



Faith Respect Responsibility Trust Teamwork Success



St. Fillan's Primary School Newsletter

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May/June 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 May Message:

School life has been as busy as ever following our return to school after Easter.

It has been lovely to see our Primary 7 children return as Seniors and proudly sporting their Leaver's hoodies which they have waited so patiently to receive! For the families that are due to leave us at the end of this school session, we hope that you will enjoy your last few months and look upon your child's time at St. Fillan's with fondness and hearts full of happy memories.

Towards the end of last term, it was heart-warming to see the forming and growing of relationships between our Primary 7 children and their 'Wee Buddies' in Primary 2/1. The children have all benefitted from regular 'Buddy Time' inputs and shared some planned learning experiences which have been showcased through our social media platforms. Such activities have included: the promotion of social skills through games, Buddy Reading Time, outdoor Scavenger Hunt and class visits. We look forward to nurturing these relationships in the final term of this school session.

This session, the team have worked hard to provide stability and consistency for the children in this, their first full year at school for a number of years and through a nurturing approach, we have endeavoured to settle the children and promote a readiness to learn through work and play. We will continue to build relationships with you and our children through a climate of mutual respect and trust as we look forward to welcoming a new school session which will mirror our pre Covid school life.

We thank you for your continued support and trust and we look forward to strengthening our partnership working.

Take care and God Bless,

Claire Mackenzie Head Teacher

*Be Brave Unleash Creativity Demonstrate Excellence Show/Radiate Enthusiasm
'In Learning, we are growing and succeeding Together.'*

The Religious Life and Ethos of our School:

Sacramental Update:



Primary 4 - Reconciliation & First Holy Communion

It was with great joy and celebration that our Primary 4 children celebrated their Sacraments of Reconciliation and First Holy Communion.

The children were a credit to their families, Parish and the school community and we thank you for keeping the children and their teacher in your prayers.

Primary 7 - Confirmation:



The boys and girls in Primary 7 will make their Sacrament of Confirmation in St. Fillan's Church on **Monday 30th May 2022 at 6.30pm** along with their teachers, families and Sponsor.

Bishop John will visit the children in school on: **Wednesday 25th May 2022** as they make their final preparations in receiving this most blessed Sacrament.

Please continue to keep the children, their teachers and Father Andrew and Sister Mary Frances in your prayers.

Bishops' Charity:



The boys and girls in Primary 7 have been organising a fun filled fundraising event which will help them to raise funds for the Bishop's Charity. This is part of their annual preparation towards Confirmation and it is an opportunity for the children to put their faith into action by raising funds for a worthwhile cause.

The event will take place on **Friday 20th May 2022** and the children are being asked to contribute £1.50 through ParentPay which would entitle them to a cake/sweet treat in the morning and admission into the 'Fun Zone' for a slot in the afternoon!

It has been a long time since the children enjoyed a 'Bake Sale' and Primary 7 are asking for any donations of home/ pre bought baking to be handed into the school on either Thursday 19th May or Friday 20th May.

Further details were issued via letter and Primary 7 will provide reminders nearer the time via Social Media.

The children and their teachers would like to thank you in advance for your support and contributions.

Sacramental Celebrations:

Due to ongoing mitigations, we were unable to host a First Holy Communion breakfast as would traditionally be organised by the Parent Council. As an alternative, we have organised for the children in Primaries 4 and 7 to enjoy a class party at the end of May. The children will spend time together engaging in fun activities and they will be provided with treats and a celebration cake.



The Month of May:

During the month of May, we provide the children with opportunities to honour our Lady, the Mother of Jesus.

We will seek to do this in a variety of ways including class activities and visits to the Grotto in the Church grounds where the children will engage in prayer and reflection.

The children in Primary 7 have been taking part in the 'Consecration to Jesus through Mary' Novena which is endorsed by Bishop John which involves protected time for daily/weekly reading, prayers and reflection.

We invite you to say a decade of the Rosary as a family during this month and share your children's special intentions.



