

St Paul's Primary School

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Our Ref :

Date : 14 January 2020

HEAD TEACHER: LOUISE A MAHER

JANUARY 2020 NEWSLETTER

Welcome Back!

I hope you all had a lovely restful break with family. I hope 2020 is filled with health and happiness for us all. The staff and I would like to thank you for your generous cards and gifts. Your kindness is much appreciated. Thank you also for your support with all our Christmas events. The Christmas Fair raised around £1100. Thank you to the parent council for their time and effort in organising this event.

New Year Reminders

- Water bottles should be taken home regularly for washing.
- **Only water** should be in these bottles for consumption in class – **NOT JUICE**
- Winter clothing – warm jackets in particular should be worn every day as children may be outdoors for learning activities, break times and as you know the weather can be unpredictable.
- Parking – this is a one-system way car park, please follow the signs.

Attendance / Latecoming

You will now have received a letter if your child's attendance has fallen below the required percentage. We will continue to monitor attendance in % rates should improve over the session. Latecoming is becoming an increasing issue. If your child is too late to go to the playground then they are late for school. Children should arrive 5 or 10 minutes early to ensure they have time to see their peers and line up ready for the class teacher. The only reason this should not happen is when an alternative arrangement has been made for your child via management. Please help your child to get the best start to the school day by ensuring they are on time.

Family Learning Pizza Reading

These sessions will now be offered to all P2 families. The staff from community learning will be in touch directly to invite you along. The feedback from P1 families was very positive. This block will start on Tuesday 21st January.

Online Safety

Many children may have received new technologies for Christmas. Please remember that children in primary school should not have access to social media apps such as Facebook and WhatsApp. The age restriction on these is 13. Please discuss with your child and encourage them, at this young age to communicate face to face with their friends instead. These are important skills for life.

P1 Registration

The afternoons of **Wednesday 16th January and Thursday 17th January (1.30-3pm)** are designated for the enrolment of children due to start school in August 2020. Any child who is 5 years of age between 1 March 2020 and 28 February 2021 inclusive should be enrolled for school. Parents must bring the following documents: ***child's birth certificate, and two proofs of residence, which must include a council tax notice for the property or proof that you have registered for council tax at that property and/or a letter from your solicitor confirming that missives have been concluded or a rent book for rented property, or a tenancy agreement and/or a mortgage/bank statement.***

Any parent unable to register at the allocated times please contact the school office as soon as possible to arrange an alternative time. **If your child has been baptised a copy of the baptismal certificate should also be presented.**

Please note no child can be enrolled without the correct documentation.

Breakfast Club

Our breakfast club continues to run from 8.20am-8.50am at a cost of 50p per day. Mrs O Neil will be there at this time to take the register and ensure children are safe. A breakfast of cereal and toast is provided by the kitchen staff and the money is payable directly to them. Children must not be left at the front door of the school before 8.20am without an adult. All children attending the breakfast club must pay their money – children cannot just sit in the dinner hall instead of being in the playground. Children will be taken to the playground at 8.50am in time for lining up.

Director of Children's Services: Steven Quinn
Council Headquarters, South Building, Cotton Street, Paisley PA1LE

Extra-Curricular Clubs

We have a number of clubs on during lunch and after school. Remember these are now bookable online. The clubs for this term will be finalised over the next few weeks. If you are having difficulty, please see the office. For lunch clubs the class teacher will remind children before their lunch and there will be an announcement over the tannoy. However, we do not have the staff to go round reminding individual children. Please remind your child in the morning when they have clubs on. School staff also offer Mindful colouring and games clubs at lunchtime for children who would prefer this type of social interaction.

Trips

This term a number of classes are going on school trips relating to their social studies topics. These are valuable experiences, which help, make the learning real for children. Please complete consent forms and return as soon as possible to allow buses and costs to be met. If you are having difficulty with finances please contact me directly. At the moment, a trip has been organised for P4 to go to Maritime Museum in Irvine and P6 & 7 will go to Celtic Connections at the Royal Concert Hall. P6 will also go to West College Scotland as part of a STEM project.

Parent Council

As you know, our Parent Council worked extremely hard raising money for Cash for Kids. As a result, we received a grant for £15,853.92. The Parent Council will be providing a budget of £20 per pupil to each class plus £100 per class for transport. Children will work with their class teacher to decide what to spend the money on. This may be trips out, paying to buy experiences into school or purchasing resources.

