



Faith Respect Responsibility Trust Team Work Success



St. Fillan's Primary School Newsletter

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October/November 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



Head Teacher's October's Message:

We hope that all of our families enjoyed some quality time together during the October break and that you managed to get out and about when the weather stayed dry!

We are super proud of the children and all their efforts during Term 1 in settling back into school life and some kind of 'normal' routine. We know it has not been easy and the pandemic has continued to take its toll in the health and wellbeing of everyone, but our children have shown great strength, determination and resilience in carrying on despite the challenges and they are a real credit to you and to our school.

Slowly and cautiously, we are reintroducing our leadership roles in Primary 7 whilst adhering to ongoing mitigations. Our Primary 7's undertook their 'Buddy Training' and have been paired with a 'Wee Buddy' in the Primary 2/1 class. It has been just lovely to see our children help and support one another as members of a family should.

Primary 6 and 7 will begin their 'Playmaker' training in partnership with Active Schools. When they have qualified as a 'Playmaker,' then they will undertake their playground duties in facilitating play, fun and inclusion within our playground making good use of the new play equipment that was kindly gifted to us by the Parent Council, on behalf of the Parent Body.

It would be great to see the children fully prepared for the cold outdoor weather with warm jackets, woolly hats, scarfs and gloves!

This term is one of changing seasons, Autumnal wonder and magic and we hope to enjoy some wonderful learning adventures with the children.

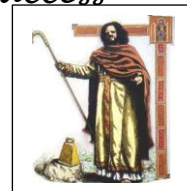
Take care and stay safe,

Claire Mackenzie

Head Teacher

*Together
We Make A
Family ♥*

*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:

October Devotions:

To honour 'Our Lady,' through October Devotions, Father Andrew and Sister Mary Frances have invited each class to visit the Church to share in a prayer service of celebration and worship.

The children are more than welcome to bring in their Rosary Beads, should they wish to do so.

Sacramental Update:

Many thanks to everyone who was able to attend the Primary 4 and/ or the Primary 7 Sacramental Meeting.

Everyone should have received an information pack and we would be grateful if you were able to return the slip outlining your intention to present your child for their Sacraments if you have not already done so.

Catholic Education Week:



Catholic Education Week begins on Tuesday 16th November and this year's theme is: Celebrating and Worshipping. The theme considers how wonderful it is to be part of a Catholic school community and aims to promote and celebrate the ethos within a Catholic school.

Class Teacher's will plan associated activities around this year's theme which include: revisiting the Sacraments, the Liturgical Calendar, Prayer Reflections, exploring the Psalms and finding out more information about their own Parish,

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 'Teamwork' and the Gospel Value of 'Gentleness.' We are looking forward to 'catching' our children going 'Above and Beyond' when displaying these values in their thoughts, actions and words.

The school aim that we will focus on is: 'Demonstrate Excellence' and this will be a focus in learning opportunities that are provided in the classroom.

'Excellence' can mean different things to different people and it can look differently depending on your perspective but for us in St. Fillan's, excellence is about 'greatness.' It's about being the best version of you, to try your very best even when there are obstacles and challenges to overcome. To achieve excellence is never easy, so it involves resilience, determination and grit.

We would like for our children, staff and families to demonstrate excellence in all that they do, but in particular within their character through kindness, gentleness, empathy and compassion for others.

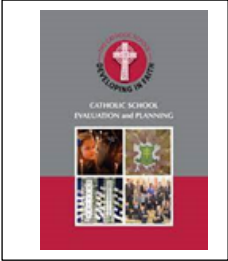



School Improvement Planning:


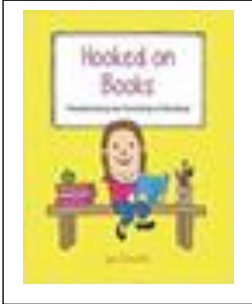
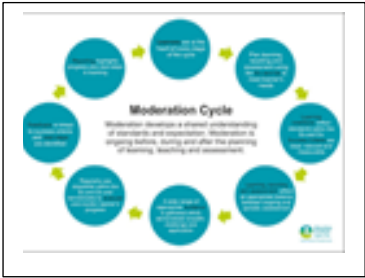


Each year, every school across the authority produces an evaluation of the school's successes and achievements from the previous school session in a report entitled: 'Standards and Qualities.' A copy of our report from the session 2020 - 2021 can be located on our school website in the tab 'Helpful Information for Parents/Carers' and within the 'Additional School Information' section.

