



# St. Peter's Primary School Newsletter

March 2021



**Dear Parents/Carers,**

It has been lovely to see and hear our school filled with lots of fun and laughter with the return of our ELCC and Primary 1-3 children. They have been back at school now for three weeks and it has been absolutely tremendous to see how well they have adapted to their routines again. You will be aware that our First Minister, Nicola Sturgeon, has confirmed that all of primary 4-7 will return on Monday 15 March. Staff at St. Peter's are over the moon to hear this news and are very much looking forward to face to face teaching and learning again. I am sure you are all looking forward to enjoying some level of normality again and possibly some time to catch your breath after an unexpected period of home schooling.



All staff at the school would like to thank you for your partnership during the most recent period of lockdown. I have heard so many lovely stories about the effective communication that has taken place and how this has helped to ensure that our children's learning experiences have been positive. I understand how challenging this time has been for so many for various reasons and I truly take my hat off to you for 'spinning many plates' so successfully. I hope you can take time over the next week to enjoy a cup of tea and give yourself a bit pat on the back – you survived and your children have thrived. Please trust in us to support them now back into school life – we honestly cannot wait!

## **Primary 4-7 Hub**

I would like to sincerely thank all staff who have dedicated their time and effort to ensuring that our Primary 4-7 hub continued to run smoothly over the past three weeks. The support provided to the children from a very committed team of people has helped them progress in their learning. While they have been taking good care of the children, they have also been focusing on their health and wellbeing during a very challenging time.



## Keeping everyone safe

Thank you so much for following our procedures and protocols so well over the past few weeks. This has helped contribute towards the decision of the Scottish Government in allowing our P4-7 children to return to school. While this is a very positive step in the right direction, we must not forget that the covid-19 virus is still a real risk to health and a potential life threatening illness. Therefore, we all need to play our part in minimising the opportunities for transmission of the virus. For this reason, I strongly urge you to continue with the following;

- Strict social distancing for adults (**please do not linger in the school grounds or gather for chats with other parents/carers no matter how tempting this may be**)
- Only one adult per family should drop off and collect children.
- Adults must wear a face-covering within the school grounds
- Our one-way system must be used which means that parents/carers and children should enter the school grounds via Glenburn Crescent and leave through the exit on Braehead Road.

We will continue to adhere to the guidance that has been provided by the Scottish Government. This means that children and staff will follow our safe and healthy hygiene routines:

- physical distancing (2 metres)
- hand and respiratory hygiene (regular hand washing, safe ways of coughing, sneezing, safe use/disposal of tissues, etc)
- face coverings for staff
- Immediate response if symptoms are experienced by children or staff (they will be sent home immediately and a test must be booked)
- If your child displays any Covid Symptoms, you must keep your child at home and book a test

Our risk assessments and procedures have been reviewed in line with the continuously updated guidance. These are available to view upon request by contacting me directly.

### **Lateral Flow Device Testing**

All staff who are working within the building are now provided with lateral flow device testing kits. This means that tests are carried out twice weekly allowing everyone to check if they could potentially be asymptomatic. This will help reduce the risk of someone potentially transmitting the virus without knowing they have it and hopefully provide additional reassurance for staff, pupils and parents.



### **Staffing Update**

We will soon welcome two new members of staff to our team which is very exciting. Karen Lafferty, new Early Learning and Childcare Officer will join our team week beginning 22 March to fill a 17.5 hour post. I know Karen is very much looking forward to joining us and we look forward to meeting her soon. Pauline Erskine, ASNA, will also join us very soon to take up a 15 hour post within the school. It will be lovely to have new staff on board and I am sure you will give them a traditionally warm 'socially distanced' welcome!

Mr McCambridge, our janitor, was recently promoted to Operatives Manager which means that he will have additional responsibility within our school. We are so lucky to have such a fabulous janitor and I am delighted that he remains at St. Peter's in this role. Elizabeth Hay, previously our Catering Manager, who has been with us since August 2020 has also been granted a promotion which means that she has become an Operatives Manager also and will stay at St.

Peter's to lead our catering team while overseeing and coordinating the food that is transported to local schools in our area. This is great news for them and the school and I am sure you will all join with me in wishing them well.

We have been very fortunate that our staff team have remained safe and healthy – long may it continue. A few members of staff have been delayed in being able to return at the same time as the majority. We wish those members of staff well and hope that they can soon join us.



### Time of the school day

Our Early Learning and Childcare class will be open between 8.45am and 3.15pm.

Lorna has provided details regarding staggered entry/exit times via email to individual parents/carers.

