St. Fillan’s Primary School Newsletter

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October 2019

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

[](https://www.google.co.uk/imgres?imgurl=https%3A%2F%2Flookaside.fbsbx.com%2Flookaside%2Fcrawler%2Fmedia%2F%3Fmedia_id%3D652938764873542&imgrefurl=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.facebook.com%2FOctober-Things-652938764873542%2F&docid=JiKmoYqdTjNFLM&tbnid=9Lljhf_I1c28OM%3A&vet=10ahUKEwi52d_qm_HkAhX1lFwKHUyZCO0QMwh-KAUwBQ..i&w=750&h=489&hl=en&bih=655&biw=1366&q=october&ved=0ahUKEwi52d_qm_HkAhX1lFwKHUyZCO0QMwh-KAUwBQ&iact=mrc&uact=8)

**Head Teacher’s October Message:**

September has certainly been a busy month for our children and there have been many planned opportunities for our children to showcase their talents and skills.

Children across the school have taken part in a range of activities including: Primary one Construction, Primary 7 Jazz workshops, Primary 6 swimming inputs, Primary 6 and 7 Road Race, visits to the Scoobmobile bus, Community Police Football Tournament and the whole school took part in Renfrewshire Council’s ‘Spotless September’ initiative where each class had the opportunity to help clean up an area of our school community by bagging litter. We have been busy bees indeed!

One of the highlights was the Primary 7 Mass in the Cathedral to welcome the relics of St. Therese to Scotland. Our children were a credit to us all by ‘Dressing for Excellence’ and behaving impeccably and reverently throughout the celebration. It was just lovely to see Sean carry our school petitions and place them at the foot of the relics and Layla carrying a rose to gift on behalf of our school community.

Another highlight was the Primary 7 visit to the ‘Cameo Club’ which is a group of elderly Church Parishioners who meet in Houston Church Hall to socialise and have fun. Our children showcased the ‘St. Fillan Standard’ beautifully by singing hymns to entertain the guests and Lewis played the Clarinet. Their reward was great as they played board games with the guests and consumed lots of tea and cakes! Everyone thoroughly enjoyed their afternoon and hopefully this will lead to further intergenerational community partnerships moving forward.

Now that the weather has turned colder, I would ask that the children come to school prepared with an outdoor jacket and after the October week, the outdoor lunchtime benches will not be in use for the children to enjoy their lunch al fresco.

Wishing everyone a lovely month ahead as we embrace the delights of the Autumn season.



Best Wishes,

Claire Mackenzie ( Head Teacher)

**The Religious Life and Ethos of our School:**

[](https://www.google.co.uk/url?sa=i&rct=j&q=&esrc=s&source=images&cd=&cad=rja&uact=8&ved=2ahUKEwiQ8N_ol57ZAhUMGuwKHdUpD1QQjRx6BAgAEAY&url=http://www.catholic.org/saints/saint.php?saint_id%3D581&psig=AOvVaw0ajqizQa117zSqVLPNz8In&ust=1518449629647301)

**Annual Cluster Mass:**

Thank you to all those who were able to attend and celebrate our ‘Annual Cluster Mass’ on **Thursday 5th September 2019** at 7.00pm in St. Benedict’s High School.

Our Primary school had the highest representation within the Cluster and it was lovely to see so many of our children and families come along on a busy week night to support this celebration.



**Upcoming Parish Events:**

Please come along and support the children at ‘First Friday Mass.’ They have been working hard at Assembly to practice their hymns!

We would request that our children wear full school uniform including shirts, ties and school shoes and we look forward to seeing you there.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Day, Date and Time** | **Event** |
| Friday 4th October 2019 at  9.30am – St. Fillan’s Church. | First Friday Mass – all welcome to come along! |

**Church Visits and October Devotions:**

Sister Mary Frances will shortly begin her timetable of events where she will welcome classes for visits to the Church and October Devotions to Our Lady at the Grotto.

If the children have a set of Rosary beads that they can keep in their tray during the month of October, then that would be ideal.

I will also provide an opportunity for the children to pray the Rosary for their special intentions during the month of October by hosting ‘Rosary Groups’ during lunchtimes on the following dates:



* Wednesday 9th October at 1.00pm.
* Wednesday 23rd October at 1.00pm.
* Wednesday 30th October at 1.00pm.

Petition cards will be issued which the children can discuss at home with their families and confidentially placed in the petition box.

