

## NEWSLETTER December 2020

We have made it to December! As we near the end of what has been a particularly trying year for everyone in our school community we continue to look for ways to bring our school family together. Over the next few weeks Primary 1-3 will be telling the story of the Nativity. This will be uploaded to Youtube for you to share with your family and friends. Thank you to Miss Coyle for filming and editing this, we are all learning new skills during these times. Primary 4-7 will be performing some Christmas cheer which will also be uploaded to Youtube. P4-7 will be able to share mass and Advent services over the coming weeks supported by Fr Jude from St Paul's Parish and Canon Jim from St Charles' Parish. During Advent we are called to prepare for the coming of Jesus and we are reminded of the importance of love and family. We continue to pray for our families and communities through these difficult times.

**We wish you all a wonderful Christmas and a Happy New Year!**

**With all our best wishes.**

The House Captains have decided that donations for the foodbank will be our charitable focus during Advent. WE ARE COLLECTING FOR THE FOODBANK NOW UNTIL MONDAY 7<sup>TH</sup>, WHICH WILL BE THE LAST DAY FOR COLLECTION. 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 4<sup>th</sup> December**, again children should bring an **items for the food bank**. They will then be quarantined for 72 hours and then collected.

### **We are a Laudato Si School**

St Paul's Primary are delighted to announce that we have registered to be a Laudato Si' School. Our aims are to meet the Holy Father's goal of creating an 'Ecological Education' within our school. We are calling on all of our pupils to be 'stewards of God's creation' and accept the challenge to do this during his encyclical and global impact on education during 2020. We as a school are making a commitment, as a community of faith and learning, to CHANGE FOR GOOD. St Paul's pupils will explore what the Holy Father calls 'Ecological Spirituality'. This is where we develop a conversation with God and a religious vision of God's creation. We are encouraged to have a greater contact with the natural world, working to protect our environment. This links perfectly with our previous Eco work. Primary 7 launched Laudato Si' with a prayer service of commitment which was shared with all pupils allowing them to Learn – Pray - Act and celebrate their commitment to make a CHANGE FOR GOOD.

### **Christmas Mass Schedule**

You can now book your ticket for Christmas Eve and Christmas Morning Masses. St Paul's Church intends to have two vigil masses 6pm and 7pm on Christmas Eve and 12noon Mass on Christmas Day. To book your ticket follow this link - <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/christmas-mass-tickets-131031287107> or call Brian Thorburn 01505816180 or Tony Green 07530759846.

### **Nativity Scene**

St Paul's Church are inviting all families to create a Nativity Scene to display on your window for everyone to see. Use bright colours to make it stand out. You could add your lights to catch the attention of passers by. Take a photograph and send it to [erskinecatholicchurches@gmail.com](mailto:erskinecatholicchurches@gmail.com) Or via messenger @Catholicerskine1. It would be great to see a Nativity Scene in every window.

### **Care Homes**

Usually at this time of year we visit our local Care Homes to sing for them. As this is not possible, we will be sharing our Nativity with them, hopefully they will be able to watch it together.

### **COVID-19**

As Renfrewshire are now in tier 4 we continue to follow all of the government guidelines. Social distancing, handwashing and the wearing of face masks are the key steps within our school. Please remind your children about the importance of keeping a 2 metre distance from adults and other classes. Thank you to all parents / carers who are wearing face coverings and maintaining a 2 metre distance from other households at the school gates. These steps are in place to help keep everyone safe.

As a tier 4 school PE remains outside for all schools in Renfrewshire. You may have seen a number of photographs on twitter of our children making good use of their waterproofs. The cost of these was £2800 but I am sure you will agree this has been a worthwhile investment.

### **Assembly**

The House Captains will be leading our December Assembly this week. They will include a presentation on St Andrew and of course we will issue achievement leaves and announce house points. Please remember if your child has any achievements at home please let us know and we will celebrate their success in school.

### **Lost in Pantoland**

PACE are producing a panto that you can watch for free online from 19<sup>th</sup> – 24<sup>th</sup> December. You may not be able to go to a panto but the panto can come to the comfort of your own home. There are a limited number of interactive family tickets also available [www.renfrewshireleisure.com/arts](http://www.renfrewshireleisure.com/arts)

You can also view the performances free of charge through PACE youtube channel . A great wee night in for the whole family.