The school will operate as follows:

### Entrance/Exit, Breaks and lunches

We will return to our plan followed from August 2020. This is as follows:

#### Beginning/End of day

Door	Member of staff supervising	8.50am 2.50pm	9am 3pm	9.10am 3.10pm
Infant entrance/exit	Tracey Phelps & Linzi McGregor	Primary 2/3	Primary 1/2	Primary 1
Middle entrance/exit	Rhona Kenneth & John McIntosh	Primary 4	Primary 3	Primary 4/5
Upper entrance/exit	Angela Robertson (Mon- Wed)/Kirsty McAllister (Thurs & Fri) & Michael McCambridge	Primary 7	Primary 6/7	Primary 5/6

**Please arrive as close to your child's entry time as possible. We are doing our best to maintain physical distancing between classes/bubbles. Adhering to your allocated time slot helps us greatly.**

#### Morning Interval

Time	Class	Playground	Supervising Staff Members
10.10-10.25am	Primary 2/3	A	Tracey Phelps and Linzi McGregor
10.10-10.25am	Primary 4/5	B	Rhona Kenneth and Angela Robertson (Monday – Wednesday)/Kirsty McAllister (Thursday-Friday)
10.10-10.25am	Primary 7	C	Karen Ewing (Monday – Thursday)/John McIntosh (Friday) and Michael McCambridge (Monday – Friday)

10.25-10.40am	Primary 1/2	A	Tracey Phelps and Linzi McGregor
10.25-10.40am	Primary 4	B	Rhona Kenneth and Angela Robertson (Monday – Wednesday)/Kirsty McAllister (Thursday-Friday)
10.25-10.40am	Primary 6/7	C	Karen Ewing (Monday – Thursday)/John McIntosh (Friday) and Michael McCambridge (Monday – Friday)
10.40-10.55am	Primary 1	A	Tracey Phelps and Linzi McGregor
10.40-10.55am	Primary 3	B	Rhona Kenneth and Angela Robertson (Monday – Wednesday)/Kirsty McAllister (Thursday-Friday)
10.40-10.55am	Primary 5/6	C	Karen Ewing (Monday – Thursday)/John McIntosh (Friday) and Michael McCambridge (Monday – Friday)

#### Lunchtime

#### Dining Hall

Time	Class	Playground Time	Playground
12.00-12.15pm	Primary 2/3	12.15-12.45	A
12.15-12.30pm	Primary 3	12.30-1.00pm	B
12.30-12.45pm	Primary 1/2	12.45-1.15pm	A
12.45-1pm	Primary 4/5	1-1.30pm	B
1-1.15pm	Primary 1	1.15-1.45pm	A

#### Gym Hall (used as a dining space)

12.45-1.00pm	Primary 7	12.15-12.45pm	C
12.30-12.45pm	Primary 4	12.00-12.30pm	B
1.00-1.15pm	Primary 5/6	1.15-1.45pm	C
1.15-1.30pm	Primary 6/7	12.45-1.15pm	C

#### Supervision in dining hall and gym hall

	Dinner Hall	Gym Hall
Monday	Patricia Lawson	Sharon Mazzoni
Tuesday	Sharon Mazzoni	John McIntosh
Wednesday	Patricia Lawson	John McIntosh
Thursday	Caitlin Maclean	John McIntosh
Friday	Patricia Lawson	Sharon Mazzoni



### **Homework**

Homework will continue to be delivered via google classroom and will consist of a short 10/15 min task for primary 1-3 and a 20-30 min task for primary 4-7. Homework tasks should reinforce learning that has taken place in class that day. A text was sent out last week inviting you to let us know if you required a chromebook to help with online engagement/google classroom. Thank you to those who have responded. I hope you have received your equipment which is on loan from Renfrewshire Council and I trust this is helping you and your child to participate fully in online learning.

### **Chromebooks**

We purchased ten chromebooks during last school session and we have purchased a further ten this school session. Those who have had the opportunity to use these will agree that they are fabulous in enabling children to access online learning. This puts us in a fortunate position. If you are having any difficulty with the availability of IT equipment you should contact me at the school by email or telephone as I will do everything I possibly can to support you. Please be reassured that any conversation you have with me will be treated in the strictest of confidence.



### **World Book Day**

Your child will receive the annual book token which is always given to children on World Book Day each year. This can be put towards purchasing a new book to encourage our children to read for enjoyment. I hope these are put to good use.

### **The Masked Reader**

This was such an excellent idea and I cannot thank Mrs Clair Duckett and Miss Lindsie McNamara enough for organising this. Staff had such a nice time reading their stories and playing them back. I sincerely hope that the children who were at home enjoyed guessing who the masked reader was – some were more obvious than others. I know that children who attended school had so much fun listening to the stories and having a guess. A little bit of entertainment while developing Literacy skills can go a long way.

### **Outdoor learning**

We will be continuing to encourage lots of outdoor learning so please ensure that children are prepared for the lovely Scottish weather! Warm waterproof jackets, hats, scarves and suitable footwear are all recommended. A change of clothing should be placed in each child's school bag just incase there are little accidents or mishaps.