**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.

This month, we will focus on our core value of ‘Team work’ 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 in education sits alongside the core value of ‘Integrity’ and or school principle of going ‘Above and Beyond’ and can be described as:

***“It’s about having high expectations and aspirations and demanding more or ourselves than others do. It is about consistently making the right choices, even when no-one is looking. Excellence in the little things always adds up to excellence in the big things.”***

We are looking forward to nurturing excellence within the classrooms and beyond this month and to capatalise on opportunities for our children to do well in the little things. This also echoes the promises that the children made to be more like St. Therese in showing kindness in ‘Little Ways.’

In August, every child took part in our ‘Core Values Competition’ to design a poster depicting what our core value of ‘Respect’ means to them and to our school community.

Our House and Vice Captains judged the winning designs and the winners were as follows:



* Primary 1 – Isla.
* Primary 3/2 – Issac.
* Primary 4/3 – Sophie.
* Primary 5 – Maggie.
* Primary 6 – Kara.
* Primary 7 – Layla.

In September, the core value focus was ‘Responsibility’ and Primaries 1, 3/2, 4/3 worked collaboratively to create a whole class acrostic poem, whilst Primaries 5, 6 and 7 created their own versions.

The winners from Primaries 5, 6 and 7 have yet to be announced, but look out for the poems that will be posted on Facebook.

We will provide a competition theme each month to promote our core school value and the purpose of the competition is to bring our values to life by creating displays as visible reminders for all to see.

During Assemblies, our children have also considered our core values in terms of what they should look like, sound like and feel like within the context of everyday life. During October, we will be gathering the children’s suggestions together to vote for ‘Visible Character Dispositions’ of each core value which will help us to use consistent and shared language when discussing the values with the children.

**Staffing**:

Following a successful interview and recruitment journey, Mrs Sutherland replaces Miss Dyer as our Senior Clerical Officer in the School Office. Mrs Sutherland is delighted to join the team as a full time member of staff and we are blessed to have her on this full time, permanent basis.



A close up of a person

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‘**Congratulations Mrs Sutherland!’**

**Safeguarding and Child Protection Update (HIGIOS4 2.1):**



**Visible Consistencies - Bus Behaviour and Expectations:**

We will shortly be sending out our annual ‘Bus Expectation Code of Conduct’ which will be revised following discussions with the children. The high expectations that we have for our children making good choices and upholding the ‘St. Fillan Standard’ does not change regardless of the context.

We would appreciate if you were able to take some time to discuss these expectations with your child and sign/return the appropriate paperwork.



**Active Schools:**

Our Active Schools clubs are in full swing and it has been great to see so many children commit to taking parts in a wide variety of physical activity.

Some of the children who are participating in Tuesday’s football after school club with Chris and Wednesday’s after school netball club with Miss Duffy will be selected to represent our school at the following tournaments:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Day/Date and Time** | **Event/Location** |
| Wednesday 2nd October 2019 –  12.30 – 2.00pm (During the school  day). | Football League at the On-X. |
| Monday 7th October 2019 –  3.45 – 6.00pm (Outwith the  school day). | Netball at Johnstone High School. |

I would like to reiterate the importance of continuing to build our children’s resilience if they are not selected to participate this time round. We work in partnership with our Active Schools coaches to identify children who are living our school values through their actions/words in sport and physical activity. We also ‘catch’ children who are putting in effort, hard work, commitment and who display good Sportsmanship.

It can be disappointing for some children when they are not selected and we appreciate this, but as a small school, there are greater opportunities for our children across the board than if they were to attend larger establishments.



**Mobile Phones:**

Recently, we have become aware that there have been incidents where children in the upper school are not handing in their mobile phone to the locked box for safekeeping during the school day.

We are not naive to the fact that many children have been entrusted with a mobile phone for the purposes of communicating with parents at pick up times in the school day, however, it is imperative for everyone’s safety, including the child with the mobile device that our expectations are followed without question.

Please be advised that mobile phones will be confiscated and put into the school safe for safekeeping and a phonecall home will be made to parents to collect the child’s phone. This advice is in line with Renfrewshire Council’s policy. Thank you for your continued support and co-operation with this request.

**Visible Consistencies – Playground Behaviour and Expectations:**

Our children have continued to enjoy some lovely sunny days playing with their friends and Buddies outside in the playground which has been great to see.

Our children are reminded on a weekly basis at Assembly about the importance of telling a trusted member of staff if something has worried or upset them. This would include support staff in the playground or their Class Teacher following playtime or lunchtime. The children are very familiar with the principle that ‘If something does not sit well, then they should tell.’ By following this principle, we are able to responsively deal with situations as and when they arise and this can go a long way in avoiding children unnecessarily carrying worries home with them. It is our experience that when worries are carried home, they often become bigger than the issue and can therefore be open to misinterpretation.



