



SCHOOL BULLETIN

ST. FILLAN'S PRIMARY

December 2020



Head Teacher's Message:

What a busy time November was at St. Fillan's Primary!

During November we celebrated Catholic Education Week in many ways including 'live streaming' our P.5 Mass of Thanksgiving to the classroom and families, via Google Meet as well also, 'live streaming' our Laudato Si Prayer Service into the school. Monsignor McFadden was especially proud as despite this being such a challenging year we came up with 'creative' digital solutions to celebrate Catholic education and deepen the bond between the school, parish and home.

Also in November, Bishop John came to celebrate the opening of the gate between the school playground and the church grounds with the beautiful grotto to Our Lady in it. Although the weather was grey and cold the work that the parish volunteers had done to create a colourful pathway was beautiful. It has been a lot of work to safely open the parish grounds up to the school and over the coming years, I hope the pupils, staff, parents and parish community will find even more creative and joyful ways to celebrate the special connection that we enjoy between parish and school.



Also, during November we celebrated Book Week Scotland, with all our classes celebrating the joy of story and reading. Once again, digital solutions supported class events and what was great was that our P1, P2 and P3 classes still received their Book Week Scotland bags. These are a fantastic resource for parents to enjoy time sharing and learning with their child. Finally, this will be my last bulletin as Acting Headteacher of St. Fillan's Primary as Mrs Mackenzie will be returning on Friday 11th December. Can I take this opportunity to thank the staff, pupils, parents, and wider school and parish community for supporting me in my leadership of the school over the past year and (albeit early) wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy and Healthy New Year.

Sacramental Dates for P4 and P7

During these unprecedented times, it has been difficult for both school and parish to set dates for our P4 and P7 Sacraments.

Listed below are the agreed dates that we are planning for, however, please be aware that due to COVID-19 these may be subject to change at short notice.

P4 - Sacraments Meeting (First Confession & First Holy Communion) A Preparatory Meeting for Parents only – Thursday 14 January at 6.15 pm at the church.

P7 - Confirmation Preparatory Meeting (Parents only) on Thursday 11 February at 6.15pm in church.

All - Ash Wednesday 17 February – Masses at 9.30am and 7.00pm – separate school arrangements tbc.

P4 - First Confession – Wednesday 3 March at 6.15pm – in church.

P4 - First Holy Communion – Saturday 15 May at 10.00am – in church.

P7 - Confirmation – Tuesday 25 May at 6.30pm in St Fillan's Church, Houston (not Cathedral)



Dates to Remember

Parent phone call 3.30-6.60pm	08-Dec
Mrs Mackenzie returns	11-Dec
Christmas Jumper Day	11-Dec
Christmas Panto/Parties lower	16-Dec
Christmas Panto/Parties - Upper	17-Dec
End of term Mass 11 am	17-Dec
School Closes 2.30pm	18-Dec
School Opening	06-Jan
P4 Sacraments Meeting 6.15pm	14-Jan
St Fillan's Feast Day	17-Jan
Parent Council Meeting (Zoom) 7pm	20-Jan
February Holidays	8/9-Feb
Inservice Day	10-Feb
P7 Confirmation Parents meeting 6.15pm	11-Feb
Ash Wednesday	17-Feb
P4 1st Confession 6.15pm	04-Mar
P4 1st Holy Communion	15-May
P7 Confirmation 6.30pm	25-May



Remember **FACTS** for a safer Scotland

F	Face coverings	
A	Avoid crowded places	
C	Clean your hands regularly	
T	Two metre distance	
S	Self isolate and book a test if you have symptoms	



PARENT COUNCIL

Despite a number of our normal fundraising opportunities not able to operate at the moment, including our popular Christmas Fayre. The parent council have decided to launch a St Fillan's Parent Council **50 Club**. 50 numbers will be available to purchase at £5 per month, offering a monthly prize pot of up to £125. Parents of all current children are eligible to join. If enough interest, we may increase the number of available numbers. The 50 Club will start in January with further information available via the Facebook page or alternatively to register interest email stfillans@renfrewshire.npfs.org.uk

NON UNIFORM DAY

Friday 4th December

During our non-uniform day, we will be collecting items for the Foodbank in Johnstone. Items which the foodbank often runs out of are, UHT MILK, JUICE, TOMATOES, POTATOES, TINNED FISH and TINNED FRUIT.