A copy of this session's 'School Improvement Plan' can also be found in the same section of our website as highlighted above.

For ease of reference, we have aligned the core areas of our School Improvement Plan to our school values. Our values are what we believe in and they are the beating heart of our school, therefore school improvement is centred around our vision and beliefs as a community of faith and learning.

School Value	School Improvement Rationale
<p>Faith</p>  	<p><u>Developing as a Community of Faith and the Implementation of Laudato si:</u></p> <p>Following an extended period of Lockdown and the impact of the global pandemic, we recognise the importance of reconnecting with one another, our Parish and Cluster as a community of faith.</p> <p>We want our children to learn in an environment where they are ecologically aware through prayer, learning and action.</p> <p>We will nurture a culture of ecological vocation in our learners and school community through the implementation of the 'Laudato Si programme.</p>
<p>Respect</p> 	<p><u>UNCRC – The Rights of the Child:</u></p> <p>By taking into account of national priorities and guidance, we recognise that children's rights and wellbeing are intrinsically linked and when a child's rights have been respected, protected and fulfilled, then their wellbeing should improve. We will make effective use of self- evaluation to ensure that a rights-based approach is adopted in our school to begin the formal embedding of children's rights into all aspects of school life and beyond.</p>
<p>Responsibility</p> 	<p><u>Health and Wellbeing:</u></p> <p>Through self-evaluation and the gathering of quantitative data, we recognise the need for a more bespoke programme to be implemented in order to support the health and wellbeing of staff, groups of children and targeted individuals.</p> <p>We will facilitate this change through the implementation of the 'Treehouse Programme.'</p>
<p>Trust</p>	<p><u>Relational Practice/ Rebuilding Relationships and Reconnecting as a Community of Learning:</u></p>

	<p>Following an unsettled and challenging academic year, we recognise the need to focus on relational practice as a school community to rebuild trust and relationships. This will be key in our 'Building Back Stronger and Smarter' Recovery Agenda.</p>
<p>Teamwork</p> 	<p><u>Developing Reading:</u></p> <p>We recognise the importance of Reading as being crucial to children's development and potential for success in life. Through professional dialogue we have identified that there is an appetite amongst staff to review and improve our pedagogical practice around reading and foster a productive reading culture within our school.</p> <p>We want to ensure that our children are challenged appropriately within their reading to enable them to fulfil and exceed their potential.</p> <p>We will facilitate this strategic change through the implementation of the 'Hooked on Books' evidence-based approach.</p>
<p>Success</p> 	<p><u>Moderation of Learning and Teaching:</u></p> <p>Due to impact of COVID 19 and subsequent lockdowns, we recognise there is potential for significant negative impact on attainment levels in literacy, particularly in writing, of our pupils. We recognise that we need to provide strong curricular focus for our pupils to re-establish work routines and close the attainment gap. We also recognise the need to moderate and share standards in our school community to keep aspirations and expectations high for all learners.</p>



Social Media:

We have noticed a growing number of parents/carers sending Facebook messages to the 'Fillan Bear' Facebook page.

Unfortunately, due to limited staff capacity, we are unable to regularly monitor the page and respond to messages in a timely manner. Therefore, we would kindly ask that any enquiries are directed to the School Office via telephone call or through the St. Fillan's enquiries mailbox.