Uniforms

We take pride in our beautiful school uniform. Children in P6 and P7 should wear shirt and tie every day. They are in the senior school and set an example to others, this prepares them for high school. Children P1-5 can wear polo-shirt on PE days to facilitate with changing. In order to support good hygiene, children P6 & 7 must bring a full change of clothes for PE.

Remember the Uniform Bank is still available. If you are struggling, replacing uniforms please let us know and we will arrange this for you. Children should wear their school uniform every day, unless told otherwise.

PE

Physical Education is the only part of the curriculum where we are under obligation from the Scottish Government, to ensure children fully participate for 2 hours each week. An increasing number of children are coming to school without their kit. Please support your child by ensuring they have their trainers, shorts jogging trousers and t-shirt for PE. Their diary will tell you when gym days are. Remember also that all jewellery must be removed, including watches. Earrings should be removed and kept at home for safekeeping. PE kit can also be sought from the Uniform Bank, just ask at the school office.

Playground

As you know, we have one of the best playgrounds in Renfrewshire. However, some children are not looking after the equipment, During break times we have adults supervising children on the equipment to ensure they are safe and that the equipment is used appropriately. Please can I ask that before and after school that you monitor your own children and ensure they are playing safely. Children should not be playing on the roundabout, as it is required to be monitored by an adult when in use.

Staffing

Miss Ramsay will start her maternity leave soon with her last day being Friday 17th January 2020. Miss Cola (a new member of staff), Mrs Fyfe and Mrs Nicholson will cover primary 2. Miss Cola will be in on Friday 17th to meet the children and hand over curriculum information to ensure a smooth transition.

Targeted nurture will not take place this term. Children will remain in class to practice the skills they have been focussing on within this group.

We have appointed a new classroom assistant with some of our Pupil Equity Fund. Her name is Miss Fyfe; I am hoping she can start within the next few weeks.

Miss Robertson has recently been married and will now be known as Mrs Grindlay. We wish her and her new husband best wishes and congratulations.

Personal Belongings

Personal belongings are the responsibility of the individual therefore all items should be labelled including clothing. In this school, we give away to a huge amount of clothing due to there being no names on them and people not coming to claim them. We need to train children to look after their belongings – as we all know money for these does not grow on trees.

Parent Pay

As previously mentioned we will be adopting Parent Pay, this will allow you to pay for dinners, and trips etc. online and prevent having to give children money or come into the school office. We hope to go live in March 2020. I will keep you posted as new information becomes available

Credit Union

The parent Council will be provided every pupil with £1 to open his or her own credit union account. Staff from the credit union will come into the school and provided support and collect monies from children. Consent forms will be issued. Once these have been completed, we will pay £1 and then your child will be provided with a payment book. They can then save their pocket money and Credit Union staff will bank and record the savings. Saving and budgeting are essential skills for life. I am sure something we could all learn from. Look out for the consent and return ASAP.

Lunches

As you know all children, Primary 1-3 are entitled to a free school meal. Children in P4-7 need to either pay for a school meal or if entitled you need to apply for free school meals **every session**. The kitchen have reported that some people are building up a debt. If you are entitled to free school meals but have not applied, please contact the school office.

Sacramental Preparation

As previously advised all P4 pupils will be presented for the Sacrament of Reconciliation (First Confession) on Tuesday 10th March at 7pm.

The same children will receive the Sacrament of Holy Eucharist (First Holy Communion) on Sunday 3rd May at 11.15am. Parents, friends and extended families are of course invited to come along to support the children in these important events of their faith journey.

Primary 7 children will receive the Sacrament of Confirmation during holy mass in St. Mirin's Cathedral on Thursday 23rd April at 7pm. Bishop John will be the main celebrant and parents and sponsors are invited to attend.

Kind Regards

Louise A. Maher
Head Teacher

Diary Dates

DATE	EVENT
Wednesday 15 th January	P1 Registration
Thursday 16 th January	P1 Registration
Friday 17 th January	Whole School Golden Time
Thursday 23 rd January	2pm Anchor Cafe
Friday 24 th January	P6 & P7 going to Celtic Connection
Monday 27 th January	P6 University West of Scotland - STEM
Friday 31 st February	Golden Tea Party
Friday 7 th February	In-Service Day – Children do not attend
Monday 10 th February	HOLIDAY
Tuesday 11 th February	HOLIDAY
Wednesday 12 th February	In-Service Day – Children do not attend
Monday 24 th February	start of Fairtrade Fortnight
Thursday 27 th February	Anchor Cafe
Friday 28 th February	Golden Tea Party
Tuesday 10 th March	P4 First Confession / Sacrament of Reconciliation

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