End of Term Thanksgiving/Leaver's Mass:

Our end of term 'Primary 4/7 Thanksgiving and P7 Leaver's Mass' will take place on **Tuesday 28th June 2022 at 11.00am** in St. Fillan's Church.

The children are requested to 'Dress for Excellence' wearing full school uniform, shirts and ties and school shoes where possible.

Families are invited to be in attendance and there are no current restrictions on the number of guests.

The children in Primary 4 and 7 will take part in a presentation where they will receive their Sacramental certificates and Primary 7 will be presented with their 'Leaver's Gift.'

We do hope that you can join with us on this day and look forward to welcoming you.

In Thanksgiving...

We would like to take this opportunity to thank Father Andrew and Sister Mary Frances for all their hard work and dedication to our school and community.

They are a constant source of both spiritual and physical support to us as a staff and to the children whom we serve, and we are indebted to them for their kindness and commitment.

Laudato Si' Programme Update:



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 and before Easter, every class engaged in specific learning around the first quote shared by Pope Francis:

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

Learning was bespoke in each class with the children reflecting upon how they wished to take their learning forward and there was a clear focus on ensuring that there was a practical element involved in helping to raise awareness that it is our responsibility to help preserve our planet for future generations.

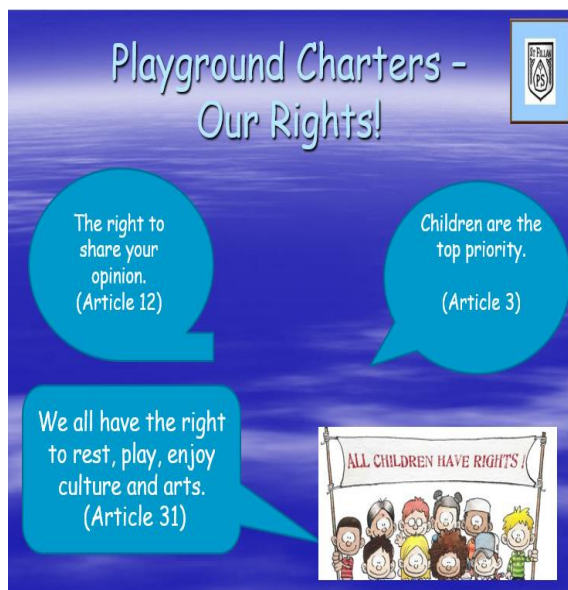
In St. Fillan's, our class and playground charters are founded upon the three key principles of our children being: Ready, Respectful, Safe. Our school rules/expectations of: Kind Words, Kind Feet, Kind Hands and Kind Heart also fit into this expectation.

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 will focus on the principle of being 'Respectful' 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!

It would be helpful if you were able to reinforce the principles of the Playground Charter at home with your child/children. This will help to promote consistency and a sense of unity in our approach.





Health Promoting Schools:

In the last few months, we have noticed an increase in the number of sugary snacks that the children are bringing into school either as a playtime snack or as part of their lunch.

As a health promoting school, we are committed in ensuring that our children are encouraged to make good choices around the selection of healthy snacks and drinks, and we would appreciate your support with this matter.

Next session, we will focus some of our Committee work around 'Healthy Eating' and the key focus of this group will be to raise awareness of the benefits of making treat wise decisions.

Please also be reminded that plain drinking water is the preferred option in children's water bottles. The children will be encouraged to put sugary alternatives into their bags for consumption after school or at home.

Everyone is kindly reminded that we are a 'Nut Free Zone' and as such, we do not promote snacks/ packed lunch options with the addition of nuts.

Sharing our Learning:

Over the next few weeks, we will be showcasing the learning that has taken place during our 'BUDS Skills Academy' afternoons.

This will be shared via video clips on our Fillan Bear Facebook page with classes being 'twinned' with another to share their learning with peers.

A range of learning will be shared from work around Growth Mindset, the UNCRC Agenda, Enterprise, Financial Education, Problem Solving, Critical Thinking and Creativity.

We hope you enjoy viewing this showcase and look forward to the time when you can join us face to face.

