



Faith Respect Responsibility Trust Team Work Success



St. Fillan's Primary School Newsletter

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August 2021

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

– WELCOME –
BACK TO SCHOOL

Head Teacher's August's Message:

It was wonderful to welcome the children back to school on Monday following a long Summer holiday. Never before has a Summer break been so welcomed and deserved! We were truly blessed to enjoy some lovely sunshine and as restrictions continue to ease, we hope that you were able to spend lots of time making memories with your loved ones.

A special welcome to our new and existing Primary one parents and families. We welcome you into the St. Fillan's family and look forward to working in partnership with you to help your children grow and succeed throughout the years.

As always, the children are a real credit to you and to our school and they look splendid in their new school uniforms. It was a pleasure to see the children keen and eager to burst into school for the beginning of a new school term! We look forward to catching up with them about their Summer adventures over the next few days.

As always, the August Newsletter is full of useful information that we will refer to as and when required so I hope that it will provide you with many useful pointers as it serves as a practical insight into our practice and policies. I will ensure that a copy is uploaded onto the school website so that you will find it with ease.

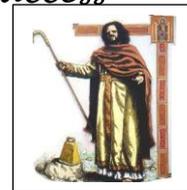
We have a full and ambitious 'School Improvement Plan' in place for this school session and we look forward to working in partnership with you to transform our goals into reality, and together achieve the very best outcomes for our children.

Best Wishes,

Claire Mackenzie (Head Teacher)

Family
like branches on a tree
we may grow in different directions
yet our roots remain as one

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'In Learning, we are growing and succeeding Together.'



The Religious Life and Ethos of our School:

Annual Parish Calendar:

We met with Father Andrew and Sister Mary Frances in June to draft the 'Annual Parish Calendar.' Dates were pencilled in despite ongoing mitigations. Several events around celebration and worship have been planned, although, these may be subject to change.

I am scheduled to meet with Sister at the end of next week and further information will be circulated around our plans for worship and celebrating the beginning of the new school year. You will be notified about the final dates via letter.

Sacraments:

Please note that as always, these dates and times are subsequent to change, however, these are the dates that have been set for the Sacraments of Confirmation for our Primary 7 children and Reconciliation and First Holy Communion for our Primary 4 children:

<i>Day, Date and Time</i>	<i>Event</i>
Wednesday 15 th September - 6.30pm in St. Fillan's Church.	Primary 4 Parents/Carers are invited to attend a meeting regarding arrangements for the Sacraments which will be hosted by Father Andrew.
Wednesday 22 nd September - 6.30pm in St. Fillan's Church.	Primary 7 Parents/Carers are invited to attend a meeting regarding arrangements for the Sacraments which will be hosted by Father Andrew.
Sunday 30 th January - 11.00am - St. Fillan's Church.	Primary 6 and 7 Mass of Enrolment for the Sacrament of Confirmation. The children's Sponsor's are also invited to attend.
Tuesday 29 th March - 6.30pm - St. Fillan's Church.	Primary 4's Sacrament of Reconciliation. 
Saturday 14 th May - 10.00am - St. Fillan's Church.	Primary 4's First Holy Communion. 
Sunday 15 th May - 11.00am -	Primary 4 are invited to wear their Communion attire

St. Fillan's Church.	and join the Parish community for a Grotto procession around the Church. It would be lovely to see as many families in attendance as possible.
Monday 30th May - 6.30pm in St. Fillan's Church.	Primary 7's Sacrament of Confirmation. 
Friday 24 th June - Time TBC - St. Fillan's Church.	The Mass of Thanksgiving for the children in Primary 4 and 7.

Please note that the Primary 6 children have been invited to attend special Masses/events alongside their Primary 7 peers. This is due to the preparation for Confirmation beginning in Primary 6 and continuing into Primary 7. Combining these events will enable the children to prepare for the 'Pope Francis Faith Award' which also begins in Primary 6.

Please remember to keep our school and the children in Primary 4, 6 and 7 in your prayers as we begin a new school year and in preparation for the children's Sacraments. Thank 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 'Charter for Catholic Schools' and our core values echo the values contained in the Gospels.

The core values are displayed around the school and we spend time at Assembly discussing them and considering how we can 'Be the best we can be' through living out our beliefs in our thoughts, words and actions. They permeate throughout everything that we do both socially and academically to develop the 'whole child.'

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As always, we will spend time this school session discussing the 'St. Fillan Standard' and what this looks like, sounds like and feels like and we hope to share our ongoing thoughts with you.

This year, we will spend some time discussing the school aims with the children which are at the very heart of our curriculum and all that we endeavour to achieve. We will share posts and video clips via Facebook to share this learning with you.



Staffing:

Our current Staffing remains unchanged as per the classification information that was circulated in June.

Safeguarding and Child Protection Update (HIGIOS4 2.1):

Building Back Stronger and Smarter:

We are committed to our 'Building Back Stronger and Smarter' agenda which was officially launched when all of our children formally returned to school in March.

We have carried our various forms of assessment and worked in partnership with you to ascertain the experiences of our children whilst engaging in a prolonged period of remote learning. Our observations and assessment data was verbally shared with you at Parent's Evening in March/April and an evaluation of the children's progress with their targets in Literacy, Numeracy and Health and Wellbeing was shared with you via a written report in June.

The impact of the pandemic and the learning experiences of our children during Lockdown greatly varied and following our children's return to school, we observed several behaviours that we would very much like to focus on and address as the session continues. We appreciate that each child is unique, and so not every behaviour is pertinent to every child. We rely upon your support as the first educator of your child to assist us in addressing these issues and it would be timely to share these with you in this Newsletter.

