

NEWSLETTER November 2020

COVID-19 UPDATE

You may be aware that new guidance has been issued for schools. Some of the key points are that parents should wear masks for drop-off and pick-up. Staff already wear masks when traveling around the building and will continue to do so. Staff will also wear face masks where they are not able to keep a 2metre distance from pupils or other adults.

FAITH DEVELOPMENT

During the month on November remember those who have died. Yesterday was a Holiday of Obligation for All Saints Day and today is All Souls Day. This is particularly relevant giving the current climate and the illness and bereavement some people are facing due to the pandemic. Please pray for our loved ones during the month of November.

16TH – 30TH November is Catholic Education Week. This now takes place from St Margaret's Day till St Andrew's Day. During this time, we remember and celebrate that we are a community of faith. Remember to look out on Twitter where we share lots of our learning with you every week. @stpaulsfoxbar

CASH FOR KIDS

St Paul's Primary once again did an amazing job with fundraising efforts for Cash for Kids which has been especially challenging during these times. A special mention to some of our children, Jamie Smith P4, Cara P4, Natalia P6, Daniel P4, Freya P5 and Caragh P7. They have gone above and beyond in their own time and we are very proud of what they are doing for their community and to help others. I am delighted to share with you that as a school community we raised an amazing £5,056.37. We received an extra £1000 top-up for coming in 3rd. We also received 3 other top-up awards for PR and Social Media. Thank you to all those who posted and shared events on social media, all of which went towards these awards. Natalia in P6 also achieved the star pupil award giving us another top-up prize. Our final total in the end was £6806.37. Particularly in these challenging times this money will go towards helping individual families and community groups across Scotland. As you know a sponsor matches the money raised, which means as a school we also receive this money for our children. Thank you to the parents and staff who also supported these events and especially Yvonne Moohan and Mrs Woods who were very involved. We had great fun participating in the challenges.

EST Meetings

Every year around this time we hold Extended Support Team Meetings for every child in the school. These will once again take place over the coming weeks. Mrs Nicholson will lead this in her role as pupil support co-ordinator. The class teacher, home link, Educational Psychology etc may also be involved. If there are any actions from these meetings, please be assured you will be informed.

PE

Please note PE remains outdoors and will do for the foreseeable future in St Paul's Primary. As you know our gym hall is currently the P7 classroom. In order to support families financially and ensure the children are dry over the winter months we will be providing every child with a waterproof jacket, and trousers. Please make sure children bring these on gym days and that they are washed regularly to ensure good hygiene. Thank you to those support staff members Mrs Russell, Mrs

Martin and especially Mrs Smith who put names on all the waterproofs. Please encourage the children to look after these as they were quite expensive, and they cannot be replaced. We want them to get use of them throughout the winter months. These will be issued to children this week.

Parent portal

As you know our launch of parent portal was postponed due to lockdown. The new date for St Paul's Primary is **5th November 2020**, parentportal.scot is a new digital service to help replace the traditional schoolbag run, by providing direct communication to parents through a growing suite of online services. Eventually these services will include; placing requests, reporting absence, paying for trips and lunches, annual data checks and more. It will be helpful to both yourselves and the school if you can sign up. All information has already been issued. If you have any questions, please call the school office for support.

Attendance

Attendance at school is very important to ensure our children continue to make progress and develop socially with their peers. As you know children should only be absent from school if they are too ill to do so. During these times they may also be absent due to self-isolating. However, we would expect that children attend every day, unless sick. We aim for children to be at school +95% of the time. This allows for any sickness they may pick up. Attendance figures have been reviewed and letters will be issued or phone calls made in the coming weeks. We will continue to work with you to ensure your child attends school. Please remember to call with a reason before 9.30am or the absence will be recorded as unauthorised. The best way for children to make progress is for them to come to school.

P1 Enrolment for August 2021

Enrolment for Primary 1 usually takes place in January. This session it takes place 2nd – 9th November 2020. This should be completed online, go to www.renfrewshire.gov.uk/p1registration anytime between Monday 2 and Monday 9 November.

You'll need to have a few things ready to upload:

1. a copy of your child's **full** birth certificate
2. proof of address – Council Tax **and** Child Benefit Statement (or Driving Licence, utility/bank statement showing last 3 months transactions)
3. Roman Catholic Baptismal Certificate (if applicable)

Primary 7 Transition

You will have already received a letter stating which high school your child should go to. If you are making a placing request to a different school this should have been submitted by 23rd October 2020. We will soon begin planning and discussions for P7 transition in August 2021.