Sports Day 2022:



The proposed date for Sports Day will be Thursday 9th June 2022.

It is our intention to follow a similar programme from previous years whereby the children and staff will make use of the grounds within Gryffe High School to take part in a range of potted sports. These activities will be organised by our Active Schools Team and the Young Sports Leaders in Gryffe High.

The afternoon's events will consist of the traditional flat races and all parents/carers and families are invited to join us in the park for an afternoon of fun and games.

A letter will be issued in due course via ParentPay to finalise these arrangements and provide further details.

Primary 1 Induction Programme:



We are looking forward to welcoming our new Primary 1 children and their families along to the school on Tuesday 17th May and Tuesday 24th May at 1.30pm for their Induction afternoons.

The Induction afternoons will provide an opportunity for the children to visit their new class, meet one another and become familiar with the school and staff.

Our Primary 6 'Big Bear Buddies' will be on hand to support the children and they have already introduced themselves by sending letters through the post.

Being a buddy is just the beginning for our Primary 6 children who will begin to undertake the roles and responsibilities that are expected of our Primary 7 children. We hope that through time, House and Vice Captain roles will be reinstated along with wet play Monitors and Playground Mediators.

Primary 7 Transition Programme:



Primary 7 will continue with their transition programme at class level delivered by both Class Teachers and the Primary 7 St. Benedict's Transition teacher, Pamela Grey.

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Although based in St. Benedict's, Ms Grey is well equipped to support all our children in her role.

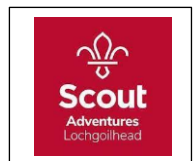
When information becomes available from any of our High Schools, we send this information directly to parents via ParentPay/ email as requested. This will include information such as Parents Information evenings and formal Induction days.

Mrs McPherson and Class Teachers are involved in the transfer of information of our children to our associated High Schools who will then process this information as per their own policy and practice.

If there are any direct questions around your child's transition to High School, then please contact Mrs McPherson at the school who will be happy to assist you.

Primary 6 and 7 Residential Experience:

It would be safe to say that the children who attended this year's residential experience had an amazing time!



The photographs that were shared through Fillan Bear certainly brought our school values and aims alive through lots of examples of responsibility, teamwork, being brave, radiating enthusiasm and of course faith!

Our children were a credit to their families, to us and to our school community and they demonstrated a great deal of resilience and grit/perseverance when overcoming challenges.

A huge 'Thank you' to everyone who made this excursion possible, to Mrs Sutherland who works tirelessly in the background and to the teachers who committed their time away from their own families to ensure that our children had the best experience possible. We also thank our families who were supportive and receptive to the idea from the very beginning despite the ongoing uncertainty. #Family #Teamwork #Success!

Primary 7 Leaver's Celebrations:

Local arrangements between Primary schools have agreed that the leavers celebrations for our Primary 7 children will be consistent throughout the locality to ensure fairness.

The children will participate in a 'Fun Day' on **Monday 20th June 2022** and Class Teacher's are undertaking discussions with the children as to what this event will look like.

The children very much enjoyed their fun day last session and the Parent Council were on hand to ensure the children experienced the best day possible.



Class Structure and Composition 2022 - 2023:

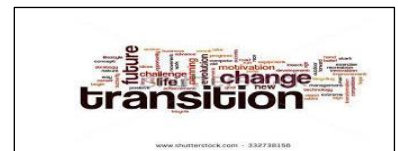
As soon as we have confirmation of our staffing allocation for 2022 - 2023, then we will be able to share our proposed class structure for the new session. This will be shared via formal letter.

We thank you in advance for your patience and understanding as this process is finalised.

Stage to Stage Transition:

Our proposed 'Bump Up' day will take place on **Tuesday 21st June 2022**. This is an opportunity for the school to group into their new classes with their new Class Teacher's prior to stopping for the Summer holidays.

Feedback from previous sessions have suggested that this transitional opportunity has been invaluable in helping to alleviate any concerns that children may have around the transition into their new class.



