. This will provide your child with the nourishment and energy they require to perform well with their learning. Your child felt unable to eat their lunch today and we would like to bring this to your attention. We would be grateful if you were able to have a conversation with your child around this. If you would like to discuss this further, then please contact the school and a member of our team would be happy to discuss. Please sign and return the 'tear off slip' to indicate that you are aware of the situation.</p>					
<p>Kindest Regards,</p> <p><i>(Mackenzie)</i></p> <p>(Head Teacher)</p>					
<u>Uneaten Lunch Update</u>					
<p>Child's Name: _____ Class: _____ <u>Date:</u> _____</p>					
<p>I acknowledge that my child was unable to eat their lunch today and I have engaged in a discussion with my child.</p>					
<p>Signed (Parent/Carer): _____ <u>Date:</u> _____</p>					

Health and Wellbeing Programmes:

Place 2 Be: Children's Mental Health Week:



Children's Mental Health Week in Scotland begins on **Monday 7th February to Sunday 13th February 2022** and the central theme being explored this year is: 'Growing Together.' The idea is to encourage our children (and families) to consider how they have grown and how they can help others to grow. This fits in perfectly with the promotion of our Gospel value of Love.

Mrs McPherson will launch the week's interactive activities through an online Assembly and classes throughout the school will be focussing on learning outcomes around the importance of having 'good mental Health.'

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The children in Primaries 4 to 7 will create their own 'Self Care' as it is crucial that they are encouraged to look after themselves and that they 'fill their own cup' before being able to support someone else.

It would be great if families were able to facilitate a 'Dinner Table' Conversation around self-care and its importance in maintaining good mental health and wellbeing.

"Self-care is all about what you can do to help yourself feel better or to keep yourself feeling good. It's a way that we can look after our own mental health and wellbeing. It can help your body and mind to relax, drift away, or be more energised."

(Mentally Healthy Schools)



Cyber Resilience and Internet Safety:

Cyberweek takes place on Monday 28th February to Friday 4th March 2022. During this week, the children will engage in activities related to their personal safety when engaging in online activities in terms of using a device.

They will learn about the three key principles of: Recognise, React and Recover.

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All classes will also take part in awareness raising during Internet Safety Day which takes place on **Tuesday 8th February 2022.** Learning around this theme consists of the children considering their own behaviours when using a device in order to keep themselves and others safe. Learning experiences will focus on the children knowing and understanding the three principles of: Sade, Smart Kind and how they can apply these to their online conduct.

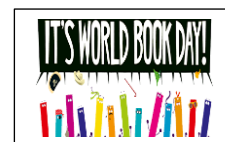


St. Benedict's Young Sports Leaders Programme:

Young people and staff from St. Benedict's High School will facilitate a four week block of Physical Education and Fitness with our Primary 5 class during the month of February.

The young people are keen to develop their leadership skills as part of the 'Sports Leaders Programme' and our children will benefit from having such an enthusiastic and creative team of individuals facilitating exciting PE learning experiences.

World Book Day:



This year, we will celebrate 'World book Day' on **Thursday 3rd March 2022**. The Literacy Committee in Primary 5 have been working hard with Mrs McKay to create a fun plan of activities for classes to take part in. This is part of our 'Reading Schools Framework' award which aims to nurture a love of books and a culture of reading across the school.

The Committee would like to encourage all children and staff to come to school dressed as a character from the wonderful world of literature, should they wish to do so. They are also asked to bring in one of their favourite books to share with the class.

We are looking forward to a day full of goblins, princesses, Harry Potters and BFG's!

Active Schools:



Unfortunately, our Active Schools Programme for Term 3 has been very limited due to the current climate and the recommendation to maintain class bubbles within the indoor setting. This has resulted in both the Netball and Dodgeball Club being cancelled due to absence and low numbers.

We will continue to work in partnership with Lynsey Dawson our Active Schools Co-ordinator who will review the timetable after the February weekend now that restrictions have been eased and we will hopefully be able to reinstate clubs.

We appreciate that this has been disappointing for some of our children, but we will continue to build our children's resilience in overcoming upset and disappointments in life.

Fun, Safe, Fair!

Class Committees:

For the remainder of this school session, our committees will continue to be facilitated as a class with one teacher facilitating learning opportunities within the Committee.

Each class continues to meet once a month for an extended period to explore issues that they would like to improve or develop through Committee work.

In this Newsletter, we will share with you the 'Action Plans' from the remaining three class Committees that have not previously been shared.

Primary 6: Eco Committee:



Committee Aims	Intended Impact
To make sure our school is saving water (tap monitors).	We will save water in the school which is a valuable resource.
Collect recycling	We will be more responsible with our recycling.

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Turn off lights at playtime and lunchtime	We will save electricity in the school and reduce our carbon footprint.
Write a letter to an MSP	Our school could be represented in parliament. Help the government They might write back with solutions.
Raise money	Help people/environment/lead other schools.
Awareness: advert/video for assembly	Make everyone in the school more inspired to make good choices to help protect our environment. We want to become leaders for change.

