



St. Peter's Primary School Newsletter

September 2020



Dear Parents/Carers,

A new and exciting term is now well underway. It is wonderful to see our children return to school and absolutely delightful to see how happy and settled they are in their classes and around the school grounds. Our school now feels like a real community once again filled with little people keen to learn and happy to be together again. While it is difficult to maintain our usual means of communication, I think we are doing well to be able to stay in touch and I would like to offer my sincere gratitude to you for your ongoing patience and support.

Welcome Primary 1

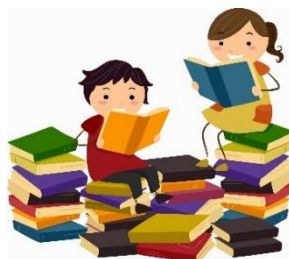
Well done to our new primary one children who joined us on 12 August 2020. It was a lovely occasion where our children looked happy and excited to be starting school. They were able to have their photographs taken at our special welcome gazebo followed by a welcome greeting from their teacher before entering the classroom. We hope all parents/carers and family members enjoyed seeing the pictures taken by their teachers during their first day in class. I would like to thank all staff for working so hard to make this a special occasion for our new entrants. All children are settling very well and are enjoying very positive experiences.

Welcome ELCC New Entrants

We have had a few children join our nursery this term and we are over the moon to welcome them to St. Peter's Early Learning and Childcare Class. This is such a special time for them and their families and I hope everyone is enjoying making memorable moments.

Homework

We will not be issuing homework tasks at the moment. Our current focus is on ensuring that all children are enjoying their experiences at school. They have spent many months at home carrying out tasks supported by family members and we would like for them to enjoy the learning that takes place in school. Eventually we will reintroduce homework tasks which will reinforce the day's learning. We are also limiting the amount of items that are travelling to and from school at the moment and will not be issuing many books, folders, etc to children. Homework tasks will be reviewed over the coming weeks and we will let you know when this changes.





Religious Life of The School

I have very recently been informed that Canon Eddie will sadly leave St. Peter's Parish on 11 September. Canon Eddie has been leading the Parish for 12 years and will be greatly missed when he moves to St. Cadoc's in Newton Mearns. He has been a source of strength to many families during his time here and has built so many positive relationships and friendships within the community of Glenburn. Canon Eddie has continued to develop effective links with our school which has resulted in many years of pupils and their families growing in faith. I am sure you will all agree that Canon Eddie will be sorely missed from St. Peter's Parish and school community. While we will be very sorry to see him go I am sure you will all join with me in wishing him well as he continues his work in a new parish.

We will welcome Father Andrew Coleman who will become our school chaplain. I am sure he is very much looking forward to joining us and I am certain that he will receive a very warm welcome. We look forward to working in partnership with him to serve the community of Glenburn. There will soon be a meeting to discuss how Sacraments will be celebrated during this academic year. Unfortunately, I am unable to provide you with any information in relation to this but will certainly provide you with as much detail as I can as soon as possible.

Staffing

I would like to offer a warm welcome to Miss Monica Stevenson who is our primary 4 teacher this year. Miss Stevenson is enjoying her time here so far and feels very privileged to be welcomed into St. Peter's school community.

Sadly, we will soon say goodbye to Mrs Yvonne Quinn who will leave us on 02 September to take up a new post in a different local authority. Mrs Yvonne Quinn has spent many years here at St. Peter's and has supported many families throughout her time here. I am sure you will all join with me in wishing her well as she further develops her career. Good luck, Mrs Quinn!

Miss Lindsie McNamara and Miss Caroline Roger have returned this year to currently support the work of our school. I am thrilled to have them return and very grateful to Renfrewshire Council for the additional staffing which is enabling us to continue to provide high quality experiences for our children. The length of their time with us is uncertain at the moment but their contributions are extremely valuable.

We said goodbye to Stephanie Kennedy, Early Learning and Childcare Officer, during our lockdown period. Stephanie was promoted to Senior ELCO at Auchenlodment Early Years Establishment. This is an excellent opportunity for Stephanie to develop her career and we are absolutely delighted for her. Nevertheless, this is a great loss to St. Peter's and we will miss her hard work, enthusiasm, outstanding dedication and wonderful personality. I would like to offer sincere thanks to Stephanie who was truly committed to St. Peter's during her time here. Stephanie will be an asset to her new team and they are very lucky to have her. We wish her all the best in her new post.

Ms Sorelle Cole was also successful in securing a new job over the lockdown period and will not return to St. Peter's school office. I would like to thank Ms Cole for her contributions during her time here and I wish her well as she embarks upon change and development.