We have been encouraged over the last few weeks by the number of children who have upheld the school value of ‘Trust’ which sits closely with ‘Honesty’ and ‘Integrity’ by reflecting on their actions and readily admitting responsibility when they have not made good choices. This allows us to have a restorative conversation with the child and for us all to learn from our mistakes and quickly moving on from situations, thus continuing to build resilience.

Our PATHS (Promoting Alternative Thinking Strategies) Programme provides children with support strategies to help them to regulate their behaviour and manage situations by putting a plan into place. Our Support Staff are trained in PATHS and they can provide children with support to independently manage conflict.

The children are familiar with the visuals as pictured below which are displayed around the school:



We also encourage our children to form relationships and engage in play with children from their own Primary stage or class. It is lovely to see all of our children sharing a playground together, which is a unique situation, but we would like to foster relationships and social development that is age and stage appropriate.



**Bike to School Week Scotland:**

We took part in the ‘Bike to School Week’ during the last week of September. Primary 6 did a great job of taking part in class based activities and promoting the initiative through posters and class visits.

Due to ongoing roof works, our bicycle park is out of bounds at the moment, but we would still encourage our children to choose sustainable ways of getting to school by bringing in their bike or scooter. Mr McDermott would be happy to advise the best place to safely store cycles and scooters at this time.



**School Travel Plan:**

The ‘School Improvement Committee’ are in the process of updating the ‘School Travel Plan’ which has not been revised for a number of years.

We envisage that work around the Travel Plan will help us to move closer to achieving our ‘Cycle Award’ as part of our ongoing Bikeability Programme.

The Committee have launched an art competition to enable the children to submit design entries for the front cover of the plan. The prize winner will receive a hamper full of stationery goodies. Please encourage your child to take part. The closing date for entries is: **FRIDAY 4TH OCTOBER 2019.**

If there are any cycling clubs or events in the local area that would encourage our children and families to get active, then please let us know about them and we will be more than happy to promote through our Social Media channels.

**Social Media:**

Thank you for returning your child’s ‘Media Permissions’ paperwork. Please be advised that we will post information relating to your child’s learning and photographs through the school’s ‘Fillan Bear’ page only. We will continue to post reminders and general information through the ‘Parent Council Facebook Page’ to keep you informed.

Please search for ‘Fillan Bear’ through Facebook and send us a ‘Friend Request.’ We will be happy to welcome you!



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

**Emotion Works:**

Our staff have engaged in two twilight training opportunities to help gain familiarity with the ‘Emotion Works’ Health and Well-being Programme.

Through self-evaluation last session and commitment to continue to develop our children’s health and well-being, we noticed that there were some gaps in some of our children’s emotional intelligence.

By introducing the ‘Emotion Works’ resource across the school, we will be better informed to measure impact in terms of an improvement in our children’s emotional vocabulary, resilience, empathy, coping strategies when things go wrong – ‘Bounce Backability!’ and the promotion of a ‘Readiness to Learn.’

Each month, our children will be introduced to a new ‘cog’ which will be highlighted at Assembly using a whole school context and then reinforced at class level. Here is an overview of the main themes that will be covered by each cog:

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Month/Term** | **Cog** | **Focus** |
| **October 2019 – Term 2** | **\*Cog 1 – Orange – Emotion Words. (Primary 1 – 7).** | **Name the emotion.**  **Other words.** |
| **November 2019– Term 2** | **\*Cog 2 – Red – Body Sensations. (Primary 1 – 7).** | **Where I feel it?**  **How it feels?** |
| **December 2019 – Term 2** | **\*Cog 3 – Green – Behaviours. (Primary 1 – 7).** | **What I do?**  **How I show it?** |
| **January 2020 – Term 3** | **\*Cog 4 – Yellow – Triggers. (Primary 1 – 7).** | **\*Why I feel like this?**  **What happens?** |
| **February 2020 – Term 3** | **\*Cog 5 – Blue – Regulation. (Primary 1 – 7).** | **What makes me feel better?** |
| **March 2020 – Term 3** | **\*Cog 6 – Grey – Intensity. (Primary 5 – 7). Primaries 1-4 to reinforce pervious cogs, build up 2, 3, 4 and 5 part models.** | **How strong?**  **How big?**  **How much?** |
| **April 2020 – Term 3** | **\*Cog 7 – Purple – Influences. (Primary 5 – 7). Primaries 1-4 to reinforce pervious cogs, build up 2, 3, 4 and 5 part models.** | **Things to mention or consider.** |

We hope to be able to provide you with further information and provide you with an update of our progress through our ‘Fillan Bear’ Facebook page, Twitter and by showcasing our learning in May 2020.