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Our observations... what we noticed...	How can we support our children moving forward?
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Many children required support with the revisiting of rules, routines and boundaries following their return to school. 	<p>*Continue to establish a shared understanding of rules/routines and expectations in August as part of a new school year.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> There was a need to develop emotional intelligence across the school. 	<p>*Continue to implement the PATHS and Emotionworks Health and Wellbeing Programmes to support our children's understanding of their emotions and look at further developing self-regulation.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Some children exhibited anxieties around times of transition and changes to the school day. 	<p>*Continue to embed our Nurturing principle around Transitions to support children.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Some children found they had less self motivation when completing tasks, especially where an element of writing was required. 	<p>*Growth Mindset learning opportunities will be built into our Annual Calendar and classes will take part in BUDS afternoons on a Friday to develop Growth Mindset across the school.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Social interactions in the playground were problematic for some children. There were many misdemeanours in the playground and many children required support with building resilience. 	<p>*Lots of time will be spent at the beginning of the school year establishing good relationships, class identity and desirable expectations in the form of 'Classroom Charters.' Children's empathy towards one another will be celebrated and encouraged as will the ability to remain resilient when social interactions prove to be challenging.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Some children challenged the decisions that were made by their Class Teacher or the SLT in relation to learning and teaching and how situations were managed. 	<p>*We will focus on the core school value of 'Trust' and spend time reconnecting with one another and engaging in conversations around what trust looks like feels like as a school community. We will seek to do this through a systematic review of our 'Promoting Positive Relationships Policy.'</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Many children carried their worries home and did not share them with a trusted adult during the school day. This proved to be problematic as some situations escalated and resolve could have been sought sooner if worries had been shared. 	<p>*Continue to work in partnership with home to ensure that our children feel comfortable and confident in sharing their worries with an adult in school. Continue to emphasis to our older children that the terminology of 'snitch' and 'grass' should not be used in our school as this language is not in line with our school values.</p>

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The recovery period is still very much a priority for us this term as is the good mental health and wellbeing of our children and families.

If you require any support with related issues, then please do not hesitate in contacting the school.

Promoting Positive Relationships:



As part of our School Improvement Plan, we have decided to focus on our core value of 'Trust' as part of our 'Building Back Stronger and Smarter' agenda.

Trust is fundamental in all that we do to ensure our relationships with one another are happy, fruitful and effective.

This session, our staff will engage in fresh training and professional reading around the behaviour philosophies of 'Paul Dix' who is a leading behavioural expert. Paul has recently published a new book 'After the Adults Change, Achievable Behaviour Nirvana,' which we hope to explore as part of our school improvement work around relational practice. We hope to provide opportunities to work collaboratively with all stakeholders to review our 'Promoting Positive Relationships Policy' to ensure it's principles are shared and understood by all.

Restorative Practice:

Should mis-demeanors occur, we use a 'Restorative Approach' and the strategies embedded in the PATHS (Promoting Alternative Thinking Strategies) to provide children with an opportunity to reflect upon and discuss behaviours with a trusted member of staff which will be their Class Teacher in the first instance.

This session our 'Behaviour Blueprint' will be modified to ensure it is robust, fit for purpose and understood by all.



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High Expectations!

No act of kindness,
no matter how small
ever goes unnoticed.

Our four school rules/expectations underpin the important value of 'Kindness' and they are simple to remember and understand. It would be helpful if you were able to reinforce these rules at home.

Choose Kind:

- Kind Hands.
- Kind Feet.
- Kind Words.
- Kind Heart.

Choose 
KINDNESS.

"BE KIND WHENEVER
POSSIBLE. IT IS ALWAYS
POSSIBLE."

The 14th Dalai Lama

This session, we aim to revisit our school rules and align them to the principles of our children being 'Ready, Respectful and Safe.' This terminology will be used to guide our thinking around everything that we do including the formation of Class/Playground Charters and when considering the 'St. Fillan Standard' around expectations and behaviour.

Anti-Bullying:

We expect the absolute best for all our children and we have high standards and expectations around appropriate behaviour and conduct.

Bullying behaviour has no place in our school and it is the responsibility of the whole school community to ensure that bullying is not given the opportunity to thrive within the learning environment.

You will be aware that online bullying is ever increasing through the use of online gaming, mobile phones and Social Media and it is crucial that we continue to work in partnership to ensure our children come to school with a 'readiness to learn.'

We are committed to ensuring that our children do not carry their worries around with them and take them home at the end of the school day and in the most part, our children are to be commended for adopting and living by the St. Fillan Standard of

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'If it doesn't sit well, then you should tell!' Many worries have been effectively dealt with using this approach and we would appreciate your support in promoting this at home with your child.

We are always keen to hear your thoughts around how we can tackle any issues as and when they arise.

UNCRC Charters:



As part of our school improvement planning for this session, we will engage in the work of Unicef and the 'Rights of the Child.' As the Rights of the Child has now been incorporated into Scots law, it would be timely for us to revisit the convention.

We are very proud that one of our own pupils, Sebastian Vosloo is the voice of the 'Children's Right' animation in partnership with the charity 'I am Me.'

From time to time, the children may be involved in the creation of 'Charters' which will explicitly outline agreed behaviours and expectations in certain circumstances, for example, in the classroom, school transport, Active Schools and football arrangements in the playground. These charters will be created around our values, school rules, the Rights of the Child and the overarching principles of 'Ready, Respectful, Safe.' They are important in setting clear expectations and boundaries around what the 'St. Fillan Standard' should look like, sound like and feel like and we would appreciate your support in ensuring that everyone is following the agreed high standards of behaviour and conduct.

Charters will be shared with you to provide you with an opportunity to discuss the contents with your child.

Parking:



Just a gentle reminder that in the interests of health and safety for all, the St. Fillan's Church carpark is unavailable to be used before 9.00am in the morning and around the close of the school day at 3.00pm. The staff car park is also for the sole use of staff and those who hold a blue badge permit only.

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The lollipop men are responsible for the opening and closing of the Church gates as per permission from Monsignor Andrew McFadden and children are not permitted to open and close the gates.

I would like to thank you for your continued support with this matter.

“Keep it fair and park
with care!”

School Uniform: Dressing for Excellence!



The importance of school uniform cannot be underestimated. School uniform enhances the ethos of a school and promotes a sense of belonging. It promotes identity and can greatly enhance the profile of a school.