We have now welcomed a new member of staff, Mrs Janette Neely, who has taken up the post of clerical officer. Mrs Neely is settling well and is already proving to be a great team member. She is keen to get to know you all and I am sure this will happen over time. Please ensure that Mrs Neely feels the warm welcome that St. Peter's community always provides, albeit at a safe distance for now.

Mrs Jennifer McLean, Catering Manager, retired towards the end of the school term and we didn't get the chance to give her a proper send off. We sincerely hope that Jennifer is enjoying her time and we would like to thank her for all her hard work during her time in our school kitchen. There are currently many new members of staff working in our

kitchen who are ensuring that our children are receiving a nutritious packed lunch. They are also very effective in cleaning the tables and chairs between each sitting (from class to class). I am informed that the kitchen plan to deliver hot meals week beginning 07 September. I am sure the children will be delighted to have a variety of food on offer. We will continue to ensure that all health and safety measures are adhered to.

Communication

It is difficult to continue our previous methods of communication at this time but I am delighted with the response from parents/carers. We are very happy to speak with you on the telephone or communicate via email which should enable us to continue to work together to support all children. I am keen that we continue to work together to support one another during challenging times and also to share positive stories related to our experiences.

The following email addresses remain accessible to you:

Mrs Lawson - gw08kinneypatricia@glow.sch.uk

Mrs Mazzoni – gw07mazzonisharon@glow.sch.uk

stpetersenquiries@renfrewshire.gov.uk

Mrs Catherine McLean (Acting Principal Teacher) and Mrs Karen Ewing (Classroom Assistant) have very successfully kept our twitter, website and app up to date and I would like to thank them very much for this. I would urge you to sign up for these to ensure that you are able to access the most recent updates.

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



Breakfast Club/Extra Curricular Clubs

We are currently unable to offer our breakfast club and extra-curricular clubs. It is our intention to review this as soon as possible and look at ways of being able to staff this accordingly. Please be patient as we look at our health and safety procedures and risk assess the possibility.



Classification

You will be aware that we had to restructure from 10 classes to 9 classes as a result of changes in government guidance. All relevant pupils and their parents/carers were informed and our classes are settling well into the new term. Our classes are as follows:

Primary 1	Mrs Annmarie Mitchell
Primary 1/2	Mrs Joyce Thomson
Primary 2/3	Mrs Yvonne Quinn/Mrs Caitlin Maclean (Mrs Quinn post to be filled shortly)
Primary 3	Mrs Grace Everett
Primary 4	Mrs Monica Stevenson & Mrs Clair Duckett (Thursday pm and Friday)
Primary 4/5	Mrs Jane McFarlane (Miss Caroline Roger will teach P3 every Wednesday)
Primary 5/6	Mrs Anne Campbell
Primary 6/7	Miss Emma Young
Primary 7	Miss Veronica Gordon
NCCT	Mrs Catherine McLean (Outdoor learning teaching experiences and outcomes from various areas of the curriculum)



Outdoor Learning

You will be aware that Mrs Catherine McLean is providing our children with outdoor learning days. This means that the children will spend a balanced amount of time in our school grounds and in our outdoor learning classroom. They will be focusing on various aspects of the curriculum during this time and Mrs McLean will plan their learning experiences with intended outcomes in partnership with their class teacher. Thank you for preparing your children by providing them with suitable outdoor clothing on these days. If you wish to provide a pair of wellies for your child these can be left in school in a plastic bag which can hang on their own peg in the cloakroom. This will save children having to carry these to and from school. Please write your child's name inside each wellie boot.

Provision of snacks/lunches

Unfortunately, we are unable to provide our tuck shop at the moment. We would encourage you to provide your child with a suitable snack for playtime (fruit, cereal bar, light crisps) and a bottle filled with water which can be taken to class and used during learning time as well as school break. Our water coolers are now in working order and pupils can refill their bottles at particular times of the day supervised by a member of school staff.

Please do not give your child energy drinks to take to school and remind them that if they are making a stop at the shops on the way to school they should not purchase these and bring them within our school premises. These are not recommended for children and can be harmful to their health.

Our kitchen is planning to provide hot meals week beginning 07 September 2020. This will be an exciting change for the children and I hope that many will enjoy what is on offer. Please see the attached two week menu available.

