

Our Ref :

Date : 28 February 2020

**HEAD TEACHER: LOUISE A MAHER****March/April 2020 Newsletter****NUT FREE SCHOOL**

Recently we have noticed some children bringing in nut products. Please remember this is a nut free school. The reason for this is that we have some children with nut allergies and as you know this can be dangerous. To support the health of our children we ask you to keep all nut products at home. This includes Nutella bars and spread.

**School Trips**

You will notice that children are participating in school trips. This has been possible, free of charge thanks to the amazing work of the Parent Council and wider parent body, raising money for Cash for Kids. Each class were given a budget and the children and teacher chose where to go. I am sure they will have fun while learning when they are out and about on their travels. Thanks to those of you who have supported these trips by coming along as a helper.

**Credit Union**

As you know from previous communication the parent council will pay £1 for each child in the school to open their own credit union account. This will encourage children to look after their pocket money and save up. The credit union will be in the school on the first Monday of each month to give the children the chance to sign up and add to their fund. This will start Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> March 8.45-9.30am in the family room. Please pop in if adding to an account or signing up.

**Parent Pay**

On Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> March 2020 we will be going live with Parent Pay. This means we will be accepting payments online for items such as dinner money, school trips and charity donations. Using a secure website called ParentPay you will be able to pay online using your credit or debit card or to make cash payments at PayPoint stores. ParentPay will be our preferred method of making payments to school. There are dates in the diary dates below when people will be here at the school to help you sign-up.

**Fairtrade Fortnight 24<sup>th</sup> February – 8<sup>th</sup> March**

The Fairtrade Committee have organised a bake sale on Friday 6<sup>th</sup> March to promote the importance of using Fairtrade foods to ensure farmers are given a fair pay for their produce. This year the theme will focus on cocoa and therefore Fairtrade chocolate. The committee would like any donations of home baking using Fairtrade products. If you could include what Fairtrade product you have used this would be really helpful so they can record it.

**Congestion Around the School**

Congestion at key times of the day is becoming an increasing problem. This week alone two people have reported almost being knocked down while walking across the zebra crossing. Our Parent Council and Travel Plan Committee have raised concerns and we have already involved Renfrewshire Council who have supported us with various actions on the roads outside the school. However, much of the problem is people using cars irresponsibly and not following the road markings within the grounds. The markings within the school grounds MUST be followed in line with the regulations of the road. No-one should stop or park on the zebra crossing. This is to allow safe crossing for pedestrians.

No-one should park in or stop over a disabled parking space. Only those with a disability badge on display can use the spaces. No-one should park in the drop-off zone and leave their car. This is for stopping to let children out. If you are leaving your car you need to responsibly park in a space. Everyone MUST follow the one way system which is in place and clearly marked.

Pedestrians must use the pedestrian entrance. Many are using the vehicle entrance and walking across the playground. Please use our car park responsibly to ensure the safety of everyone.

Thank you to those of you who have completed and returned the questionnaires issued by the travel plan. We will take these to the parent council where the children will present the results.

## **Mindset Maths – Dates for your diary**

Some members of staff are currently studying Mindset Maths which looks at ways to help us feel more positive about Maths. We will be offering some fun ways to join Maths and Art together and give you the chance to create something with your child/children. Please keep the following dates in your diary and we will be in touch with more information. Thursday 21st May, Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> May, Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> June, Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> June.

## **City of Play**

Thank you so much to those of you who have volunteered to come along and help with our outdoor day with City of Play. Some people have volunteered for the whole day which is fantastic. We look forward to this fun and creative day on Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> March. The sessions will take place in the playground and Mrs Connelly will have notified you of your slots. Parents who are helping are welcome to have lunch in the Family Room. We have been asked for adults to arrive 10 minutes before their slot to discuss safety etc.