[](https://www.google.co.uk/url?sa=i&rct=j&q=&esrc=s&source=images&cd=&cad=rja&uact=8&ved=2ahUKEwjDhoijmZ7ZAhUCC-wKHf_iC9EQjRx6BAgAEAY&url=http://www.suttonschoolswork.co.uk/focus-on-assemblies/&psig=AOvVaw2RVCIxFbak50AhIgHIyOPo&ust=1518450015956800)

**Assemblies:**

Assemblies are a great opportunity for us to join together as a whole school community to pray together, share ideas and suggestions, learn from each other and to showcase our learning and achievements.

In October, the following themes will be explored:

|  |
| --- |
| Value – Team Work and Gentleness. |
| Aim – Demonstrate Excellence! |
| General Themes: Saint Francis of Assisi (Gentleness), Mahatma Ghandi’s life, World Mental  Health Day (10th October), Core Value Competition – Quotes to depict ‘Team work.’ |
| Religious Themes: The Rosary. |

[](https://www.google.co.uk/url?sa=i&rct=j&q=&esrc=s&source=images&cd=&cad=rja&uact=8&ved=2ahUKEwjW7_2zmZ7ZAhVB-6QKHbYBCUAQjRx6BAgAEAY&url=http://www.kirkriggs-pri.glasgow.sch.uk/TextList/TextList.aspx?SectionId%3Deb4fe098-424e-401e-b046-c990c7022c55&psig=AOvVaw2Y2i9uzd3CFHtgodQplzsa&ust=1518450055562308)

**Parent Council Update:**

**Diary Dates:**

The Parent Council meet on **Wednesday 11th September 2019** for their first meeting this session.

We were delighted to welcome some familiar faces and some new members who came along to contribute their thoughts and suggestions.

We are very grateful to the Parent Council who donated £1,200 for their funds for the development of cosy library areas in each classroom and for agreeing to subsidise the costs of the coaches for the children to attend the PACE Pantomime in December.

In line with their constitution, the Parent Council held their ‘Annual General meeting’ on Wednesday 25th September 2019 to re-elect members to hold significant roles. They will provide information about the outcome through their Facebook Page.

A copy of the minutes from the meeting can be found on our school website.



**Halloween Disco:**

We are grateful to Mr and Mrs Harvey who have once again agreed to entertain the masses on: **Wednesday 30th October 2019 from 6.30 to 8.00pm** at our Halloween Disco!

This is a well-attended and much loved event in the school calendar and further details will be provided in the form of a letter.

**School Improvement Consultation:**

**Learning Provision (HIGIOS4):**



**Family Learning and Partnerships – 2.5 and 2.7:**

**Meet the Teacher:**

Your feedback is very important to us and it helps us to drive our school forward. Thank you for taking the time to provide us with feedback about our recent ‘Meet the Teacher’ event and official launch of our ‘Curriculum Rationale.

We are happy to share the some of the comments with you and please note that children’s names have been removed to secure confidentiality:

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Something I enjoyed about today?** | **Something I found out?** | **Something I will ‘Take Away’ from today…** |
| Hearing Mrs Smith talking about how  they are all settling in and making  friends already. | Topics the children will cover. | Not to worry about forgotten PE kits. |
| Conversing with Miss Duffy regarding  what she hopes to achieve with the  pupils this year. | The focus of the term . | Knowing exactly what is expected of my child regarding homework. |
| Finding out and understanding  My daughter’s day. | What to expect for the year  ahead and knowing how the  classroom is set up. |  |
| Hearing about the structure of their  day. | The set up of the classroom. |  |
| Learning about their daily routine. | PATHS star, general information  and who can help with enquiries. |  |
| I liked the children greeting us at the  Main Door. | They are doing Vikings later on  in the year. | I will take away the comfort of knowing  My child is enjoying every aspect of learning. |
| Information about the curriculum. | I found out what the children  will learn each term. I am really pleased to know what their daily activities are. | To check the Homework diary and sign it. |
| Seeing and understanding what  my daughter is doing on a daily basis. | The school vision and values-  faith, trust, teamwork, success, respect and responsibility. | Buds is something I will try and use. |
| Meeting the teacher. | Homework information. | PE days. |
| Meeting everyone and learning more  about my child’s day. You always make  me feel welcome. | I love that all the children are interacting. | I feel so lucky to have found this school and  Mrs Smith. Amazingly, my child this past  week already seems more confident and  polite. Even his creative side is improving. |
| Information and a chance to ask  questions. | Primary 7 curriculum information. |  |
| Mrs Kaney! Lovely person, organised  and very clear. | Mrs Kaney and Mrs McKay  have job shared for 7 years –  recipe for a great team! | Relaxed and realistic view on homework and commitments. |
| Meeting Mrs Kaney and how the day is structured. | The ‘Author’s Chair.’ | How much time we should spend on  homework. |
| Meeting the teacher in the classroom environment. Mrs Kaney reassured me  in the changes moving into Primary 2. | Finding out what the children  will be taught and how. | How to complete homework in as little time  and how to make it less stressful for us  both. |
| Seeing photos of the children and  hearing how they are already  developing friendships. | How the day runs from start to finish. | Not to stress if the children forget an item or miss homework – great! |
| Lovely meeting new faces and new  teachers. | How the planning at the  beginning of term is carried out throughout the year. | Not to be too stressed when it comes to homework. |
| Great opportunity to meet the teacher  and learn about the teaching plan and learning environment. | More detail about the format of  the school day. | How approachable the staff are and how  much emphasis is placed on pastoral care. |
| Good to meet the teacher and find  out how each day is planned out. | School trip for Primary 7 in Lochgoilhead. | How organised St. Fillan’s is. |
| Class is perfect, teacher is brilliant. | About programmes. | How my child will learn. |
| Informative presentation. | Daily routine, useful information  and how homework is allocated. | A new approach for my child to carry out homework. |
| Finding out about their day to day  activities. | The literature the class will be studying – my child is familiar  with Katie Morag as she has a  Grannie Island too! | Advice and reassurance of flexibility. Not worrying if something is forgotten. |
| Seeing daily timetables, next steps. | How much responsibility pupils  have with their own learning. | Teachers are so organised and know  children so well after a short time. |
| Getting to know Mrs Kaney and how  Primary 2 will help my child in the  coming year. | Different elements of learning. | A better understanding of how my daughter  will develop her leaning over the year. |
| Finding out about the curriculum for  the year. | About IDL. | Confidence about my son’s year in Primary 3. |
| Finding out about the curriculum and  what’s involved. Sometimes asking  my child doesn’t help! Meeting the  teacher who is very friendly and approachable. | Not all homework has to be a stressful situation or task –  can be split up or approached  through different ways or angles. | I can always ask the teacher is something is not clear. Write a note. |
| Informative, good to find out about subjects and topics in advance. |  |  |
| Lovely to meet the teacher and find  out about structure/plans for this  term. | Good to find out this year’s  structure and expectations for homework/PE etc. | Nice to get everything reinforced and to  get a sense of expectations of new teachers. |



**Parent/Teacher Conference:**

Our first Parent/Teacher Conference will take place on **Thursday 10th October from 3.30 – 8.00pm.**

This is an opportunity for you to meet individually with your child’s Class Teacher, discuss your child’s targets and ascertain their progress so far this session.

Appointment times have already been sent out to you and we would be grateful if you were able to contact the School Office if the appointment does not suit as soon as possible.

Unfortunately, we cannot provide creche facilities on the evening and would ask that if children need to attend that they behave respectfully and responsibly at the event.

Please be advised that the Scholastic Book Fayre will be available on the evening in Room 7 should you wish to purchase any books or reading material for your child. As a school, we receive a percentage of the items sold which we use to purchase new class novels and replenish stocks in our library areas.



**Termly Learning in a Nutshell Newsletters:**

Before the close of this term, you will have received your Termly ‘Learning in a Nutshell’ Newsletter.

We hope that the Newsletter will enable you to engage in a conversation with your child around their learning, the progress they have made and what they view their next steps for success to be.

