



St. Peter's Primary School Newsletter

November 2020



Dear Parents/Carers,

I hope you and your family are all safe and well. Thank you so much for keeping in touch with us so well in order that we still feel connected as a community. I know this is difficult at the moment while we are operating under covid-19 restrictions but your efforts are greatly appreciated. Our children are continuing to have really positive learning experiences with very dedicated and committed staff supporting them. I hope they spend time at home telling you about all of the things they have learned each day.

COVID-19 Update

As you know, the Scottish Government has now introduced a system of new protection levels to help stop the spread of COVID-19, and Renfrewshire has been placed at Level 3. This means some extra guidance for us to help keep everyone safe:



Face Coverings

The Scottish Government has updated guidance for schools. This was published on the 30th October 2020. Our school staff have been wearing face coverings in all communal areas of the school and have explained to our pupils why this is important. For parents, carers and visitors to our school, the guidance now states:

“Face coverings should be worn by parents and other visitors to all school sites (whether entering the building or otherwise), including parents at drop-off and pick-up.”

We appreciate that there are exemptions to this but if you are able to, please wear a face covering in all areas of our school grounds at the start and end of the school day.



Physical Distancing

As the guidance from the Scottish Government states, adults are required to maintain a 2-metre distance between other adults out with their household. Please continue to follow this guidance.

Ventilation

The national advice states that good airflow within schools is important to minimise the spread of the virus. As we approach winter and colder weather, we will make sure classrooms are safe, warm and comfortable. However, we ask parents and carers to please provide warm clothing, such as a jumper or fleece, in colder weather. Please contact either myself or Mrs Lawson if you need assistance with this.

All of the above is in addition to the existing safety measures in our school, which follow the national guidance and are already of a very high standard. These include:

- thorough cleaning within the school, very good handwashing regimes, physical distancing between staff and between staff and pupils wherever possible and good hygiene when catching coughs and sneezes.
- Staggering school start/finish times/breaks/lunchtimes and good ventilation within our school building.

We know the ongoing situation is very challenging for everyone, but we are doing all we can to keep our school safe and maintain a welcoming and nurturing learning environment for pupils.



PE Indoors

We are now allowed to have PE lessons indoors however we need to ensure that this is safe. The school will be creating a Risk Assessment for this purpose to ensure that everyone feels safe and that cleaning of the area and of equipment is of the highest standard. In line with the government guidelines we will not be using the changing rooms therefore we ask that on your child's allocated days they come dressed for P.E. I would like to point out that while we are able to enjoy PE lessons indoors, we will continue to use the outdoor space for this as much as possible, weather permitting.

Health and Wellbeing

Thankfully, most of our children and their families continue to be in good health and it is very encouraging to look at our positive attendance figures. We did, however, have our first confirmed positive case of covid-19 on Friday 06 November 2020. This resulted in some children and staff self-isolating at home until 18 November. Thank you so much to everyone for their support in allowing us to provide information to you in a timely manner. I really appreciate that this would be an unsettling time for the children and their families but your cooperation has been fantastic.

I have been asked by some parents what to expect if their child is asked to self-isolate at home. I hope the following information helps:

- Each teacher has prepared paper based packs that can be given to pupils on the day to take home if they are identified as a close contact of someone who has tested positive.
- All pupils should have a google classroom account and should have logged into this to complete homework tasks. (I am aware that this is not true for everyone and Mrs Catherine McLean is working with all pupils to ensure they are able to access this from home)
- A class teacher who may be self-isolating or a teacher within the school will make contact with the children via google classroom and set online tasks for them in addition to the paper based work sent home. Please do what you can and do not feel under pressure to complete everything if this is causing distress. You can always contact the teacher or a member of SMT for help if needed.

- The children can upload pictures of their work to send back to their teacher so that he/she can support, provide feedback and assess their progress while working from home.
- Parents/carers can contact the class teacher via email and can also contact the HT/DHT through the usual methods (telephone or email) if additional support is required.

Please note that if you have difficulty accessing a device to allow your child to engage in online learning I would really like to hear from you so that we can offer some support.

Online Learning Survey

We are really keen to hear your views in relation to online learning. An electronic survey is contained within the following link:

<https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=oyzTzM4Wj0KVQTctawUZKXLicsCp6ZtFk6RLiTEh8phUMjVWTVAwMERGOFQyVUHQWkwyMTFXSORPTi4u>

I would be really grateful if you could please complete the questions and return this to the school as soon as possible. This will help teaching staff plan more effective methods of providing learning experiences for your children. It should only take a short time to complete (around 5 minutes). If you have trouble accessing the electronic version we can provide a paper copy for you which can be returned to the school and kept in an envelope for 3 days before being opened. Please let me know by 18 November if you require a paper copy as an alternative.

Flu Vaccination

This will take place on 19 November 2020. NHS staff will visit the school and provide the seasonal flu immunisation for all children who have returned their parental consent form. This will take place in the gym hall and children will remain in their class bubbles while it is being administered. Please be reassured that it will be carried out in a very safe manner. Remember to return your child's consent form to the school if you have not already done so.