The St. Fillan's school uniform is unique and sets us apart from the rest as very few schools in Renfrewshire sport the brown uniform.

Whilst we encourage our children to wear their light blue polo shirts on PE days for ease of changing, it would be lovely to see as many children as possible wearing their shirts and ties on the remaining days of the week. There are also occasions when we would ask that our children wear their shirts and ties to school, for example, to Mass or events when other schools are represented. Children look the part and feel the part when they wear their full school uniform including shirts, ties and school shoes.

Wearing shirts and ties also helps to set the tone and prepare children for secondary school. Secondary schools that our children transition to - St. Benedict's High and Gryffe certainly promote the wearing of full uniform and the expectation is for children to also wear blazers, especially in their senior years.

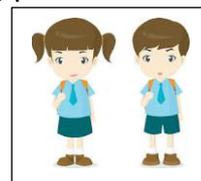
We are aware that some of our children may experience sensory issues and therefore wearing a shirt or a tie may prove to be problematic. In this instance, the child's needs always come before our request.

There are many social and academic reasons that support the wearing of full school uniform as outlined below:

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Wearing school uniform can:

- Foster a sense of community, belonging and pride within St. Fillan's Primary school.
- Develop a purposeful and focussed ethos in the school.
- Promote equity among children.
- Set the tone and foster a 'readiness to learn.'
- Create a positive image of our school and children within the local and wider community.
- Nurture the St. Fillan standard of having high expectations and aspirations.
- Prevent certain types of bullying behaviour whereby children are stigmatised for not wearing the perceived fashion/trend.
- Make it easier for parents, children and staff to know what to expect our children to wear to school.
- Improve school safety.
- Ensure easy identification, security and management of children when taking part in community events or excursions.



“Renfrewshire Council encourages each school to adopt a dress code after discussion with parents, pupils and the parent council. The council supports an agreed dress code because of the benefits it brings, including improvements in safety, security, discipline, ethos and community spirit, and a decrease in bullying and expense for parents.”

(Local Authority advise and guidance).

Please see below the guidance around the purchasing and wearing of school uniform as outlined in our school handbook:

This school has a very attractive uniform and the items are listed below. Our pupils are asked to wear the agreed uniform at all times and parental support is appreciated:

- Brown skirt/trousers (smart/tailored) and **dark outdoor shoes**.
- Brown blazer or brown school fleece jacket (and brown shower proof jacket).
- Blue shirt and tie, school sweatshirt or brown jumper/cardigan, or
- School polo shirt and school sweatshirt.
- The wearing of trainers to and from school is actively discouraged and we ask that they be kept for indoor use only.
- Please note shirt and tie (formal school uniform) will be required by all children. This will be requested for formal school events and masses.

- The wearing of hoodies is also actively discouraged and is only permitted for the Primary 7 Leaver's in Term 3 and 4 of the school year.

Summer (if desired):

Blue/white gingham dresses or smart, plain brown or navy blue shorts with a school polo shirt.

If shorts are worn they must be suitable and complement the uniform. If a sweater/cardigan is required in summer, it must be from the school uniform.

PE Kit:

Children in Primaries 1 to 3 may bring in their kits in a PE bag and store them at their peg in school. Kits can be taken home from time to time for the purposes of washing/freshening them.



Please refer to the guidance below which is outlined in our school handbook:

*We would ask that children wear their St. Fillan's t-shirt (in the appropriate house colour) dark coloured shorts and soft-shoes. Children can be rewarded 'Family House Points' during PE sessions for a variety of reasons and the wearing of a t shirt with the appropriate house colour can make this easier, especially when groups of children are being awarded points. House coloured t-shirts depicting the school name can be purchased from 'School Wear Made Easy' online or in store for £5.95 and the t-shirts can be ordered in a variety of sizes, as follows: 3-4, 5-6, 7-8, 9-10 and 11-12 years).

*Rain jacket and joggers for outdoor learning.

*Due to lack of space, we request that PE kits are only brought to school on gym days, with the exception of children in Primaries 1 to 3.

*All children should have soft shoes or trainers for changing. All items of clothing should be clearly marked with the child's name. Jewellery should be kept to a minimum, if at all, and **must be removed** before PE for health and safety reasons.

Health and well being is high on the political agenda in Scottish education and as such, all children are required to participate in two hours of PE weekly.

It is at the Class Teacher's discretion as to how this is organised as part of their weekly planning around learning and teaching and at times a formal PE lesson need not be taught if the children have engaged in other means of physical activity throughout the course of a week.

Our Class Teachers are very skilled in being creative when the hall is being used or

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when the weather is not favourable for outdoor PE.

With this in mind, it is imperative that our children are prepared on PE days with the appropriate clothing and footwear.

In St. Fillan's Primary, staff follow Renfrewshire Council's 'Health and Safety in Physical Education, Code of Practice,' and are well informed with regard to making decisions about whether or not a child should participate in PE on days when they are not fully prepared. Decisions around this are always made in the interests of health and safety for the individual child and others.

When Class Teachers feel that children are not prepared on PE days, this will be logged and the child (Primary 4 to 7 only) will be asked to complete a 'PE Reflection Sheet' based on the learning and teaching within the lesson. Class Teachers may also include children in lessons, where appropriate to oversee games/group activities.

If your child's name is logged on three occasions within a term, then a standard letter will be sent to you to notify you about the situation. If the situation re-occurs on a frequent basis, then the Class Teacher may call home or arrange to meet with you to further discuss this matter.

Jewellery:

Every class has a 'Jewellery Box' where children are asked to store items of jewellery, hair accessories and glasses during PE lessons.

We would ask that if children wear earrings, then they are able to take out their earrings on their own and store them in the jewellery box for safety and safe keeping.

We would also ask that if children choose to obtain a piercing, then this is done outwith term time, perhaps during the Summer holidays as often children are asked to keep earrings in their ears for a long period of time.

