



St. Peter's Primary School Newsletter

January 2021 update



Dear Parents/Carers,

I hope you are all keeping safe and well during this further period of lockdown. Thank you for all of the positive communication we have received. Staff at the school really appreciate your support and all of the lovely comments received are helping them to stay strong and positive about this new and developing way of learning and teaching. It has been wonderful to see the work that many children are completing and to read all their comments on google classroom. So many are going to great lengths to stay in touch and complete the tasks set by their teachers. A massive thank you and a big well done to everyone! Let's keep doing what we're doing for our school community.

Covid-19 Update

You will be aware that Nicola Sturgeon, our First Minister, announced on 19 January 2021 that this period of school closure has been extended until at least mid-February. This means we will continue to work in this way for a little longer.

Health and wellbeing

Please remember that we are all in this together and it is important that we support each other as best we can. There are lots of dedicated services available for children, parents and staff who may be finding adjusting to this way of living quite difficult.

Useful websites:

Education Scotland have created a resource aimed to support Parents/Carers in building their child's resilience <https://education.gov.scot/improvement/scotland-learns/health-and-wellbeing-activities/resilience-alphabet/>. You may find this useful when talking to your child about the many changes they are experiencing at the moment in relation to how we live our lives.

NHS support - Breathing Space Scotland

Another available support is Breathing Space which is a psychological counselling service for people in Scotland. The service is staffed by trained advisers who offer guidance and referral. The telephone number is 0800 83 85 87 and the calls are managed by NHS 24.

Renfrewshire Council Support

The Council's website is kept up to date with the latest information on Covid-19 and changes to services. There is a dedicated section which is very useful for local residents and can be accessed by following this link:

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

Free School Meal Payment

Financial payments in lieu of free school meals

During this current period where schools are not fully open, families of children and young people entitled to free school meals on the basis of low income will receive financial payments if their child is learning at home (not attending school). The payments will be made as follows:

- a payment by Friday 15 January to cover the period 7-15 January
- a payment by Friday 22 January to cover the period 18-29 January
- a payment by Friday 5 February to cover the period 1-12 February

Payments are £11.25 per child per week and are in lieu of free school meals. The first payment is based on one school week and two days.

Religious Life of the School

Please remember to encourage your child to say our St. Peter's prayer at home. This was written by one of our senior pupils. As you are aware, there are other prayers that you and your children can say together whenever you can and this can be a very calming experience for all. Families can attend online Mass every Sunday as many of our local parishes offer this at various times. Please remember to have a look and join where you can.

St. Peter's Primary Prayer

St. Peter,

Our loving patron saint, you inspire us to be friendly, faithful and respectful.

You welcome people through the gates of heaven as we welcome people to our school.

You guard the gates of heaven, just as we guard and love each other.

St. Peter, the church was built by your hand, the first Pope. Help us to continue to build a loving, caring and welcoming community and to encourage learning and forgiveness of one another.

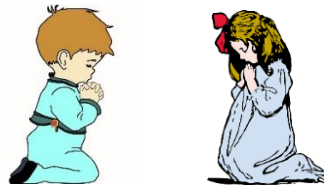
We ask you, St. Peter, to watch over us and help our faith grow. Help us to be loyal, help us believe, help us to focus and help us achieve.



Amen

Some parents have been asking about Sacramental preparations and dates. We are unable to plan these events due to the current situation. However, please be reassured that the children are continuing to prepare for these important events in their lives. Their teachers will be encouraging them to consider important aspects of First Penance and First Holy Communion (primary 4) and Confirmation (primary 7).

We are considering important ways of keeping Fr Andrew involved and allowing him to get to know the children (albeit in a virtual sense at the moment). Mrs Lawson will be in touch with you when we are able to confirm dates but this will be led by the restrictions outlined by the Scottish Government. These circumstances are out with our control and we thank you for continuing to be patient. Please keep the children of St. Peter's in your thoughts and prayers.



Online Learning

Thank you to everyone for all of the work being carried out to allow our children to access remote learning. I am aware that this takes a considerable amount of time and patience and I want you to know that your efforts have not gone unnoticed. The level of pupil engagement is increasing daily and is higher than our first experience with this type of learning. It shows that you at home are very committed to ensuring that your children's learning is of the highest importance and your partnership with us at this time is first class. Please also know that we appreciate many of you are juggling this with busy family lives, household chores and jobs where you have to also work from home resulting in you attending online meetings, making calls, etc. Our aim is to help you as much as we can and not to have any added pressure in your home as a result of remote learning. For this reason, please ensure that you let us know how things are and keep us informed of your circumstances. We want to get this right for pupils so that they can enjoy their home experiences while progressing in their learning. Communication is key so thank you for keeping us up to date with your experiences so far.

Teachers are taking a register every day so that we can keep a note of when pupils are able to access their learning. We measure their engagement by looking at how they have checked-in and whether they are able to complete their tasks by clicking handed in or by uploading their work. Teachers are able to provide important feedback to children when they are able to upload their work and it is such an excellent way of keeping the important positive relationships going. I am aware that this may be difficult for some, for various reasons, but I would honestly not wish for anyone to be at home feeling frustrated or anxious about this. We are all here to help and you will be amazed at how easy this is when you know how. Please do not hesitate to get in touch with your child's teacher by email if you need some help.