Citizenship Groups

We have renamed our committees and are calling them our Citizenship Groups giving a new emphasis on developing our young people to be good citizens. These will operate slightly different this year, instead of multiple classes coming together they will take place in each class. For example; Primary 5 are the Right Respecting Group. Each class will work together to develop an aspect or plan an event to share or promote their work and raise awareness.

Free meals

Remember if your child, or the child you care for, is in Primary 4 or above, you can apply for free school meals for this school year 20/21. Make a new application for P4 or renew your application for P5-7. Remember this must be done every year. All information is available on Renfrewshire Council website along with application forms and advice.

Parking

I know that with things the way they are that parking can be challenging. However, I must ask that you **do not at any time park on the zig-zags outside of the school.** These are in place for the safety of our children. I would also ask that you are considerate, not only for the safety of our children but also for those residents living in Lauren Way. Please park further away and walk to the school. This will not only keep everyone safe but also help with health and wellbeing and encourage walking to school.

Water Bottles

As stated in a previous newsletter you can send more than one water bottle into school for your child. The risk assessments in place mean that water fountains are closed therefore you must provide your child with a full bottle of water each day, two if needed. Our safety measure mean we are encouraging children to remain in their seat throughout the day which prevents them filling their water bottle multiple times. Please remind your child to bring their bottle home each day to be washed and refilled for the next day.

Confirmation – Current S1 pupils.

Our previous P7 children will be presented for the Sacrament of Confirmation this month in the Cathedral. We wish them the very best and keep them in our prayers in the coming months. They prepared will last session and I am sure they will continue to use the gifts and fruits of the Holy Spirit to help others.

Values Survey

Thank you to everyone who responded to our survey on our school values. We received responses. The children and the staff have also had input around our school values. The results are that our school values are now **RESPECT, HONESTY, NURTURE & KINDNESS.** We will be working with the children over the coming months on these values and what they mean for us each day in school.

Reporting to Parents

You will have all received a telephone call from your child's class teacher providing a report on their progress for term 1 and how they have settled back into school. We are aware that you did not receive a written report in June. As a support, for this session only we have introduced an interim report which will be issued in December 2020. This will provide a further update on your child's progress for term 2.

Homework

Homework continues to be online. Primary 1-3 using Seesaw, Reading Eggs and Sumdog. Primary 4-7 using Google Classroom, Reading Eggs and Sumdog. It is very important that children and families can access these and upload their work. Seesaw and Google classroom are also ways for children and class teachers to communicate and for you to share your child's achievements with us at school. If you have not done this already, please do so as soon as possible. These can be accessed on a phone, tablet, laptop, xbox or playstation.

Class teachers have spent time in school ensuring the children have their passwords and are able to access these platforms.

Up to date email

Please remember if you change your email to let us know. This will be a key format of communication with parents and we do not want you to miss out.

Annual data

We are still waiting for some annual data information to be returned. If you have not done this already, please do so as soon as possible.

Assembly

The House Captains will be leading a monthly assembly starting Friday 6th November. They will present on a theme and celebrate achievements of children across the school. If your child has any achievements from home, please let us know as we would love to celebrate them.

Advent

Advent will be upon us in a few weeks. The House Captains have decided that donations for the foodbank will be our charitable focus during advent. From 1st – 8th December we will be collecting items for the foodbank. As you can imagine circumstances for some are already challenging and Christmas may bring further difficulties. They are particularly short of;

Tins of meat/ jam/ tuna/ potatoes/ veg/ soup/ toiletries/ pet food.

We will also be having an own clothes day on Friday 4th December, again children should bring an item for the food bank. They will then be quarantined for 72 hours and then collected.

Dates for the Diary

5 th November	Parent Pay goes Live
6 th November	Virtual Whole School Assembly
9 th November	Inter-Faith Week begins
16 th November	Start of Catholic Education Fortnight Start of Scottish Book Week Start of Anti-bullying Week – P5 Citizenship Group Focus
29 th November	1 st Sunday of Advent
30 th November	HOLIDAY for St Andrew's Day
1 st December	Can begin to donate for foodbank from today
4 th December	Own Clothes – bring something for the foodbank Virtual Whole School Assembly
16 th December	Surprise in store – wonder what it will be?
17 th December	Class Christmas Parties
18 th December	Streaming of Nativity for Whole School STOP FROM CHRISTMAS TODAY
6 th January	SCHOOL REOPENS TODAY

Kind Regards

Louise A. Maher

Head Teacher