Whole School Summer Excursion:

Our whole school Summer trip will take place on **Thursday 23rd June 2022** and this year's destination is to Finlaystone Country Park where the children visited last June.

Finlaystone is an excellent venue for the whole school trip and there will be opportunities for each class to take part in three planned sessions which will be age and stage specific.

Further details around payment has been issued via letter and a final letter outlining arrangements will be circulated via ParentPay in due course.



School Uniform: Dressing for Excellence!



In this Newsletter, it would timely for us to circulate a general reminder around our 'Dressing for Excellence' school uniform policy which is inline with both our associated High Schools and we thank you in advance for your support and co-operation with this matter.

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:

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 advice 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.

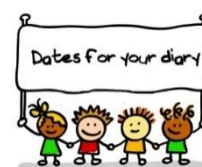
Reporting to Parents:

The children's end of term reports will be circulated to all parents/carers the week beginning **Monday 13th June 2022.**

If you have any questions, then Class Teacher's would be happy to speak to you with regard to the content of reports.

May 2022: This month's core value is: FAITH and Gospel HOPE/ RESILIENCE.

Day/Date	Event
Tuesday 10 th May to Friday 13 th May 2022	Primary 7 Residential Experience in Lochgoilhead.
Saturday 14 th May 2022	Primary 4's First Holy Communion at 10am in St. Fillan's Church.
Monday 16 th May 2022	Walk to School Week - Promoted by the 'Travel Committee' in Primary 7.
Tuesday 17 th May 2022	Primary 1 Induction Afternoon 1 at 1.30pm.
Thursday 19 th May 2022	Primary 7 taking part in 'Heartstart' Training. Everyone is welcome to meet at the school gates at 3pm for training in the use of the defibrillator.
Friday 20 th May 2022	BUDS Showcase of 'Sharing the Learning' shared with Parents/Carers via Social Media. Bishop's Charity 'Fun Day' event organised by Primary 7.
Tuesday 24 th May 2022	Primary 1 Induction Afternoon 2 at 1.30pm.
Wednesday 25 th May 2022	Bishop John visiting the Confirmandi. Primary 6 Swimming Session at the On-X. Primary 5 Squash taster in the afternoon.
Thursday 26 th May 2022	Ascension Thursday - Mass will be at 11.00am in St. Fillan's Church for the school.



Friday 27 th May 2022	HOLIDAY! Enjoy! 😊
Monday 30 th May 2022	Primary 7 Confirmation at 6.30pm in St. Fillan's Church.
Tuesday 31 st May 2022	Class Committees today at 11.00am.

June 2022: This month's core value is: TRUST and Gospel Value: THE LOST AND THE LEAST.



Day/Date	Event
Wednesday 1 st June 2022	Primary 6 Swimming Session at the On-X.
Thursday 2 nd June 2022	Queen's Platinum Jubilee Holiday. Enjoy! 😊
Friday 3 rd June 2022	Queen's Platinum Jubilee Holiday. Enjoy! 😊
Tuesday 7 th June 2022	Primary 7 Induction at St. Benedict's.
Wednesday 8 th June 2022	Primary 7 Induction at St. Benedict's.
Thursday 9 th June 2022	Proposed Sports Day - Weather Permitting!
Monday 13 th to Thursday 16 th June 2022	Primary 7 Induction at Gryffe High School.
Monday 13 th June 2022	End of Term Reports circulated to all Parents/Carers.
Monday 20 th June 2022	Primary 7 Leaver's Event.

Faith Respect Responsibility Trust Teamwork Success

Wednesday 22 nd June 2022	Stage to stage Transition - 'Bump Up Day.'
Thursday 23 rd June 2022	Whole School Summer Trip to Finlaystone.
Tuesday 28 th June 2022	<p>Primary 4 and Primary 7 Thanksgiving/ Leaver's Mass at 11.00am in St. Fillan's Church.</p> <p>School closes for the Summer holidays at 1.00pm. Wishing everyone a happy and safe Summer break with lots of time to make special memories with family and friends.</p>

Final Thoughts: #Trust #Faith



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