Bus Transport:



Please note that whilst parents are responsible for the desired behaviour of their children on the school buses, the school will work in partnership with pupils to produce a bus 'Charter' which will outline desired safety and social behaviours on the school bus. This will be sent home at the beginning of the school year and should be discussed with parents and signed by both parent and pupil. The bus driver/company may wish to discuss individual issues with parents if applicable. **Children who misbehave can lose their right to home/ school transport and this is out with the direct control of the school.**

Younger children are provided with a 'Bus Buddy' who will accompany them to the bus. It is the responsibility of school staff to complete the daily bus register, escort children to the bus and ensure that all seatbelts are securely fastened in accordance with the law for school transport.

Children who are not recorded on the Bus Register will not be permitted to make use of the school bus.

In the interests of Health and Safety, a daily bus register is held at the School Office and it is imperative that the Office staff are informed by the child or parent if there is to be a change in routine for collection from school at 3.00pm. If there is no notification, we would assume that the child will be travelling home from school on the transport provided.

Should you have any enquiries around school transport, then the School Office staff will be happy to assist.

School Office Opening Hours:

The opening times for the office are as follows:

Monday - Friday 8.45am - 12 noon and 12.30pm - 3.45pm.



The office will remain closed between 12noon and 12.30pm each day. Please note that while the office is unstaffed at this time, there will be no access to the school for visitors at this period in the day.

Please note that we have lost the facility of having an answer machine. This is due to a roll out of new telephone numbers across the Local Authority. We appreciate that this may be problematic when you are trying to contact the school, however, please be patient and call back when the office is staffed. Emails may be sent to the school, however, we cannot guarantee that they will be responded to in adequate time, so please ensure that if the matter is urgent and involves arrangements for your child, then you speak to someone via telephone call at the office.

Please note that the school office is particularly busy at the beginning and end of the school day and it would be preferable to make contact prior to 2.30pm where possible.

Should you wish to speak to the Senior Leadership Team, we will endeavour to speak to you if we are available to do so. Please be assured that if this is not possible, a message will be taken by our Office Staff and we will return your call as soon as it is possible to do so and certainly within the five day statutory timeframe. Our diaries are busy and quite often, we are working with individual children, staff and partners so it may not be possible to return your call immediately. We thank you in advance for your understanding and patience.

Please make every effort to ensure that your child has everything they need with them each morning to minimise the number of parents/carers routinely dropping off forgotten playtime snacks, homework, packed lunches, coats, wellington boots and messages etc for the office staff to deliver to class. Our staff are willing to help parents in emergencies but please be considerate with your requests and the frequency of them. If your child has forgotten their lunch, please be assured that a lunch will always be provided.

Thank you for your continued co-operation with this request.

Pupil Safety:

Pupil Safety is at the centre of all that we do - to ensure we keep up our excellent standards, please familiarise yourself with the following points when making arrangements to collect your child/children:

- School begins at 9.00am and finishes at 3.00pm prompt. If you are running late, please inform the school office as soon as possible. Out with these times, everyone must enter and exit via the main entrance. PLEASE ADHERE TO GUIDANCE AROUND CURRENT MITIGATIONS.
- Prior to setting off for school in the morning, children must always know their travel arrangements for the end of each day. Please let the school or the Class Teacher know if there will be a significant change to your regular plans.
- Alert the school office of any change to pick-up arrangements as soon as possible. We cannot allow pupils in P1-P3 to walk home without a known adult who regularly collects them. It is essential that you advise us in advance if **anyone else** will be collecting your child. For extra security, a member of staff may call you back to confirm.
- If your child is going to be absent, please give us as much notice as you can. If possible, please provide copies of appointment letters to the school office to

ensure the register is marked appropriately. If the absence is unexpected, please contact the school office as soon as possible via phone or text and provide a note in your child's bag on their return.

- In the interests of health and safety, adults and visitors must only enter the school via the main entrance and are not permitted to access the school via the pupil entrances. When reporting to the School Office, they will be asked to sign the 'sign in/out' book and provided with a 'Visitors Pass' as it is essential that we are aware of who is in the school building in the event of an emergency. PLEASE NOTE THAT DUE TO CURRENT MITIGATIONS, ENTRY INTO THE SCHOOL BUILDING IS VIA APPOINTMENT ONLY.
- During interval and lunchtime no child is allowed to leave the playground, except if going home for lunch. Teachers must be advised if children are going home for lunch.



After School Provision:

After School care workers collect children from the school dining hall at 3.00pm.

It is essential that **both the school and after school care** establishments are informed of your child's pattern of attendance and any changes which you make.

If the school is not notified in advance, then we would presume that your child would be using the After-School provision as normal and this would be the arrangement at 3.00pm.



CCTV Cameras:

We have several CCTV cameras in operation at various times within the school day and beyond.

These cameras are for the sole purpose to deter theft and will only be accessed by the Community Police in this instance.

The responsibility of our school staff is to ensure that cameras are in full working order at pre-set times of the day and not to analyse recordings as this would be a matter that would be taken up with the Community Police.

Similarly, the footage retained on our system is only available for the Police to view within a pre-set period of time and is destroyed thereafter.

Late Coming:

If your child is late in arriving at school, (after the 9.00am bell has rung), they should enter by the main entrance and report to the school office, where they will be asked to sign the 'Pupil Register.'

This purpose of this 'signing in' process is to alert Office Staff to the child's presence in the building and the electronic register can then be update accordingly. This also ensures that children are advised to update the kitchen staff with their lunch option, if this is required.



School Attendance/Absence:

Please inform the school by letter, text or telephone if your child is absent, preferably before 9.00am and provide a note on his or her return to school. We record the reason for children's absence on our electronic system and correspondence from parents are kept in each child's confidential file.