CHRISTMAS JUMPER DAY

FRIDAY 11TH DECEMBER



On Christmas Jumper day we will be wearing our jumpers for St. Vincent's Hospice. Pupils can bring in a donation of up to £1 per family for the charity.

MISSIO CHRISTMAS CHARITY BAUBLES



Due to current restrictions, we will be unable to facilitate pupils giving Christmas cards to each other and there will be no Christmas school post this year. However, we hope to raise funds for Missio and allow pupils to share Christmas greetings via Missio Christmas Baubles.

Starting December 2nd, each pupil will be able to purchase three card baubles for a 20p donation, which they can write their Christmas messages to friends on. Each bauble will then be used to decorate our school Christmas trees, and fill the Large Missio Donation Baubles which will adorn the top of the tree in the main reception.



Nativity

Our nativity play this session will be, 'Star of Wonder'. Mrs Smith has been working very hard with all the teachers to create a spectacular play ensuring that each class has a part. Our nativity which will then be filmed and edited together and made available via our school social media in December.

Parent Portal

Parents Portal is an online service for parents and carers where you can access your child's school details, permission letters etc. Over the coming months, more features will be added including access to pupils attendance records and pupil reports.

If you would like more information or to sign up go to <http://www.renfrewshire.gov.uk/article/10557/ParentsPortal>



Parties & Panto

Christmas Parties 16th & 17th December.

On these days pupils can come to school wearing their party clothes. In the morning the pupils will be able to enjoy virtually 'The McDougalls Christmas Party' <http://mcdougallstheatre.com/virtual-show/4595098126>

and then have their class party in the afternoon.

Please ensure that pupils have a warm waterproof rain jacket and suitable footwear for interval and lunchtime.

16th December - P2/1, P3/2 & P4/3

17th December P5/4, P6 & P7/6



School Vision, Values and Aims:

Our school vision, values and aims are at the 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. December is the month we focus on our core value of 'Trust' and the Gospel Value of 'Kindness.' We are looking forward to 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 on learning opportunities that are provided in the classroom.

Our children have many opportunities to excel both within and out with school. Please encourage your child to share this with their teachers or let us know directly when they have, 'Demonstrated Excellence.

School Communication

Our school communicates in a variety of ways with parents, via our website <https://blogs.glowscotland.org.uk/re/stfillans/>

and also via Facebook and Twitter.

Our Facebook link is

<https://www.facebook.com/fillan.bear>

Our Twitter link is

https://twitter.com/Fillan_Bear

HEADLICE

A reminder that head lice is a common problem in primary schools and the only way to battle the bug is to regularly check your child's hair. For further information, please see

<http://www.healthscotland.com/documents/25.aspx>

School Bus – Code of Conduct

As a school, we have a duty of care to ensure that all children are safe and happy whilst travelling on the school bus.

Previously, the children worked together in their House Groups during a working Assembly to think about our school values and discuss important connections between our values and the behaviours that should be expected by all whilst travelling on the bus.

You will be aware that there are no supervisors on the bus so making good choices is very much the responsibility of each child.

We have high expectations of the pupils at St. Fillan's Primary and this standard should permeate beyond the school gate.

Can I ask that if your child uses school transport that you take time to engage in a conversation with your child around the explicit expectations for safe and enjoyable bus travel, especially within current COVID restrictions.

In-line with guidance from Renfrewshire Council, parents/carers are primarily responsible for the behaviour of their child and any child that continues to misbehave on the bus can lose their right to home/school transport.

Parent/Teacher Phone Calls

Tuesday 8 December 2020 between 3.30 pm and 6.30 pm.

Due to current restrictions instead of our usual parent's evening, we are having parent/teacher phone calls. During the call, the class teacher will discuss your child's progress of their individual term 2 targets. Each phone call will be approximately 6 mins and take place on Tuesday 8 December 2020 between 3.30 pm and 6.30 pm.

To help us allocate appointment times please complete and return the reply slip indicating your preferences for either an early or late call. These should be returned to school by Tuesday 1 December 2020.



Christmas Lunch

10 December



This years Christmas lunch options are Steak Pie, Turkey and Quorn Roast. All orders must be in for 1 December. There will be no other option on that day. Christmas lunch will be served on Thursday 10 December.