**Successes and Achievements – Raising Attainment and Achievement – 3.2:**

[](https://www.google.co.uk/imgres?imgurl=http%3A%2F%2Funst.org%2Fweb%2Fbjhs%2Ffiles%2F2016%2F09%2FSILVER-SSA-LOGO-2016-2017.jpg&imgrefurl=http%3A%2F%2Funst.org%2Fweb%2Fbjhs%2F2016%2F09%2F09%2Fsport-scotland-silver-award-2%2F&docid=ZM-QEv3fqgCiAM&tbnid=OuqmfM-wgYrTrM%3A&vet=10ahUKEwi5iZDFnvHkAhUJzYUKHbnzBDcQMwhAKAAwAA..i&w=2343&h=2052&bih=655&biw=1366&q=sports%20scotland%20silver%20award&ved=0ahUKEwi5iZDFnvHkAhUJzYUKHbnzBDcQMwhAKAAwAA&iact=mrc&uact=8)

**Sports Scotland Silver Award:**

I am delighted to share with you that we have been successful in gaining the ‘Sports Scotland Silver Award!’ Another new logo to add to our letterheads!

This achievement is due to the hard work of Mrs McVicker and our ‘Health and Well-being Committee’ who have worked hard to gather and submit the required evidence.

The Committee submitted so much evidence that they managed to ‘by pass’ the ‘Sports Scotland Bronze Award!!!’

We would also like to thank Lynsey Dawson who has supported us with our application and look forward to continuing our work as we move towards the ‘Sports Scotland Gold Award.’



**Fairtrade Coffee Morning:**

The Fairtrade Committee would like to thank you for the kind and plentiful donations they received for their Coffee morning.

The event was very successful and the Committee raised: £80.00 for Fairtrade and £83.57 for their chosen charity which was St. Vincent’s Hospice.



**Christmas Light Competition Winner!**

Mark Arthur and his team would like to thank everyone who took part in the annual ‘Christmas Light Competition.’ The judging team were very impressed by the high quality submissions but there could only be one winner.

We are delighted to announce that Chris in Primary 7 was the lucky winner and his ‘Santa Hat’ design will be displayed in lights at the official switch on event.

Muy bien Chris!

**Leadership and Management (HIGIOS4):**

**Leadership of Learning & Leadership of Change 1.2 and 1.3:**

**Monitoring Calendar:**

The SLT work hard to ensure that our children benefit from the highest standards of learning and teaching.

In September, we monitored: Health and Wellbeing in relation to the GIRFEC (Getting it Right for Every Child) agenda, the learning environment, forecasting planners and the tracking of children’s progress across the school using teacher’s judgement and data.

In October, our focus will be: Homework, learning visits to every class with a focus on writing, and Health and well-being focus groups.

**Learning Provision (HIGIOS 4):**



**Transition Programme:**

St. Benedict’s are offering potential Primary 7 parents/families the opportunity to visit their school for an open evening on: **Wednesday 25th September 2019 at 7.00pm.** This really is a great opportunity to have a tour of the school and to see the wonderful facilities that our Cluster High School has to offer.

**Nursery/Pre -5 Transition:**

We were delighted to welcome twenty Nursery children to our school on Thursday 19th September as part of our ‘Transition Tasters.’ The children joined Mrs McVicker from Abbey Nursery and Gryffe Manor and they enjoyed taking part in some Literacy activities.

We look forward to welcoming the children over the next month to promote our school and show everyone what we have to offer.

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Day and Date** | **Time** | **Activity/ Context** | **Teacher** |
| Monday 7th October 2019 | 11.00am | ICT | Miss A Bell |
| Thursday 10th October 2019 | 11.00am | Art and Design | Mrs M McKay |
| Monday 21st October 2019 | 11.00am | PE (Please bring along soft shoes if possible) | Ms. L. Dawson  (Active Schools Co-ordinator) |

Our ‘Open Afternoon’ on Thursday 19th September was also successful with some new families attending to meet with the SLT, listen to our children’s experiences of school life in St. Fillan’s and participate in a grand tour of the school which was led by our responsible House Captains.

If you know anyone who has moved into the area of who is interested in our school, then please ask them to give us a call. We will be more than happy to welcome them along for a bespoke visit!



**Educational Excursions:**

Educational excursions are important in helping the children to reinforce key concepts that they have covered in their learning and I am keen for all classes to take part in an excursion out with the Christmas Pantomime and ‘End of Year’ Summer Trip.

If you are findings the cost of a school trip to be an issue, then please contact me directly at the school and I will be able to offer assistance.

Primary 1 will be visiting the local Post Office on **Wednesday 2nd October 2019** to meet with staff, learn more about the Post Office and post some letters. This outing will not incur any costs.

The children in Primary 2 and Primary 3 will visit the Tall Ship on **Tuesday 8th October 2019** as part of their topic on ‘Pirates’ and Primary 5 will visit ‘Amazonia’ on **Wednesday 9th October 2019** to learn more about their ‘Rain Forest’ topic.