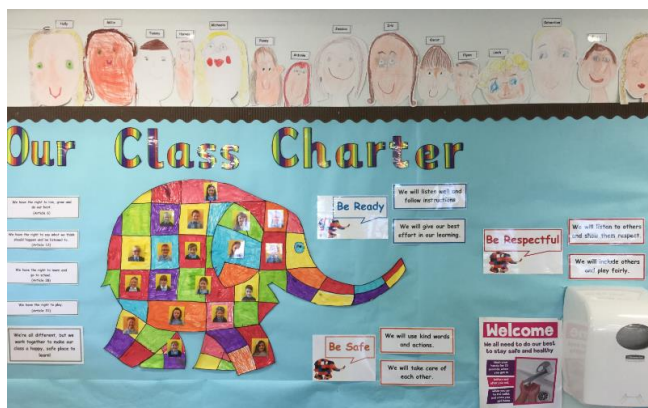
Ensuring Equality, Inclusion and Health and Wellbeing (HIGIOS4 3.1):

Class Charters:

Each class has created their own 'Class Charter' which is based around the St. Fillan Standard of 'Ready, Respectful, Safe.'

The children have considered the UNCRC 'Rights of the Child' as basis for co-creating desirable class expectations with their teacher.

Please ask your child to share the expectations outlined in their Class Charter with you.



Primary 2/1



Primary 3

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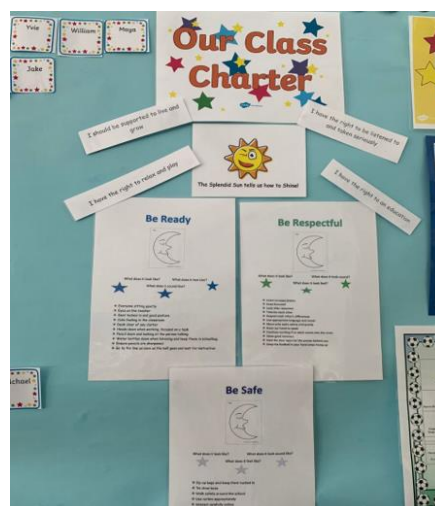
Primary 4/3



Primary 5



Primary 6



Primary 7

Health and Wellbeing: Anti Bullying:

During the month of November, the children will take part in a three week block of Anti Bullying lessons. These learning experiences will also refer to Cyberbullying. The theme of this year's Anti Bullying week which begins on the 15th November 2021 is: 'One Kind Word' and as kindness underpins all of our school values, this is an area that we will be working on together to promote through various whole school activities.

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The children will take part in an Anti Bullying poster competition to remind us of the key messages associated with bullying behaviour.

The children will also have the opportunity to work as part of a team and earn 'House Points' by demonstrating the behaviours that they want to see in the playground. They will work hard to 'catch' others demonstrating the behaviours that they have identified as desirable within their Playground Charters.

In St. Fillan's, we focus on preventative measures to discourage bullying behaviour through having an inclusive ethos and a focus on celebrating diversity.

The 'Keep Safe' kids app is available to download onto mobile devices from the app store and provides useful links to charities and organisations that can help support children and families with important issues around health and wellbeing.

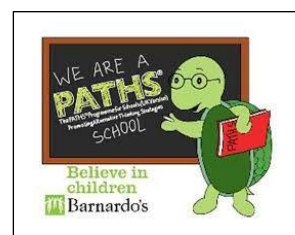
Health and Wellbeing Programmes:

Promoting Alternative Thinking Strategies (PATHS):