Should you experience any difficulties accessing google classroom at home, please contact Mrs Catherine McLean who is our ICT Coordinator and is very knowledgeable in this area. You will be able to contact her using the following email address:

gw15mcleancatherinem@glow.sch.uk



Teachers have been engaging in lots of professional learning in order to enhance the experiences provided for children while they are working in a remote manner. This means that they should soon be able to provide live lessons or video recorded lessons for their class. Your child's teacher will be in touch to let you and your child know when these will be scheduled to take place. There are many important aspects of this type of engagement to be highlighted. Please see the accompanying leaflet outlining how to get the best out of this way of working while remaining safe and responsible.

Learning Materials

I hope that your child has everything at home to help them continue with their learning. There will always be a stock of jotters at our main reception area which means that you can access these without having to enter the building. Simply press the buzzer and someone will happily allow you to pick up what you need. You will find hand sanitiser on the table and on the wall as you enter the first set of doors.

I understand that some families are experiencing difficulty accessing the necessary devices to be able to use google classroom effectively at home. I also know that this can be extremely difficult where more than one child is at home trying to do this. Please be aware that this is something all staff are aware of. Your calls and emails have been really helpful in explaining where this is a concern. We will do everything we can to help you out in this area. Please be patient with us as we try to work out solutions.

St. Peter's Hub

Our hub is continuing to run successfully here at St. Peter's. We have many children who qualify for a place due to their current circumstances/where parents are keyworkers with no alternative childcare at home. We wish to support every family where possible while maintaining the health and safety of everyone (pupils, parents and staff). For this reason, please remember that children should only attend on the days where parents have to attend work as a key worker and there is no one at home to look after the children. Children should remember to bring their learning packs with passwords, jotters etc to the hub to allow for a smooth start to the day.

Pupils who attend the hub are able to bring their own devices which will help them access their learning, upload their work and save this to their own personal device. They will be given a password by a member of school staff which will last for the duration of the lockdown period. This opportunity to bring devices, of course, is optional as we have devices in school for all children who attend.

Clyde In The Classroom

Mrs Duckett, Miss Stevenson and Primary 4 are participating in this fantastic project which gives children the opportunity to look after fish from the moment they begin life as little eggs until they become tiny little fish ready to be released to the river. The children learn so much from taking part with a focus on developing skills in Science, Literacy and Numeracy (as well as gaining successful outcomes in other areas of the curriculum). The project is carried out in partnership with the Glasgow Science Centre and Clyde River Foundation. The children would normally be given the opportunity to go there for a short learning visit but this is not possible at the moment. As an alternative, the project coordinators will offer video interaction to enhance learning.



The eggs are normally delivered to the classroom in a hatchery. This cannot take place so the Clyde River Foundation will set one up in their laboratory and provide regular updates on the development of the fish through films posted on the Clyde in the Classroom website. Staff at the Clyde River Foundation will record a series of mini-lessons based upon the themes in the introductory films that will be accessible to the children through instructions from their class teachers. Staff at the Foundation will also be available for Teams meetings with the teachers and children upon request.

Mrs Duckett and Miss Stevenson would like to allow other classes in the school to benefit from this exciting project. This means that you will see video links in your child's google classroom. Please encourage them to look at these as they will be really enjoyable and worthwhile.

Achievements

We will continue to award star pupil certificates to those children who work hard to show our school values each week. I know it is a very difficult task for staff to choose only two as many pupils work hard every week to display excellent behaviour and show hard work. Our pupils are committed to being the best they can be and this is all we ask of them. We will share the names of all pupils using our social media platforms and I will send their certificates by post. I hope there are lots of smiling faces when their special envelopes arrive!

Communication

Keeping in touch can be difficult during lockdown but we don't want any barriers to get in the way of us maintaining our positive partnership. For this reason, please use the following email addresses if you wish to communicate with us:

Mrs Lawson (Depute Head Teacher) - gw08kinneypatricia@glow.sch.uk

Mrs Mazzoni (Head Teacher) – gw07mazzonisharon@glow.sch.uk

School office - stpetersenquiries@renfrewshire.gov.uk

We will also be happy to speak with by telephone if you prefer. The school telephone line (0300 300 0188) will be open between 8.30am and 4.00pm each day.

School Platforms for Sharing Information

We use our school app, twitter and website to share important information with you. You can also see lots of good news regarding achievements on these platforms and it is a great way to keep in touch with the work being carried out by our school community. Our Early Learning and Childcare Class have a facebook page which is tremendous at providing updates for parents/carers. There are many opportunities for learning posted on here too including videos of our staff and children telling stories and sharing exciting ideas for learning experiences.

Please access the following platforms to stay in touch:

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

Thank you

I sincerely cannot thank St. Peter's staff enough for everything they continue to do to make this period of remote learning as successful as possible. We are very blessed to have so many valuable and committed people working so hard to make the learning experiences for every child as exciting and motivating as possible.

Once again, I cannot thank you, our parent forum, enough for working with us so well and for keeping the lines of communication open. You have been very welcoming when we have got in touch with you by phone, email or a short door step visit. You have also been very proactive in getting in touch with us. The work you are doing at home to help your child engage in the many challenging and fun learning experiences is outstanding. Together we can help your children progress and achieve their learning goals with pride. Let's keep going strong together!



As always, please do not hesitate to get in touch by telephone or email if you wish to discuss any school related 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