Primary 7 will enjoy a bespoke and full day learning experience provided by ‘Homefront Histories’ on **Tuesday 22nd October 2019.** This experience was well received last session by our Primary 7 children and they enjoyed having a full day of activities based on the ‘World War 2’ topic without having to leave the building!

Please note that further details of each excursion will be provided on Parent Pay and some Class Teacher’s will provide a letter to confirm arrangements.

We continue to be grateful to our Mums, Dads and Grandparents who give their time so freely to help support school trips and events. Without this support, we would be in danger of being unable to provide these valuable experiences for our children.

**2.7 – Partnership Working:**

Following a successful bid, we are delighted to advise that ‘Engie’ the company who have secured the contract for our roofing works have donated £2,000 to the school as part of the ‘Community investment Fund.’

This funding is welcomed and will help us as we move forward to secure our plans to purchase an ‘Outdoor Classroom.’



**Ronald McDonald Christmas Choir:**

Every year, we send children to the Paisley Centre as part of a Christmas choir to help raise funds for the Ronald McDonald House. This charity provides much needed care and respite to the families whose children are frequent visitors to the children’s hospital.

This year, Mrs Hey our resident Drama and Music volunteer has offered her services to help prepare Primary 4/3 and Primary 6 children to take part in this worthwhile event.

Mrs Hey will work with the children over the months of October and November to help prepare them to take part at this event which is scheduled for **Monday 9th December from 10.00 to 12.00pm.**

The children really look forward to taking part in this event and they thrive on the opportunity to help other children who are less fortunate than themselves.

**September 2019: This month’s core value is: RESPONSIBILITY and Gospel Value: INTEGRITY/HONESTY.**

**Please note that any changes/amended information will be highlighted in purple font.**

**October 2019: This month’s core value is: TEAM WORK and Gospel Value: GENTLENESS.**

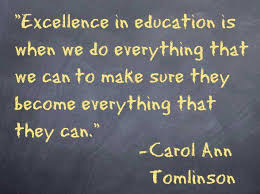
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| **Day/Date** | **Event** |
| Tuesday 1st October 2019 | **Primary 6 Swimming at the On-X. 9.00 – 11.00am.**  **Please come to school prepared!** |
| **University Student Placements begin today in Primary 7.**  **Welcome to St. Fillan’s!** |
| **Gryffe Work Experience Placements begin today.**  **Welcome to St. Fillan’s!** |
| Wednesday 2nd October 2019 | **Football League at 12.30 to 2.00pm in the On-X**  **for selected individuals.** |
| **Primary 1 outing to the local Post Office. Please wear**  **a jacket and appropriate footwear!** |
| Friday 4th October 2019 | **First Friday Mass at 9.30m. Please wear shirts and ties**  **and families are welcome to come along and support the**  **children.** |
| Monday 7th October 2019 | **Netball League at 3.45 to 6.00pm in the Johnstone High**  **School for selected individuals.** |
| **Nursery ‘Transition Taster’ at 11.00am – ICT with**  **Miss Bell.** |
| Tuesday 8th October 2019 | **Primary 6 Swimming at the On-X. 9.00 – 11.00am.**  **Please come to school prepared!** |
| **Primary 2 and Primary 3 trip to the ‘Tall Ship’ – ‘Pirates**  **Ahoy!’** |
| Wednesday 9th October 2019 | **Head Teacher Rosary Group for October to begin today.**  **All welcome to attend. Please bring your rosary beads**  **to school.** |
| **Scoobmobile bus for the children in Primary 4.** |
| **Primary 5 excursion to ‘Amazonia’ as part of their topic**  **work on the ‘Rain Forest.’** |
| Thursday 10th October 2019 | **World Mental Health Day. Please wear something yellow**  **to school and donate a £1.00 per child or**  **£1.50 per family via Parent Pay.** |
| **Nursery ‘Transition Taster’ at 11.00am – Art and Design**  **with Mrs M McKay.** |
| **Parent/Teacher Conference today at 3.30 – 8.30pm.**  **Please collect any ‘Lost Property’ from the Central Area.** |
| Friday 11th October 2019 | **INSERVICE Day for Staff. Children are not at school.** |
| Monday 14th October to Friday 18th  October 2019 inclusive | **Schools stop for the October break. Enjoy!** |
| Monday 21st October 2019 | **‘Mini Vinnies/Fundraising Committee Context Week.’**  **Further information to follow.** |
| **Nursery ‘Transition Taster’ at 11.00am – PE with**  **Active Schools.** |
| Tuesday 22nd October 2019 | **Primary 7 to engage with ‘Homefront Histories’ as**  **part of their topic work around WW2.** |
| Wednesday 23rd October 2019 | **Head Teacher Rosary Group for October.**  **All welcome to attend. Please bring your rosary beads**  **to school.** |
| **Primary 5 proposed excursion to ‘Lapwing Lodge as**  **Part of transition work in MFL with St. Benedict’s.** |
| Thursday 24th October 2019 | **Primary 5 proposed excursion to ‘Lapwing Lodge as**  **Part of transition work in MFL with St. Benedict’s.** |
| Friday 25th October 2019 | **Golden Ticket Tea Party and Head Teacher**  **Termly Awards.** |
| Wednesday 30th October 2019 | **Head Teacher Rosary Group for October.**  **All welcome to attend. Please bring your rosary beads**  **to school.** |
| **Committee Meeting 3 for all children.** |
| **Primary 7 Residential Trip deposit due.** |
| **Parent Council Halloween Disco! 6.30 – 8.00pm.**  **Further details to follow via a letter.** |
| Thursday 31st October 2019 | **Halloween Parade. Children may bring in their costumes**  **to dress up in the afternoon for the parade, should**  **they wish to do so.** |