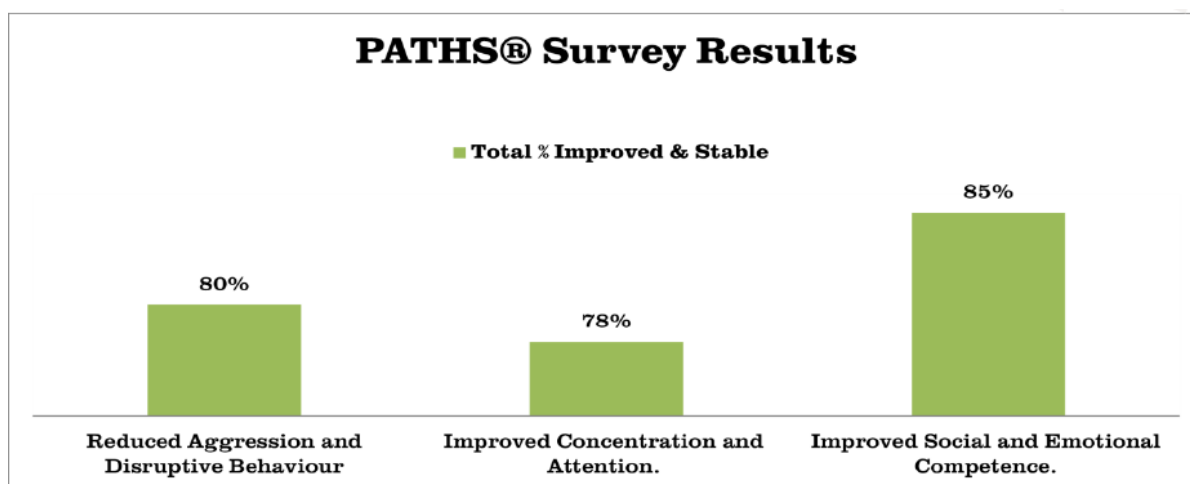
This year, we embark upon our fifth year participating in the PATHS programme, we are delighted to share data of the impact that the programme has made on improving outcomes for our learners.

The data is based on the impact of the programme from the last academic session and it shows the percentage of added value in each of the three key areas that PATHS aims to develop: reduced aggression/disruptive behaviour, improved concentration/attention and improved social/emotional competence.

We are encouraged by our results and hope to build upon the success of the programme this academic session.



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Treehouse:

This term, our children will engage in a new series of online modules which are designed to develop a whole host of key skills in relation to health and wellbeing.

Each module encourages a 'Dinner Table' conversation and this is an opportunity for families to discuss the key learning and concepts being explored in each module. Please ask your children what they have been learning about in 'Treehouse' and hopefully you will enjoy and benefit from some fruitful 'Dinner Table Conversations.'

An overview of the key skills that the children will develop is as follows:

Primary Stage	Key Skills
Primary 2/1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mindfulness • Wellbeing • Happiness • Creativity • Problem Solving • Confidence • Emotional Intelligence
Primary 3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Worry • Wellbeing • Senses • Creativity • Responsibility • Choices • Kindness



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Emotional Intelligence • Wellbeing
Primary 4/3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Health • Wellbeing • Habits • Creativity • Communication • Confidence • Perspective • Compassion • Listening
Primary 5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mindset • Perspective • Confidence • Creativity • Attention • Decision Making • Aspirations • Strengths • Career Planning
Primary 6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kindness • Mental Health • Wellbeing • Self-belief • Self-improvement • Mindset • Time Management • Social Media
Primary 7	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Leadership • Followership • Success • Creativity • Communication • Courage • Mindset • Gratitude • Happiness



Snow and Ice Arrangements:

As the weather continues to become cooler and more wintry, there is always the potential for snow and icy conditions.

Our 'Snow and Ice' risk assessment has been updated in line with Renfrewshire Council's policy and practice and we would ask that both children and adults walk on the path that the janitorial staff have cleared on days when there is adverse weather conditions.



Active Schools:

Our Active Schools timetable is now available using the 'Class4Kids' link as highlighted below for the sessions highlighted in red:

St Fillan's	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Afterschool	P3-P4	P4-5	P5-P7	P1-P2	
3-4pm	Multi Sport	Drama	Netball	Multi Sport	
	Emma	Miss Barr	Miss Duffy	Emma	

<https://rl-stfillans.class4kids.co.uk/>

The 'Multi Sport' clubs will start week beginning [Monday 25th October](#) for **4 weeks** and the Netball and Drama club will commence the week beginning: [Monday 1st November 2021](#). Renfrewshire Council are funding the delivery of the clubs this term and therefore, there will be no charge for participation.

