



St. Peter's Primary School Newsletter

June 2020



Dear Parents/Carers,

I sincerely hope you continue to remain safe and well. It has been the most unusual term we have ever experienced as a community and I am very proud of the way in which we have all pulled together and supported one another. Our values have most definitely been put into practice as we have supported and applauded each other throughout this challenging time. Thank you for your patience, cooperation and good wishes during our school closure. It is hard to believe that we have reached the end of term already!

Deputy First Minister Announcement

You will all be aware by now that Mr John Swinney, our Deputy First Minister, announced on Tuesday afternoon that the ambition for Scotland is for children and staff to return to school full time in August if the coronavirus continues to be suppressed. While this brings about further changes, we whole heartedly welcome this decision and will spend time planning accordingly. We have missed our children very much and would like to see nothing more than all of them attending school and accessing learning with their teacher present on a full-time basis. The contingency plan, however, remains in place should there be a second wave of the virus where we need to return to the plan which involves groups of children attending school on certain days of the week.

Whichever plan we adhere to, social distancing remains at present and we must plan for this in August. For this reason, there is a guidance leaflet attached which should provide you with all of the information you require in order to understand our procedures and help to prepare and support your child as they return to school.



Primary 7 Transition

It was so lovely to see our wonderful primary 7 pupils return for a special visit on 23 June. They were given the opportunity to visit their class together in small groups for one last time. They spent time talking to each other and their teachers and were able to celebrate their time at St. Peter's Primary School. St. Peter's staff were very emotional to wave goodbye to them all and while we were unable to provide the usual guard of honour we managed to give them a great big send off which involved lots of clapping and cheering. They have been an outstanding year group who have contributed greatly to the life of the school and we will always think of them fondly. I am sure we will have opportunities to see them again some time in the future.



ELCC Graduation

A huge thank you to all staff in our nursery for preparing such a fantastic event for each individual child who leaves our nursery on Friday and will begin primary 1 in August. They, as always, went above and beyond the call of duty to help all of our children realise how special they are and how much they will be missed from our ELCC class. I thoroughly enjoyed meeting you all, hearing about all of the ambitions of our fantastic children and seeing their photographs of celebration on the facebook page. Please take time to have a look if you haven't already – I promise you are guaranteed to smile!



Welcome Primary 1

Thank you to all of our primary 1 parents/carers and their children who attended their session allowing them time to visit the school, meet staff and enjoy spending time in their primary 1 classroom. This was a perfect opportunity to meet all of our new entrants and give them time with their new teacher. I hope all of the St. Peter's bears are being well looked after and are enjoying many photo opportunities. We look forward to hearing all about the adventures of the children and their bears when they return to school.

Transition Zone

We have a Transition Zone on our Website for our new children starting in August. This zone can be found when you click on the Information Tab on our website. This area will be populated to keep our families up to date with current information about starting school and activities to help prepare your child for school.

We hope that this helps to alleviate any concerns or anxieties that you or your children may have. Please do not hesitate to get in touch if you have any individual questions that you would like answered.



Religious Life of The School

A virtual mass was said by Bishop John Keenan for all primary 7 children in our cluster on 25 June at 1pm. This was a perfect way to celebrate our primary 7 leavers and wish them well as they continue on their faith journey while taking the next step on to secondary school. We wish them all the success in the world and look forward to hearing about their future achievements.

Staffing

We will welcome a new member of staff in August who will teach one of our classes in the upper school, Miss Monica Stevenson. She is very much looking forward to joining us and has already attended for a visit and to hear all of the wonderful things about St. Peter's.

Unfortunately, we will say goodbye to Miss Denise Dowling on Friday 26 June. Miss Dowling taught primary 6/7 this year and I know she is very sad to be leaving us as she moves on to another primary school in Renfrewshire. I would like to take this opportunity to thank her for all of her hard work and commitment during her time here. Miss Dowling has supported many pupils in her class and has embraced all of the challenges faced this year with great integrity. I wish her well for the future.

Mrs Caitlin Maclean, Principal Teacher, has returned to work recently. Mrs Maclean has reduced her working week to 4 days on a temporary basis. This means that Mrs Catherine McLean will continue as Acting Principal Teacher 1 day per week. I am delighted with this arrangement and the school will certainly benefit from the skills and expertise of both.



Sporting Achievements

I would like to thank all of the children who successfully represented our school at various tournaments and sporting events throughout the school year. You have been excellent ambassadors for our school and we are extremely proud of you. I am sure if these were to have gone to the finals St. Peter's would have been lifting a trophy or two – I am not biased!



Communication

Thank you to all of you for keeping our lines of communication well and truly open. It has been a very positive experience to be able to use various methods to stay in touch and maintain contact with parents/carers and children. I think we have learned a few lessons during this time and I would not like to lose the positive aspects so let's try hard to ensure we continue to work together in the same way to support one another.

The following email addresses remain accessible to you:

Mrs Lawson - gw08kinneypatricia@glow.sch.uk

Mrs Mazzoni – gw07mazzonisharon@glow.sch.uk

stpetersenquiries@renfrewshire.gov.uk

A huge thank you to Mrs Catherine McLean (Acting Principal Teacher) and Mrs Karen Ewing (Classroom Assistant) who have been extremely active in keeping our school website, app and twitter pages up to date. I encourage you to access these so that you are able to receive immediate updates as and when they happen.

Accessing Twitter - If you have a Twitter account, please follow us @SaintPetersPS. Anyone can view our Twitter page, even without an account by entering '@SaintPetersPS Twitter' into your internet search engine.

Accessing School App - Download 'School App for Parents' from your App Store. When you access for the first time you will be asked to enter our username and PIN number. Username: stpeters01 PIN: 4523

Classification

You will have seen in the letter sent out on Monday that we now plan to have 10 classes which enables us to comply with the social distancing guidance more effectively. Should this change at any time you will be informed immediately.

Free Meal and Clothing Grants

Renfrewshire Council has a section on their website which provides you with information in order that you can make your application. Please look closely at this and I strongly encourage you to make an application if you feel you are eligible. I believe parents/carers can apply for the coming session on 06 July 2020 and I would urge you to do so. While primary 1-3 are provided with a free school meal by the Scottish Government, you may also be eligible for a school clothing grant and I would urge you to make enquiries about this. The following link should take you straight to the area of the website:

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



School Improvement Planning

Thank you to everyone who took the time to complete our electronic surveys. This information will help us to ensure that the priorities we select to develop and improve our school are relevant and meaningful. Our school improvement plan and standards and quality report will soon be shared with you.

Finally, I would like to sincerely thank you for the fantastic support you have provided to our staff team during a very unusual set of circumstances. We recognise that everyone will be experiencing ups and downs and we hope that you consider us a support to you. Let's keep the lines of communication open and do all we can to make sure that the children of St. Peter's feel supported, valued and loved.

We look forward to seeing you all again some time soon,

Best wishes,

Sharon Mazzoni

Head Teacher



Respect

Responsibility

Kindness

Fairness

Honesty