It is very helpful if you can ensure that you provide your child with everything they need during the school day before they enter the building as we will be unable to accept items from you at the school reception. We are trying very hard to minimise the amount of items that come into the school building and the amount of people who handle the items that enter the building. For this reason, it is much better for you to ensure that anything given to your child is directly given to them by you. Please do not put clerical staff in an awkward position by asking them to make allowances. We will always ensure that your child has everything they need if some items are unfortunately left at home, e.g. water to drink or a packed lunch. Thank you so much for your cooperation, it is greatly appreciated. We also continue to ask that children do not bring toys and other such items to school. While we understand that these can be a comfort to some children we really must emphasise the importance of reducing the amount of items brought to school on a daily basis. Our aim is always to look after your children and keep them all safe.



Staggered Entry/Exit Times

I really must thank you for your cooperation and understanding with our new entry and exit system. I understand that it has become fairly unfortunate for some on rainy days and we ask that you ensure your child enters the playground as close to their arrival time as possible as we currently do not have the facilities to allow them entry before this time. Staff members are asked to supervise at the doors to allow all children entering to wash their hands before going to class. This can take some time which is why there is a ten minute window between classes. I will always try to accommodate any requests from families where there are difficulties with the waiting times, especially if you are bringing siblings to school who have different arrival times. Do not hesitate to contact me if this applies to you.

Improving our Playground

Mrs Mclean continues to focus on this and has already done a fabulous job tidying up areas within our grounds, e.g. eco garden. You may also have noticed that we have additional outdoor seating area due to Mrs Mclean and her family working hard in their own time to provide logs. I would like to thank them very much for this and I see the children enjoying them very much. Our children have been involved in designing areas for improvement within our grounds and we are keen to move forward with our plans. Please contact the school office if you feel that you have the time to offer and would like to be part of this worthwhile project. We would be delighted to have your support.

One Way System

Our one way system was working very well at the beginning of term and I would like to ask if you could please continue with this for the time being. The reason for our system is to prevent social groups gathering in our school playground which can be understandably difficult to avoid especially where adults are meeting who haven't seen each other for a long time. I am sure you will understand the reasons why we really want to avoid this while there is still the possibility of the presence of covid-19 and we want to avoid spreading the virus at all costs. Fortunately, we have had nobody in our school community test positive since returning in August and we hope that we can do everything we can to ensure that this remains.

There are maps displayed around our school premises which display our system. Please take time to look at these and familiarise yourself if you have not already done so. We greatly appreciate your efforts in supporting our plans.



I understand that some parents will have difficulty accessing at the entrance on Burnfoot Crescent due to the stairs particularly if you have a pram to manoeuvre. You may use an alternative route by accessing the entrance/exit on Braehead Road.

Flu Immunisation Programme

You will have received information regarding our flu immunisation programme which is due to take place on Thursday 19 November. Thank you to everyone who has managed to return their letters of consent. Please ensure that you return this as soon as possible. I know that your children are the most precious people in the world to you and it is imperative that we do all we can to reduce the risk of our population (children and adults) from contracting seasonal flu. We will work in partnership with health professionals to do this. Delivering the childhood flu immunisation programme this winter will help to protect against children contracting flu themselves but also to protect against children transmitting flu to any vulnerable people they come into contact with. Please give this careful consideration when deciding whether or not your child should receive this.



I have managed to keep in touch with our Parent Council Chairperson, Mr Paul Doherty, during the lockdown period. This has allowed me to maintain contact with the general views of many parents and I am extremely grateful for this. We are keen to continue to have meetings in a virtual manner to include all members of the parent forum (that is anyone who has a child attending St. Peter's Primary School). We are currently looking at creative ways of including everyone who would like to contribute to the life and work of the school. We are aware that many will have questions to ask or views/opinions and ideas to share. We are also very keen to hear from anyone who feels that they have skills and expertise to offer in helping with areas of school development.

Mr Paul Doherty and I have agreed that we should look at which platform will provide us with the most success so that we can arrange a virtual meeting in the very near future. Details of future meetings with instructions of how to attend will follow shortly. Please try hard to be part of the meeting as your views are very important to us and help to shape our plans for school improvement.

Log on to fb St Peter's Parents & Families Group where our Parent Forum share information which you may find useful.



School Improvement Planning

Our school improvement plan and standards and quality report will soon be available and shared on our school website. Your views are most welcome and I would urge to respond by directly emailing me. I am always keen to hear your views and act upon these to ensure continuous improvement of St. Peter's Primary.

Finally, I would like to sincerely thank you for the fantastic support you have provided to our staff team. I look forward to continuing to work in partnership with you in providing the children of St. Peter's with the best possible experiences.

Best wishes,

Sharon Mazzoni

Head Teacher



Respect

Responsibility

Kindness

Fairness

Honesty