We hope to see lots of our children sign up to clubs that will help to improve their emotional, social and mental wellbeing and resilience.

Fun, Safe, Fair!

Class Committees:

To adhere to current mitigations, our school Committees this session are being facilitated within each class.

Each class meets once a month for an extended period of time 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 a few of our Committees:

Primary 2/1: STEM Committee (Sciences, Technologies, Engineering and Mathematics):



Committee Aims	Intended Impact
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To take part in fun, imaginative and creative STEM activities. 	<p>We will take part in different STEM activities. We will take photos and record our experiences and findings in our STEM floorbook.</p>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To share our learning in STEM with other classes and set them challenges. 	<p>Mrs Kaney will share our photos and floorbook pages on Google Classroom for other classes to see. We will set other classes a STEM challenge like ours (e.g. building a bridge) and ask them to share their results on Google Classroom</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To help plan some activities for STEM week in March. 	<p>We will record our ideas for STEM week in our floorbook and Mrs Kaney will help us put them into action.</p>

Primary 4: Mini Vinnies/Charity:



Committee Aims	Intended Impact
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To plan and promote Catholic Education Week across the school. 	<p>Promote the meaning and importance of Catholic Education Week.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Arrange fundraising event for Missio Scotland during Advent. 	<p>Fundraising for Missio Scotland. We will benefit from showing kindness to others less fortunate than ourselves.</p>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Arrange fundraising event during Lent. 	Fundraising for Missio Scotland. Promotion of Lent and Gospel Values.
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Primary 7: Travel Plan:



Committee Aims	Intended Impact
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Seek reflective keyrings for every child in the school to ensure they can be seen by traffic during the dark winter months. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All children encouraged to attach to their school bag so they are safer as they walk to and from school.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Class set a challenge to research the role of JRSO so they can be good JRSO for ST Fillan's PS. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Children to have more knowledge and know what the role of JRSO entails.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ask Craig Dalziel to come in and share his expertise 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Children to have more knowledge and know what the role of JRSO entails.

on Road safety and to help generate ideas and actions for the group for the rest of the year.	
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School Fundraising:

Due to the success of our first 'Back to School' Hamper which raised over £150.00 for school funds, Mrs Kelly has organised a 'Halloween Hamper' as part of ongoing fundraising activities. Tickets will be priced at 50p per ticket and the children will be invited to purchase a ticket in the afternoon from [Wednesday 20th October 2021](#), should they wish to do so. All monies raised will go directly into school funds which will be spent on the children.

Renfrewshire Nurturing Relationships Approach (RNRA):

We were delighted to officially receive our 'Jade' RNRA Accreditation certificate as part of our ongoing commitment to nurture within our school and community.

We have already started our work within the 'Ruby' area of accreditation and look forward to putting our plans into place as the session continues.



Beat the Streets!



A huge 'Well done' to everyone who embraced the 'Beat the Streets' wellbeing challenge.

As a school, we raised over 25, 000 points which was amazing for a school of our size!

It was lovely to see the children so excited about this worthwhile initiative and race to scan their fobs at the 'Beat Boxes' either before of after school and we hope you found the game to be beneficial to your and your families health and wellbeing.

Parent Council Update:



Diary Dates:

The parent council intend to run the Christmas Fayre on Friday 19th November between 6.00 - 8.30pm. Opportunities exist for any stall holders and collections will be held weekly for our bottle and chocolate stalls. This is a popular event in our school calendar and welcome all families to attend. More information to follow.

The 50/50 Club has been a great success raising over £500 to date, all of which will be used to support the school. Numbers are available and cost £5.00 per month and if you are interested in joining, please contact stfillansparentscouncil@outlook.com.

Transitions (HIGIOS4 2.7):

Primary 1 Registration:



Please be advised that this year's registration for 2022 - 2023 will take place from **Monday 1st November to Friday 5th November 2021 for children** who will be 5 years of age between 1st March 2022 and 28th February 2023.