### **Reporting to Parents**

You will receive a short interim report for your child before the Christmas break. We hope this will help you to understand the progress your child is making along with their effort and attitude. This will come home in school bags with a text to let you know.

### **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.

### **Free meals**

Over the Christmas holidays Renfrewshire will be supporting those children who receive free school meals. However, in order to do this P1-3 families who normally receive free meals anyway must apply for free meals in order to receive this payment. Letters have been issued from the school office. Please read and action if you feel you are entitled to this payment. P4-7 families who have not yet registered for free meals but now feel they are eligible can also apply. To find out if you are eligible to apply, please visit the web page below:

<http://www.renfrewshire.gov.uk/Freeschoolmealsandclothinggrants>

All applications should be made no later than **Thursday 10 December 2020** in order to receive payment in time for the Christmas holiday period.

**A new interim menu will be in place from 14<sup>th</sup> December. Please see menu below.**

### **New Menu Week 1 – starting 14<sup>th</sup> December 2020**

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Sausage Roll with Salad & Potato Wedges	Chicken Goujon Wrap with Salad & Smiley Faces	Pizzini with Salad & Potato Wedges	Chicken Burger with Salad & Smiley Faces	Macaroni Cheese with Salad & Potato Wedges
Sandwich Selection Cheese, Ham or Tuna Mayonnaise				

### **New Menu Week 2**

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Chicken Nuggets Salad & Smiley Faces	Veggie Burger with Salad & Potato Wedges	Fish Goujon Wrap with Salad & Smiley Faces	Pizzini with Salad & Potato Wedges	Macaroni Cheese with Salad and Smiley Faces
Sandwich Selection Cheese, Ham or Tuna Mayonnaise				

#### **Parent portal**

Parent Portal is now live. If you have not already signed up please do as soon as possible. It will then be much easier to pay for school dinners etc.

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.

#### **P1 Enrolment for August 2021**

P1 enrolment for next session has now concluded. We are beginning to receive the relevant paperwork and after the new year placing requests will be confirmed from Renfrewshire Council.

#### **Primary 7 Transition**

P7 placement requests have now concluded. If you wish your child to attend a high different to the stated in the letter you need to make a placing request. These should have been made to Renfrewshire council in October 2020.

#### **Parking**

Once again I ask that you **do not at any time park on the zig-zags outside of the school, this includes parking at the corner of Lauren Way.** Most parents are being very considerate of other

people but a few continue to put others at risk. If this continues to happen the police will have to be informed. These rules are in place for the safety of our children. If you are blocking roads you are putting others at risk. 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.

### Car Park

As you may have noticed the car park is very busy and there are not enough spaces for all members of staff to have a space. Our car park continues to be for staff only and for those with a blue badges displayed who are dropping or collecting children. Please continue to follow this rule as we are beginning to see one or two starting to come into the car park again.

### Dates for the Diary

Tuesday 1 <sup>st</sup> December	Can begin to donate for foodbank from today
Friday 4 <sup>th</sup> December	Own Clothes – bring something for the foodbank Virtual Whole School Assembly
Tuesday 8 <sup>th</sup> December	CHRISTMAS DINNER DAY
Friday 11 <sup>th</sup> December	Surprise in store – wonder what it will be? PLEASE NOTE CHANGE OF DATE FROM 16 <sup>th</sup> . CHRISTMAS JUMPERS CAN BE WORN - OPTIONAL
Thursday 17 <sup>th</sup> December	Class Christmas Parties
Friday 18 <sup>th</sup> December	Streaming of Nativity for Whole School STOP FOR CHRISTMAS TODAY AT 2.30PM. <b>THIS MEANS OUR 2.45PM FINISH AT 2.15. 3PM CHILDREN FINISH AT 2.30PM AND 3.15PM CHILDREN FINISH AT 2.45PM</b>
6 <sup>th</sup> January	SCHOOL REOPENS TODAY – Usual staggered entry

Kind Regards

*Louise A. Maher*

Head Teacher