Every effort should be made to avoid family holidays during term time, as this both disrupts your child's education and reduces learning time. We understand that due to work commitments, it can sometimes be problematic to arrange holidays, however, family holidays taken during term time will be recorded as unauthorised and you will receive a standard letter to notify you as per Local Authority guidance. Please also be mindful that the end of a school term is particularly busy with a range of events such as: Sports Day, Bump Up Day, Election of House/Vice Captains and other leadership roles and Assessments. The timings of these events have been set in advance and it is not possible to schedule these sooner in the school calendar for a variety of reasons.

Pupil absence is monitored on a monthly basis. Letters are sent out to parents to highlight attendance levels which are causing concern and parents/carers may be invited to discuss this matter with the Head Teacher.

In June 2019, the Scottish government refreshed their 'Included, Engaged and Involved' policy which informs the decisions we make as a school around the management of attendance. This includes decisions around periods of authorised absence.



School Lunches & Snack:

We are a 'Health Promoting School' and as such, we encourage our children to choose healthier options for snacks, drinks and lunches, thus promoting a balance between fruits, crisps, biscuits etc.

Please note that cans/bottles of fizzy juice, energy 'promoting' drinks and chewing gum are **not** permitted for consumption within the school and children will be asked to save these items for 3.00pm.

In St. Fillan's Primary School the system, which operates in the canteen, is a simple one, which the children can easily manage. Children will select their lunch option using the Cypad/ class computer each morning and the children are then issued with a coloured band to help them remember their choice.

Children in Primaries 1 to 4 will now benefit from free school lunches whilst Parent Pay offers the facility for parents to pay for school meals in advance.

A number of themed days encourage children to taste different types of foods such as the annual 'Burns Day Supper.'

Special diets can be provided for children with specific medical issues. If this applies to your child, then please make arrangements at the School Office to liaise with Siobhan and Karen, our Catering staff.

If children choose not to eat their lunch, they will gently be encouraged to do so by supervisory staff or offered an alternative. If they do not eat the contents of their lunchbox, then they will be encouraged to take this home and discuss with their Parents/Carers.





Water Bottles:

Children are encouraged to bring a bottle of water (with a sports cap) to drink during the day. Fresh water is available for the children to replenish their bottle. Please note that diluting and fizzy juice are not permitted in the classroom and we no longer provide plastic cups for children to use, unless this is required for medical purposes.

Food Allergies:

We have a number of children in school who suffer from various food allergies and I would ask for your support in reminding your child/children that the swapping of snack with another child is to be discouraged. Please notify the School Office as soon as possible if your child suffers from any known food allergies.

Due to known allergens within our school community, we are a 'Nut Free School' and as such foods and snacks with nuts are not permitted.



Medication:

If your child requires medication during the school day, please remember to complete the appropriate paperwork at the School Office. Without this paperwork, we are unable to administer any type of medication in the interests of health and safety. However, it is important to note that school staff may administer medication as permitted on the child's paperwork and in accordance with their own judgement but it is not a legal requirement for members of staff to administer medication.

Please note that we will not be able to apply creams to your child's body or administer eye drops. Should your child require this type of medication, then we would ask that a family member is available to come into school to administer this medication.

If your child has any health issues that you think we should know about then please do not hesitate to contact the School Office.

Parents/carers are responsible for ensuring that children have the appropriate medication as per instructed on their medical paperwork (Either on the child's person or handed to a member of school staff) when leaving the school grounds for any event/excursion including excursions that have been pre-paid in advance by a parent/carer.

We will make every effort to contact you in this instance if medication is forgotten, however, if we are unable to contact you, then children **will not** be permitted to attend the excursion.

This advice includes the use of inhalers.



First Aid:

Mrs June Kelly is our registered First Aider in the school. If your child/children have received First Aid, then you will be notified either via telephone call, text message or a note in their schoolbag.



Fighting Infection Spreading:

Nasty tummy bugs continually do the rounds in schools. In the school environment such bugs are very difficult to control and infection can spread quickly. If your child has been unwell they should not return to school until 48 hours have passed since the last episode of upset (sickness and/or diarrhoea) in an effort to fight the spread of the infection. Your support with this is extremely important.

We refer to guidance published by the NHS when advising our parents and carers of possible lengths of absence when children present with a variety of medical conditions. Our School Office are more than happy to keep you abreast with NHS recommendations.

Head Lice/Nits:

Please remain vigilant to the occurrence of Head Lice/Nits. Infection is most common in children aged 3-11. Outbreaks happen throughout the year. We are advised against sending home letters alerting you to specific outbreaks. Parents are discouraged from using insecticide lotion, shampoo or sprays preventatively. It is advised that you would only use these treatments if live lice are detected.

You may find the following websites helpful; www.nhs.uk/your-health/
www.nits.net/bugbusting

Lost Property:

Please ensure you have put your child's name on every item of clothing as we had numerous pieces of clothing left over each week last year which were recycled as per school policy after a considerable amount of time.

Staff endeavour to remind pupils to take all their belongings home at the end of each school day.

If your child is missing any item please send him/her to look through the lost property storage system and if your child brings home any item which does not belong to him/her, please return it to the school as quickly as possible.

Please note, the lost property store is located in the Central Area of the school.



Outdoor Learning:

Our commitment to outdoor learning continues. In order that pupils benefit from this, we would ask that they come to school prepared with sunscreen, sunhats and sunglasses, where appropriate. It is helpful if pupils have sunscreen applied prior to coming to school. Also, any hats or glasses should be clearly identified by names or initials.

Also, due to the unpredictable nature of the Scottish weather, it would be helpful if pupils were able to bring a lightweight waterproof with them on days when the sun does not shine!



Mobile phones:

The benefits of mobile phones are widely recognised and we are aware that many young people and their parents regard them as an essential means of communication. Mobile phones can continue to be brought into schools, where necessary, however the following limitations will apply in all Renfrewshire schools and establishments:

- All phones should be turned off and kept out of sight during the school day within the school campus. Children will be asked to store their mobile phone in a locked area of the classroom during the school day. Mobile phones will be returned to children as they leave the school building. We would ask that children refrain from using their device until they are clear of the school gates. This ensures that the owner of the phone remains safe as does the other children in the playground. **DURING CURRENT MITIGATIONS, CHILDREN ARE ASKED TO STORE THEIR MOBILE PHONES IN THEIR SCHOOLBAG DURING THE DURATION OF THE SCHOOL DAY.**
- Photographing or recording of sound or images of staff, other pupils or visitors to the school is not allowed at any time within the school campus

or on school transport.