The process is facilitated through an online platform and further details can be found on Renfrewshire Council's website: www.renfrewshire.gov.uk

St. Fillan's is a fabulous school and we rely upon recommendations from our Parent Body and those in the community to recommend us to new families/friends within the Houston/surrounding area.



Learning and Teaching:

Being part of a small school has many benefits including the wider range of opportunities that our children receive. Here is a snapshot of some of the activities that classes will participate in over the next term:



COP26:

The raising of awareness around environmental issues is central to our work within the 'Laudato Si' religious programme and every class across the school will engage in a series of learning and teaching learning experiences around the importance of doing what we can to preserve our planet for the benefit of future generations.

Scottish Traditional Music:

Primary 5 will take part in an eight week block of 'Traditional Scottish Music' lessons with the instructor Sean. They will learn about traditional Scottish musical instruments and have a go at performing and singing in Gaelic.

NYCOS (National Youth Choir of Scotland) Singing Games & Rhymes:

The boys and girls in Primaries 2/1, 3 and 4/3 will take part in a six week block of 'Singing Games and Rhymes.' They will participate in singing traditional Scottish songs and rhymes which will be facilitated by Kirsty and Janet. The instructors aim to bring songs alive through creative and fun ways!

Strathgryffe Tennis Club Taster Sessions:

The children in Primary 3 and Primary 4/3 are being invited to take part in taster Tennis sessions in partnership with Strathgryffe Tennis Club on Monday 1st November (Primary 3) and Monday 8th November (Primary 4/3).

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We are sure the children will benefit from these inputs and the club is always on the look out for the next Andy Murray!



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 6 class during the month of November.

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.

Primary 1 Book Gifting:

Book Week Scotland is an annual celebration of books and reading that takes place across Scotland. This year, Book Week will begin on Monday 15th November until the 21st November 2021.

The Skoobmobile Library Bus have organised a 'Book Gifting' event for our Primary one children on Tuesday 9th November where the children will be gifted with their Primary one book bags.



St. Andrew's Day Celebration:

During the month of November and January, classes across the school participate in IDL learning experiences around the theme of Scotland and Scottish culture.

Due to ongoing restrictions, we are unable to facilitate our St. Andrew's Day Assembly this session. However, the children in each class will learn a Scottish song/poem of their choice and this will be recorded. The children will then view the

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recordings on **Friday 26th November 2021** in class and they will be treated to some irn bru and shortbread to view the performances. The children may wish to wear an item of tartan on this day, should they wish to do so.

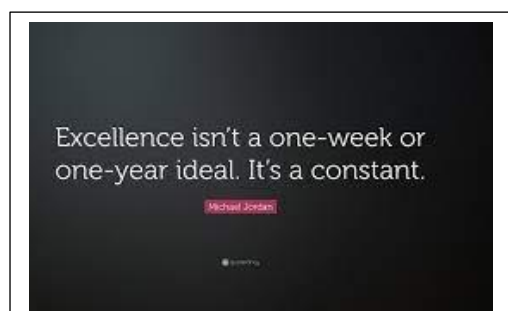
Please note that the recordings will also be shared via the 'Fillan Bear' Facebook page for you to enjoy at home.

November 2021: This month's core value is: FAITH and Gospel Value: KINDNESS.

Day/Date	Event
Monday 1 st November 2021	Feast Day of All Saints.
Wednesday 3 rd November 2021	Flu vaccinations for children/staff.
Tuesday 9 th November 2021	Primary 1 Book Gifting event.
Monday 15 th November 2021	Anti Bullying Week - activities in all classes across the school. Beginning of 'Book Week Scotland 2021.'
Friday 26 th November 2021	St. Andrew's Day Celebration! The children may wear an item of tartan (should they wish to do so).
Tuesday 30 th November 2021	St. Andrew's Day Holiday. Enjoy!



Final Thoughts: #Demonstrate Excellence!



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