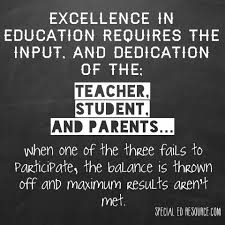


Additional Dates for your Diary:

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| **Day/Date** | **Event** |
| Friday 8th November 2019 | **Children’s flu vaccinations today.** |
| Wednesday 13th November 2019 | **Parent Council Meeting at 7.00pm in Room 7. All**  **welcome to attend.** |
| Friday 15th November 2019 | **Non uniform Day – item for the Christmas Fayre – TBC.** |
| Wednesday 20th November 2019 | **‘Sharing our Learning’ event in school for all families to**  **attend at 2.15 – 3.00pm.** |
| Friday 22nd November 2019 | **Non uniform Day – item for the Christmas Fayre – TBC.** |
| Friday 29th November 2019 | **Non uniform Day – item for Fairtrade – TBC.** |
| Tuesday 3rd December 2019 | **PACE Panto for the whole school – ‘The Snow Queen.’** |
| Monday 9th December 2019 | **Ronald McDonald Christmas Choir to visit the Paisley**  **Centre to help raise funds. 10.00 – 12.00pm. Please**  **come along to support the children!** |
| Friday 6th December 2019 | **Fairtrade Coffee Moring arranged by the Fairtrade**  **Committee Group at 10.00am. All are welcome to attend and please ‘spread the word’ to members in the local community.** |
| Sunday 8th December2019 | **Primary 6 and 7 Mass of Enrolment for the**  **Sacrament of Confirmation. The children’s Sponsor’s**  **are also invited to attend. This is also ‘Bambinelli**  **Sunday’ where the children in Primary 4 will make cribs**  **And Father Paul will issue and bless a ‘Baby Jesus’ for**  **the children to take home.** |
| Tuesday 10th December 2019 | **Interim Reports issued to Parents/Carers.** |
| Thursday 12th December 2019 | **Nativity Community Performance at 11.00am.** |
| Friday 13th December 2019 | **Nativity Show for Parents/Carers at 1.30pm.** |
| Monday 16th December 2019 | **Christmas Jumper Day. Wear something festive to school.** |
| Tuesday 17th December 2019 | **Primary 1 and 3/2 Christmas Party. Children may wear**  **their party clothes to school, should they wish to do so.** |
| Wednesday 18th December 2019 | **Primary 4/3 and 5 Christmas Party. Children may wear**  **their party clothes to school, should they wish to do so.** |
| Thursday 19th December 2019 | **Primary 6 and 7 Christmas Party. Children may wear**  **their party clothes to school, should they wish to do so.** |
| Friday 20th December 2019 | **End of Term Mass celebrated in St. Fillan’s Church at**  **9.30am. All are welcome to attend.** |
| **Head Teacher ‘End of Term’ Awards Assembly.** |
| **Golden Ticket Tea Party!** |
| **SCHOOL STOPS AT 2.30pm TODAY. WISHING ALL OF OUR FAMILIES A WONDERFUL CHRISTMAS TIME.** |

**Final Thoughts: #Demonstrate Excellence!**

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