- Mobile phones may be confiscated by any member of staff where these rules are broken.
- Any recordings made on school premises or school transport found on confiscated phones will have to be deleted on their return.
- Any photographs or recordings of staff in any situation, whether taken on school premises or elsewhere, found on confiscated phones will have to be deleted from phones on their return.
- Pupils and parents/carers should be aware that should a pupil breach the policy they will be disciplined in line with the school's positive behaviour/discipline policy and that mobile phones will be confiscated where these limitations are breached.
- An increasing range and variety of mobile phones possess the ability to access the Internet and to use Bluetooth technology to communicate. These technologies provide unparalleled sophistication and complexity which can provide access to a wealth of online resources and possibilities. Pupils and parents should be aware that this also leaves pupils open to dangers such as Cyberbullying, grooming and access to inappropriate material. Reference should be made to Renfrewshire's anti-bullying policy for further guidance in this area.
- Staff should not delete photographs or recordings from confiscated mobile phones.
- When staff confiscate mobile phones or other devices they should ensure that these are retained in a safe place that cannot be accessed by others. This may be a lockable drawer or cupboard, a base area or a delegated area in the school office. Confiscated mobile phones should normally be passed to the school office or senior member of staff as soon as possible after confiscation.
- The school accepts no responsibility for any lost or damaged mobile phones.



Wet weather arrangements:

During wet intervals and wet lunch breaks children will remain indoors. Our Support Staff remain on hand to monitor classes as part of their remit.

Children are invited to bring in a notebook, colouring book or a book to read that can be kept in their personal tray and used to keep them occupied during wet intervals, however, this is not mandatory.

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Please note that we actively discouraged children to bring in toys of any shape or size and this includes soft toys and outdoor equipment such as footballs. It is our experience that children can become upset when personal items get misplaced or unduly damaged. The exception to this would be when the Class Teacher has requested that the child bring in an item perhaps for 'Show and Tell,' or solo presentations. This request is mandatory in light of current mitigations.

Online Safety:



It is imperative for our children to remain safe online as within a day to day basis to ensure they are safe, happy and thriving.

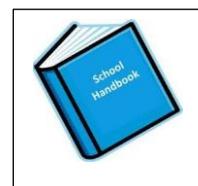
Last school session, there were several unnecessary conflicts surrounding online gaming that children had participated in out with school time including references made to inappropriate language and behaviours. This inevitably led to a thorough investigation and time deducted away from teaching and learning. We are looking to organise workshops for the upper school classes when restrictions ease.

Whilst we appreciate that children will have additional past times out with school, we would really appreciate your support in ensuring that children enjoy online gaming in a safe, appropriate and responsible manner. This will help us to reduce unnecessary upset throughout the school day.

Further information and support can be found on the NSPCC website and there are attachments that can be downloaded from our school website.

School Handbook: 2021 - 2022:

Final amendments are being made to the School Handbook for this session. You will be notified via ParentPay when a copy becomes available to view on our school website.



Ensuring Equality, Inclusion and Health and Wellbeing (HIGIOS4 3.1):
PATHS/RNRA:

This session, we will continue our work with the Educational Psychologist with a focus on the principles and practices of Nurture with a predominant focus on 'The Classroom Offers a Safe Base.'

In light of ongoing mitigations within the school environment, we are as keen as ever to reinforce the importance of resilience across the school. The information below is a reminder of the key principles that we were trying to promote.

The skill of resilience is vital and crucial in helping a child to bounce back from setbacks and challenges in life with the American Psychological Association defining resilience as follows:

"... the process of adapting well in the face of trauma, adversity, tragedy, threats or significant sources of stress such as family and relationship problems, serious health problems or workplace and financial stressors. It means 'bouncing back' from difficult situations."

We foster the nurturing of this skill by encouraging our children to express how they feel and to tell us in school when something is causing them upset. This then enables us to fully support the child with whatever challenge they encounter.

At Assembly, we have been using the following rhymes to help us remember to use our voice and tell an adult straight away when something is upsetting us to enable staff to help sort out any problems or issues straight away. These rhymes are displayed around the school.

'If it doesn't sit well, then you should tell'

'Make the right choice and use your voice!'

'If you feel sad and all uptight, just tell your teacher and it will be alright.'



As stated previously, it would be helpful if you were able to support us and reinforce this key message at home.

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Faith Respect Responsibility Trust Team Work Success

Each class also has a pet 'Worry Monster.' These monsters are responsible for eating any worries that the children may have and they will help Class Teacher's to address individual or class worries as and when they arise.



Assemblies:



Due to ongoing mitigations, whole school gatherings/Assemblies are not permitted at this time. Mrs McPherson and I will continue to deliver our Assemblies to classes virtually through Google Classrooms.

Mrs McPherson will host a 'Family Values' Assembly on a Monday to outline key messages around values-based education, the Rights of the Child and our school aims while the 'Celebration of Achievement' Assembly will be hosted on a Friday by Mrs Mackenzie.

Leadership and Management (HIGIOS4):

Leadership of Learning & Leadership of Change 1.2 and 1.3:

School Improvement Consultation:

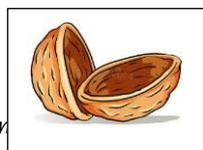
Thank you to everyone who offered suggestions and comments regarding further improvements for our school. Consultation was opened to all parents via a Microsoft FORMS questionnaire in June. Our school improvement initiatives are in draft format for this forthcoming session and have been sent to our Education Manager for approval. We look forward to sharing these will you in due course.

Class Newsletters:

We hope that you have enjoyed reading through the termly 'Term in a Nutshell' class newsletters that have been sent home electronically last session.