Religious Life of the School

Congratulations to the children in primary 5 who recently received the sacrament of First Holy Communion. These were beautiful occasions celebrated in a very prayerful manner by Fr Andrew. It was lovely to see all the family members there who came along to enjoy the occasion with the children. Every child looked absolutely beautiful on the evening and behaved in the most exemplary manner. Well done, children! Please remember to keep all of them in your prayers.

The children of primary 4 will be learning about the sacraments of First Penance and First Holy Communion this year while primary 7 will be learning about Confirmation. These children will also be very grateful if you could please keep them in mind. We will inform all parents/carers in due course once we know what these celebrations will look like and when they will take place.

Advent

We hope to be able to work closely with Fr Andrew to encourage the children to participate in Advent reflections during the month of December. This is an important time to think about our own lives and how we can help those close to us but also to consider the wider community and participate in prayer for people who are in need around the world.

Parents Evening

Thank you to everyone for making time available to talk to your child's class teacher this week. I hope the conversations are informative and helpful in allowing you to be involved in your child's education, care and development. Your views are very important to us and as you are first educators of your children we really value the information you have to share which helps us to set achievable learning goals for everyone. Please continue to stay in touch and do not hesitate to let us know if you need us to support you with anything related to your child's development at home.

Communication

Please note that our telephone lines are disabled before the hours of 8.30am and after 4pm each day (this is done centrally and not locally by St. Peter's staff). I am aware that this may cause difficulty if you are trying to get in touch and I would ask that you use our email addresses if this is the case. The following email contacts are available to you:

Mrs Lawson - gw08kinneypatricia@glow.sch.uk

Mrs Mazzoni – gw07mazzonisharon@glow.sch.uk

stpetersenquiries@renfrewshire.gov.uk



Halloween

It was delightful to see the children come to school dressed in their Halloween costumes on Friday 30 October. I am glad that they were able to celebrate in school and have lots of fun with their friends. There were some spooky costumes and some very funny ones too and it was a real treat to see their faces as they enjoyed some Halloween activities in class.



Parent Council

A huge thank you to Paul Doherty, Parent Council Chairperson, who organised a successful meeting via Microsoft teams on Tuesday 03 November. There were lots of ideas shared and plenty of discussion around our current situation as we continue to work together as a community at these times. We would be delighted if more people could attend these meetings in a virtual manner. Please give your email address to Paul Doherty if you are able to attend the next meeting which will take place on Wednesday 2 December 2020 and he will ensure that you are included.

No Dogs Allowed

I have noticed that some parents have brought dogs into the playground when dropping off or collecting their children in the morning and at the end of the day. Please remember that dogs are not allowed in our school playground. This can cause great anxiety for some and we would really appreciate you waiting outside school grounds if you have a dog with you while dropping off or collecting your child from school.

Attendance

It is always greatly appreciated when you contact us at the school to let us know if your child is unable to attend school and it is very helpful when you share with us the reason why. This is particularly important at this time and I would urge you to please continue to do this. Thank you so much for your cooperation.



Christmas Celebrations

Unfortunately, due to current restrictions, we will be unable to invite parents/carers and family members to our annual Christmas concert within the school building. Please be reassured that we are currently making plans for children to perform 'The Magical Christmas Jigsaw' which involves each class preparing a scene within their bubble. Staff will record this and merge each class video in order to provide you with a full performance which can be enjoyed in the comfort of your home surrounded by your little stars. We will let you know when this is available and how you can access this once it has been created and shared during the month of December. We hope to be able to bring some festive cheer and help prepare everyone to enjoy the true meaning of Christmas as best we can.

Christmas Fundraising

In an effort to raise funds which are always used to enhance the learning experiences of every child in the school, we will be allowing children to create their own Christmas card design. These will be of high quality and can be purchased in a pack of 10 at a cost of £4.00. I am sure family members and friends will be delighted to receive a personalised Christmas card from your special little one's artistic design. Thank you in anticipation for your contributions. We will be in touch shortly with more details regarding how to purchase these.

I have been asked if it is possible for families to donate Christmas gifts for those who may find this time of year particularly difficult. This is an excellent way of encouraging our children to develop citizenship skills and to consider others less fortunate than themselves. We are currently thinking of safe ways in which we can help our local community and would welcome any ideas you may have or any contributions you would wish to make. I look forward to hearing from you if you have any ideas or useful contacts.

I cannot thank you enough for your cooperation throughout this term. We are very blessed to have so many people supporting the life and work of the school and our children continue to thrive as a result.

As always, please do not hesitate to get in touch by telephone or email if you wish to discuss any matter with me.

Best wishes,

Sharon Mazzoni

Head Teacher

Our School's motto

'ANYTHING IS POSSIBLE IF YOU BELIEVE IN YOURSELF'

Our school's vision

Our vision is to provide a safe, happy, caring, supportive and stimulating environment where everyone is welcome and no one feels alone. We work, learn and achieve together. We respect and care for everyone and everything around us. St. Peter's Primary is a school that sets high standards of learning and celebrates the achievements of each individual. We live our lives focused on remaining faithful to the teachings of the Gospel.



Respect

Responsibility

Kindness

Fairness

Honesty