Primary 3: Fairtrade Committee:



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Committee Aims	Intended Impact
To plan and promote Fairtrade Fortnight across the school	Promote the meaning and importance of Fairtrade Fortnight.
Complete a Fairtrade Assembly / Fact Book	To spread awareness of the importance of Fairtrade so that by Fairtrade Fortnight, the classes are familiar with what Fairtrade is.
Arrange Fairtrade Shop / Coffee Morning (pending restrictions)	Raise money for school funds by selling Fairtrade items.

Cycling Schools Award:

We were delighted to be awarded with the nationally accredited 'Cycling Friendly Schools Award.' We received notification in December 2021, and this was through the hard work and commitment of Mrs McAlaney and the Primary 7 Travel Planning Committee.

As a school, we are committed to promoting the benefits of cycling within our school community. Key benefits include:

- Keeping children and their families fit and healthy.
- Building confidence in children.
- Development of skills for life.
- Promotion of the sustainable living agenda.



The Committee worked in partnership with our Bikeability Co-ordinator Craig Dalziel to raise awareness and gather evidence of the work that we have been doing to show our passion and commitment to cycling.

We have displayed our certificate with pride in the Central Area!





Transitions:

Primary 7 will participate in a series of curricular inputs from Mrs Canning the Head of Mathematics from St. Benedict's High School during the month of February. We are grateful to Mr Canning for reorganising his timetable to commit to these valuable curricular visits.

Eco-Easter!



Miss E Duffy and the Primary 4 'Mini Vinny/Charity Committee' have been busy making plans to facilitate an 'Eco Easter' event on **Thursday 31st March 2022.**

They are trying to raise awareness for this year's SCIAF Lenten Appeal which is focussing on climate change.

The children are permitted to wear their own clothes to school (excluding football strips), should they wish to do so and pay the forfeit of £1.00 per child or £2.00 per family. This will be payable via ParentPay and all donations will be collected for SCIAF. The Local Authority will hopefully agree to 'match' our donation and it would be great if we had a healthy sum as a result of our fundraising.

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The children will then engage in a class technology challenge using recyclable materials and a winner will be selected from each class by a panel of judges who will be comprised of a representative from each class.

Class Teacher's will advise children about a wish list of recyclable items that they would like the children to collect for their 'Eco Technology Challenge.'

Parent Council Update:



Diary Dates:

The next Parent Council meeting will be facilitated on Wednesday 9th February at 7.00pm. This will be a virtual meeting and we are always eager for new parents to come along and find out more about the PC and their important role in our school community. Further details will be posted on the Parent Council Facebook Page in due course.

The Parent Council have kindly agreed to support the funding of a special Easter treat for the children, on behalf of the parent body which will take place on **Wednesday 23rd March**. We are keeping this a surprise just now, but let's just say we will have some feathered friends join us for the day and these friends are no strangers to Hogwarts!

February 2022: This month's core value is: RESPECT and Gospel Value: LOVE.

Day/Date	Event
Monday 7 th February 2022	Children's Mental Health Week Scotland virtual Assembly and activities in class.
Tuesday 8 th February 2022	Safer Internet Day activities in class.
Monday 14 th February 2022	February Weekend Holiday - Enjoy!
Tuesday 15 th February 2022	February Weekend Holiday - Enjoy!



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Wednesday 16 th February 2022	Inservice Day Training for Staff - The school is closed today for the children. Children will return on Thursday 17 th February 2022.
Tuesday 22 nd February 2022	Thinking Day - Children who attend Guides, Scouts, Rainbows (any related organisations) are permitted to wear their uniform to school, should they wish to do so. Fairtrade Fortnight begins. The Fairtrade Committee will share their plans in advance.
Monday 28 th February 2022	Cyberweek Scotland activities in class.

March 2022: This month's core value is: RESPONSIBILITY and Gospel Value: FORGIVENESS.

Day/Date	Event
Wednesday 2 nd March 2022	Ash Wednesday.
Thursday 3 rd March 2022	World Book Day - Children can dress up as a character from the world of literature, bring in books to share, should they wish to do so.
Sunday 6 th March 2022	Primary 7's Mass of Enrolment in St. Fillan's Church at 11.00am. (Primary 6 are also invited to attend). We are looking forward to seeing you then.
Wednesday 23 rd March 2022	Parent's Night for the children in Primaries: 2/1, 3 and 4/3. We regret that this will not take the form of a 'face to face' meeting and further details will be circulated to you via letter. Easter Treat for the whole school - special visitors!
Thursday 24 th March 2022	Parent's Night for the children in Primaries: 5, 6 and 7. We regret that this will not take the form of a 'face to face' meeting and further details will be circulated to you via letter.
Tuesday 29 th March 2022	Primary 4's Reconciliation in St. Fillan's Church at 6.30pm. A letter outlining further details will be circulated in advance.



Thursday 31 st March 2022	Primary 5 will receive a visit from the children's Author: Lindsey Littleson.
	The children are invited to 'Wear their own Clothes' today, should they wish to do so with the forfeit of £1.00 being donated to SCIAF via Parent Pay. (£1.00 per child and £2.00 per family). We thank you in advance for your generous donations to this worthwhile cause.
Friday 1 st April 2022	The school closes for the Easter holidays at 2.30pm.

Final Thoughts: #Respect #Love