We will continue to share the children's learning with you in this way and will follow a four termly cycle as follows:

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<i>Term</i>	<i>Time Scale</i>
1	August 2018 - October 2018
2	October 2018 - December 2018
3	January 2019 - April 2019
4	April 2019 - June 2019

Code of Contact with School:

As a staff, we have reviewed the 'Code of Contact' with the school as we are fully committed to the 'Getting it Right for Every Child' Agenda.

As a staff team, we want to effectively engage with our parents and families in a timeously and effective manner when issues arise and we are aware that the Pastoral care of our children is the responsibility of all.

With this in mind, we have created an overview of how we can best meet the needs of our parents and families.

This overview provides clear guidance and expectations of how we can best work as a team to support the children in our care and it will be available on our school website and displayed in the School Office. The overview will be reviewed in light of ongoing, changing circumstances.

Point of Contact	Guidance/ Overview:
<p>Telephone Calls to the School Office.</p> 	<p><u>When you make a call to the School Office, you can expect:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Calls to be answered in a polite, friendly manner. • Calls to be treated in the strictest of confidence. • Questions to be asked to ascertain how best we can support your enquiry: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Can I please ask what your call is in relation to today? • Phonecalls will then be returned as soon as possible (certainly within five working days) by the member of staff who is best suited to deal with your enquiry.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This may be the Office Staff, the Class Teacher, Mrs McPherson (PT) or Mrs Mackenzie (HT). • Please note that our Office Staff have access to the shared electronic calendar and are able to book appointments for meetings with Class Teachers or the SLT (Senior Leadership Team). • The Office Staff should be informed if there are any issues that directly relate to your child in relation to the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Absence. • Medical information. • Collection from school. • Personal appointments. • Excursions. • Lunches/ lunch money. • Monies/ payment. • Residential Excursion - Primary 7. • Day to day events in school. <p>Please note that this list is not exhaustive.</p>
<p>Emails to St. Fillan's Enquiries.</p> 	<p><u>When you email the school, you can expect:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Your email to be answered within five working days by the member of staff who is best suited to deal with your enquiry. This may be the Office Staff, the Class Teacher, Mrs McPherson (PT) or Mrs Mackenzie (HT). • Please note, that as a small school, we will endeavour to answer your email as soon as we possible.
<p>Class Teacher Enquiries.</p> 	<p>Our teaching staff are highly skilled in being able to provide you will support/assurance about a range of issues where you may require clarification. As the Class Teacher is the lead professional in your child's day to day education, the SLT highly value their professional judgement and ability to ensure that your child is happy, safe and reaches their full potential.</p>

	<p>Issues that Class Teacher's will be able to assist you with, in the first instance of contact with the school include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Homework. • Class work. • Situations that have arisen in class. • Situations that have arisen in the playground. • Friendships and peer relationships. • Issues surrounding behaviour. • Responsibilities that pupil's may have. • Class trips. • Progress update/ Child's Plan targets. <p>NB. This list is not exhaustive.</p> <p><u>Contacting the Class Teacher:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Homework Diary - this is an effective means of a two way written correspondence. • Phone call to the School Office. • Email to St. Fillan's enquiries. • Informally - in the playground. <p><u>When you contact your Child's Class Teacher, you can expect:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Your enquiry/concern to be treated seriously. • Your enquiry/ concern to be treated in a professional, confidential manner. • Your enquiry to be dealt with in a timeously and efficient manner. (Within five working days).
<p>Enquiries to the Senior Leadership Team (SLT).</p>	<p>Mrs McPherson in her role as Principal Teacher and Pupil Support Co-ordinator in St. Fillan's is happy to assist you with enquires relating to the following issues:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pastoral care. • Changing family circumstances. • Bereavement.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pupil Support. • Matters involving partners/ external agencies. <p>Mrs Mackenzie in her role as Head Teacher has overall responsibility for the school. She is happy to assist you with enquires relating to the following issues:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Child Protection. • Social Work. • Issues relating to the Health and Safety of pupils/ staff and school community. • School Improvement. • Issues directly relating to Renfrewshire Council. • Changing family circumstances/ confidential issues. • Pastoral care. • Issues relating to finances/ cost of the school day. • Class structures/ staffing concerns. • School Transport. <p><u>When making contact with any member of the SLT, you can expect:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Your enquiry/issue to be treated seriously. • Your enquiry/ concern to be treated in a professional, confidential manner. • Your enquiry to be dealt with in a timeously and efficient manner. (Within five working days).
<p>Contact in relation to Medical issues/ First Aid.</p> 	<p>Mrs June Kelly is our fully trained First Aid advisor.</p> <p>If your child requires medicine to be administered during the school day, then Mrs Kelly will oversee this.</p> <p>Please note that the appropriate 'Medicine Form' must be completed at the School Office prior to any medicines being administered.</p> <p>If your child's medical status changes, then it is imperative that this information is shared with the</p>

Office Staff and Mrs Kelly. This includes changes to inhalers, eyesight, hearing, allergies etc.

Please note that you may receive a telephone call during the school day from Mrs Kelly if your child has received First Aid/ Medical attention.



Meet the Teacher:

Unfortunately, we are unable to offer a 'Meet the Teacher' session with you this August.

Instead, Class Teacher's will produce a Powerpoint Presentation that will be circulated electronically to the parent body and be available to view online.

The presentations will provide you with the core information you will require to support your child this school session. We will also invite you to complete a FORMS page which will enable you to confidentially share any other information about your child with us.

You will be notified when presentations will be available to view.

Reporting to Parents:



Following the success of target setting across the school, Class Teacher's will work with the children to assist them in setting ambitious, yet achievable targets in Literacy, Numeracy and Health and Well-being. Mrs McPherson will arrange for targets to be sent home during Term 1.

Attainment:

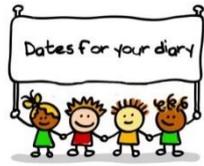


Assessment: SNSA - GL Assessments:

We will continue to make use of the GL Assessments in order to assist us in making informed judgements about the progress of individual children.