## **Lent**

We have now started the period of Lent where we remember the sacrifices Jesus made for us as we prepare for Easter. Thank you to Deacon John who came to school this week to share a service and distribute ashes. The children were respectful and prayerful throughout. Lent is a time where we focus on Prayer – when we pray for others. Each class has a daily intention to pray for. Fasting – where we give up and sacrifice things. Almsgiving – when we raise money for charity. Look out for what we will be doing this year.

## **World Book Day – 5<sup>th</sup> March**

World Book Day will take place next week. Children will be taking part in a number of literacy and reading experiences throughout the day. At 2.15pm we welcome you to come and join your child for a story. Even the big kids love listening to a story.

## **P7 Confirmation**

Primary 7 will receive the sacrament of Confirmation on 23<sup>rd</sup> April at St Mirin's Cathedral. As part of their preparation, Primary 7 arrange an event to raise money for the Bishop's Charity, which is MISSIO. This year P7 will organise a talent show on Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> April - more information will follow. Children should bring in £1 or £2 per family on 1<sup>st</sup> April for this event. Primary 7 will also take part in Confirmation retreat on 23<sup>rd</sup> April. Canon Eddie will fund this along with food for the children throughout the day. Bishop John will come and visit the children on 22<sup>nd</sup> April to help them to prepare for the sacrament.

## **P4 Sacraments**

Primary 4 will receive the sacrament of First Confession on Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> March and take part in a Holy Communion retreat on 21<sup>st</sup> April with children from St Peter's Primary. We are thankful to Canon Eddie who will pay for this retreat and all the food as part of the preparation and celebration of these sacraments.

P4 will receive the Sacrament of Holy Communion for the first time on Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> May at 11.15am. Please keep them in your prayers.

## **Parents' Evening**

The second formal opportunity for you to discuss your child's progress with their teacher will take place on Tuesday 31st March. Appointment times will be issued in due course. Please return preference slips by Thursday 12th March to allow appointment times to be issued promptly.

## **Sexual Health Programme**

Next term we will be focussing on the sexual health aspect of the school curriculum. Within the mainstream classes, this is based on our programme "God's Loving Plan" in line with the teachings of the Catholic Church and in the Anchor classes; this is based on the programme "Relationships Sexual Health and Parenthood Education". Both packs will be available for you to look through on parents' evening. If you have any questions please ask. A letter will be issued for Primary 6 and 7 with some more detail. I thought it would be helpful to give you advance notice in case you wish to discuss any aspects of sexual health, with your child before they cover it in school.

## **Extra-Curricular Clubs**

We have a number of clubs after school and during lunch break which are run by active schools coaches. Remember these can be booked online. Thank you to Mrs Connell and Mrs McPherson who give freely of their time each week to support our school Netball. The netball team is involved in tournaments, giving them a fantastic opportunity to develop their sporting skills as well as team work and appropriate conduct.

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

We also have our mindfulness colouring lunch club on a Monday, as well as drumming club. Tuesday – Friday our social club runs during lunch break. These offer lots of choices for our children during their social time.

### Ready to Learn

Please remember children should wear their shirt and ties every day. Children P5-7 need to change fully for PE, for hygiene reasons. Full PE kit must be brought to school on all PE days. PE is as important as other curricular areas. There are an increasing number of children not bringing their PE kit. Please support us by encouraging your children to maintain the school standards.

### Staff Update/ News

I am pleased to share with you that Ms Ramsay had a baby boy on Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> February and both are doing well. Congratulations to them all.

Mrs McCaig will be returning from maternity leave on Monday 9<sup>th</sup> March 2020. She will work Monday and Tuesday in Primary 6. Mrs Grindlay will continue to work in Primary 6 Wednesday – Friday.

### Families First

Families First can offer many different supports including financial, energy management, health and wellbeing and much more. They will be coming along to Parents' Evening and starting a cooking club after the Easter break. Look out for them when you come along.