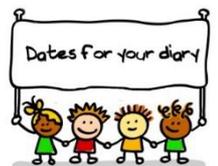
The timetable will include the testing of all primaries in: Reading, Spelling and Numeracy and the assessment window will commence from August.

As a school, we will continue to track the progress of all children via our termly 'Tracking and Progress Meetings' with Class Teachers.

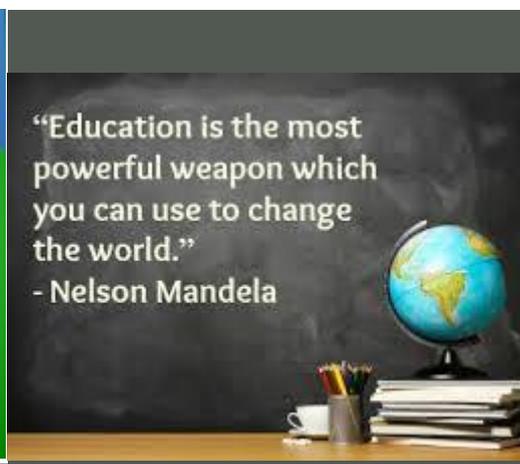
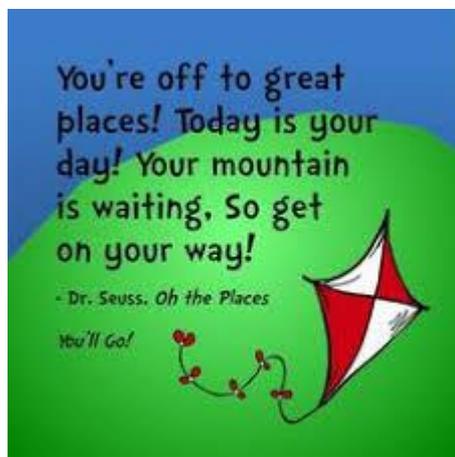


August 2021: This month's core value is: RESPECT and Gospel Value: JUSTICE.

Day/Date	Event
Thursday 12 th August 2021	In-service Day for Staff.
Friday 13 th August 2021	In-service Day for Staff.
Monday 16 th August 2021	Pupils return to school. Welcome back!
Wednesday 18 th August 2021	Official school photographs to be taken today by TEMPEST.
Tuesday 24 th August 2021	Primary 7 Bike Checks today. Please bring bikes into school.
Friday 27 th August 2021	House Photographs today. Please ensure that your child wears their House colour in the form of a t-shirt for their photograph. These photographs will be displayed 'Pride of Place' in the Central Area!
Tuesday 31 st August 2021	Primary 7 Bikeability today - Playground 1.



Final Thoughts:



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Renfrewshire School holidays 2021-2022

First term - August to December 2021

Description	Date
In service day	Thursday 12 August 2021
In service day	Friday 13 August 2021
Schools reopen (pupils return)	Monday 16 August 2021
September weekend (schools closed)	Friday 24 September 2021 and Monday 27 September 2021
Schools reopen	Tuesday 28 September 2021
October holiday (schools closed)	Monday 11 October 2021 to Friday 15 October 2021 (inclusive)
In service day	Monday 18 October 2021
Schools reopen	Tuesday 19 October 2021
St Andrew's Day (schools closed)	Tuesday 30 November 2021
Schools reopen	Wednesday 1 December 2021
Last day of the session	Wednesday 22 December 2021

Description	Date
Christmas and New Year break (schools closed)	Thursday 23 December 2021 to Wednesday 5 January 2022 (inclusive)

Second term - January to April 2022

Description	Date
Schools reopen	Thursday 6 January 2022
February mid-term break (schools closed)	Monday 14 February 2022 to Tuesday 15 February 2022 (inclusive)
In service day	Wednesday 16 February 2022
Schools reopen	Thursday 17 February 2022
Spring holiday (schools closed)	Monday 4 April 2022 to Monday 18 April 2022 (inclusive)

Third term - April to June 2022

The Queen will celebrate her 70th anniversary, also known as her Platinum Jubilee, in the first weekend of June 2022.

To create a four-day weekend for the jubilee, the UK government has proposed that one of the public holidays in May is moved to Thursday 2 June and an additional public holiday given on Friday 3 June 2022. As our school holiday calendar for session 2021/2022 has already been agreed, if this change is approved by the council then we would look to align our school holiday arrangements by moving the agreed holidays from Friday 27 May and Monday 30 May 2022 to Wednesday 1 June, Thursday 2 June and Friday 3 June 2022.

As you will be aware, all school calendar dates must be approved by elected members. The proposed changes to the school holiday calendar for session 2021-2022 would need to be presented to the Education and Children's Services policy board. It is likely to be after the summer break (August 2021) before any change is formally agreed. Once the dates have been approved, we will update this webpage to confirm the dates. In the meantime, we have updated the table of dates below to show what is being proposed.

Description	Date
Schools reopen	Tuesday 19 April 2022
May Day (schools closed)	Monday 2 May 2022
In service day	Thursday 5 May 2022
Schools reopen	Friday 6 May 2022
Local holiday (schools closed)	Friday 27 May 2022 and Monday 30 May 2022 (will move to first week in June if approved by elected members)
Schools reopen	Tuesday 31 May 2022 (will be removed if change to public holiday dates approved by elected members)
Queen's jubilee (schools closed)	Wednesday 1 to Friday 3 June 2022 (subject to approval by elected members)
Schools reopen	Monday 6 June 2022 (subject to approval by elected members)
Last day of session	Wednesday 29 June 2022

Teachers return for school year 2022-23 on Friday 12 August 2022

Teacher in service days

In service days are when schools are open to teachers and school staff only. Pupils are not allowed within the school on those days.

- Thursday 12 August 2021
- Friday 13 August 2021
- Monday 18 October 2021
- Wednesday 16 February 2022
- Thursday 5 May 2022