### Dates for Your Diary

DATE	EVENT
Friday 28 <sup>th</sup> March	P7 Visit to St Andrew's Academy Science Department
Monday 2 <sup>nd</sup> March	Credit Union Anchor 3 Trip to Braehead
Tuesday 3 <sup>rd</sup> March	CITY OF PLAY – All Day
Wednesday 4 <sup>th</sup> March	Parent Council Meeting
Thursday 5 <sup>th</sup> March	World Book Day P4 Lenten Service
Friday 6 <sup>th</sup> March	First Friday Mass Fairtrade Bake Sale
Tuesday 10 <sup>th</sup> March	P4 First Confession
Wednesday 11 <sup>th</sup> March	Education Manager to visit school today
Thursday 12 <sup>th</sup> March	11am P5&6 Lenten Service
Friday 13 <sup>th</sup> March	8.45am An opportunity to sign up for Parent Pay
Tuesday 17 <sup>th</sup> March	11am P1-3 Lenten Service
Wednesday 18 <sup>th</sup> March	Primary 4 & Anchor 2 trip to Sea Life Centre 2.15pm An opportunity to sign up for Parent Pay
Friday 20 <sup>th</sup> March	P2 Trip to Science Centre
Tuesday 24 <sup>th</sup> March	Go Live with Parent Pay
Wednesday 25 <sup>th</sup> March	P3 Trip to Science Centre
Thursday 26 <sup>th</sup> March	Anchor Cafe
Friday 27 <sup>th</sup> March	Golden Tea Party – SUCCESSFUL Sea Cadets to visit P6&7
Monday 30 <sup>th</sup> March	P4-7 Confessions Anchor 2 & 3 Tennis Tournament
Tuesday 31 <sup>st</sup> March	Parents' Evening
Wednesday 1 <sup>st</sup> April	Talent Show
Thursday 2 <sup>nd</sup> April	School Closes at 2.30pm for Easter Holiday
Friday 3 <sup>rd</sup> April	HOLIDAY
Monday 20 <sup>th</sup> April	School RE-OPENS @ 9am
Tuesday 21 <sup>st</sup> April	P4 Retreat Anchor 6 Trip to The Tall Ship
Thursday 23rd April	P7 Retreat P7 Confirmation
Tuesday 28 <sup>th</sup> April	Families First Cooking Club Week 1
Wednesday 29 <sup>th</sup> April	Parent Council Meeting

Sunday 3 <sup>rd</sup> May	P4 First Holy Communion
Tuesday 5 <sup>th</sup> May	Families First Cooking Club Week 2 P7 Transition Workshop Children stop for Holiday Weekend
Wednesday 6 <sup>th</sup> & 7 <sup>th</sup> May	IN-SERVICE DAY
Friday 8 <sup>th</sup> May	IN-SERVICE DAY
Tuesday 12 <sup>th</sup> May	Families First Cooking Club Week 3
Wednesday 13 <sup>th</sup> May	P6 & P7 Trip to Scotland Street Museum & Science Centre
Thursday 14 <sup>th</sup> May	P4-7 SSPCA Workshop Anchor Cafe
Tuesday 19 <sup>th</sup> May	Families First Cooking Club Week 4
Wednesday 20 <sup>th</sup> May	Sports Day AM / Mental Wellbeing Showcase PM
Thursday 21 <sup>st</sup> May	Ascension Thursday Mindset Craft Group
Friday 22 <sup>nd</sup> May	HOLIDAY
Monday 25 <sup>th</sup> May	HOLIDAY
26 <sup>th</sup> & 27 <sup>th</sup> May	P7 Transition Visits to St Andrew's Academy New P1 Induction Visits to St Paul's Primary Mindset Craft Group
Thursday 28 <sup>th</sup> May	Primary 1 Trip to Kidzplay and Beach
Friday 29 <sup>th</sup> May	Golden Tea Party

Yours sincerely

Louise A. Maher  
Head Teacher



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