The outdoor classroom will be installed in our playground on Thursday 25 March. This is so exciting for our school community. After lots of fundraising activities and suggestions, we are able to move forward with our plans. This may mean a little disruption to the use of our outdoor area for a day or possibly two but I am sure it will be very worthwhile. I hope you are happy with the outcome. There are still many plans to come to fruition in good time.

Sincere thanks go to Mrs Catherine McLean, Acting Principal Teacher, who has put in a tremendous amount of work while leading this project. I am sure she will be as excited as the children when we see this coming together.



Mrs McLean has arranged for lots of outdoor clothing to be purchased which will support us to make the most of our outdoor space. We have recently taken delivery of lots of wellies and we are looking forward to receiving some outdoor jackets and trousers. The health benefits from engaging in outdoor activities are fantastic and I sincerely hope we develop a love of the outdoors in our children by encouraging them to participate.



### **Health and wellbeing**

This has been an extremely unsettling period of time for many and we understand that children and their families can find it very challenging. Renfrewshire Council have a counselling service called The Exchange which can support lots of children through a referral system. If you feel that your child would benefit from a referral to this service please contact me as soon as possible. Staff will highlight children as appropriate but please be reassured we will never make a referral without your consent.



### **Financial Support - Are You Getting What You Are Entitled To?**

#### **Scottish Child Payment**

Scottish Child Payment is a new benefit introduced by the Scottish Government to tackle child poverty. It is for low income families already in receipt of qualifying benefits. Scottish Child Payment is available to families with children under six years of age only. Scottish Child Payment opened for applications in November 2020, with first payments being made from the end of February 2021. Low-income families with a child under six will be able to apply for £10 per child, per week - equivalent to £520 per year. There are no limits to the number of eligible children supported by Scottish Child Payment. For information on how to apply please visit: <https://www.mygov.scot/scottish-child-payment/how-to-apply/>

#### **Free School Meals**

Your child may be entitled to free school meals if you receive income support, any income-related element of employment and support allowance, maximum working tax credits (if you earn less than £6,420/year), child tax credit only (if you earn less than £16,190) or pension credit

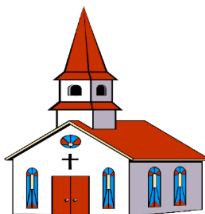
Apply online at: <http://renfrewshire.gov.uk/Freeschoolmealsandclothinggrants>

Eligible parents who choose NOT to apply for free school meals will not receive money back dated.

## Clothing Grants

Parents or carers of children attending Renfrewshire primary, secondary or additional support needs schools during the school session who satisfy the financial conditions are eligible to apply for free school meals and/or clothing grants. A clothing grant is a payment made by Renfrewshire council to qualifying parents or carers to assist with the purchase of school uniforms.

Apply online at: <http://renfrewshire.gov.uk/Freeschoolmealsandclothinggrants>



## Religious Life of the School

Please remember to say our St. Peter's prayer every day with your child and attend online mass each week where possible.

### 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 to achieve.



## SCIAF during Lent

A huge thank you to Mrs Ainsley Gavin who has organised fun days in order to do raise funds for SCIAF. This is an excellent way to inject a little fun while raising money for those less fortunate than ourselves. The activities are optional and are as follows:

Friday 12 March      Wear Something Purple Day

Friday 19 March Crazy Hair Day  
Friday 26 March Non-uniform Day  
Thursday 01 April Pyjama Day

### Sacraments

Staff will continue to prepare your children, with you, to receive the Sacraments of First Penance and First Holy Communion (p4) and Confirmation (P7). Our pre-arranged dates remain in place at the moment.

First Confession (Pr 4) Thursday 25 March (to take place in St. Peter's school)

The following celebrations will take place in St. Peter's Church (only if certain restrictions are lifted by May and Fr Andrew is allowed to open the Church).

First Holy Communion (Pr 4)	Saturday 1 May	10am and 12pm
	Saturday 8 May	10am and 12pm
	Saturday 15 May	10am
Confirmation (Pr 7)	Thursday 6 May	6pm and 7.15pm
	Thursday 13 May	6pm and 7.15pm
	Saturday 15 May	12pm (date may be required depending on numbers)
	Thursday 20 May	6pm and 7.15pm

Bishop John has created videos for the children who are preparing to receive the sacraments. This has been shared on the school app and teachers have shared them via google classroom. Please encourage your children to have a look.

Mrs Lawson will soon share further information regarding the Sacraments.

### Community

Thank you to Father Andrew who attends our Parent Council Meetings. It is always lovely to see him there and it is an excellent opportunity to talk about our positive parish links and how we can help encourage our children and families to develop as they continue on their faith journey.



### Parent Council

Thank you to Paul Doherty, Parent Council Chairperson, who has arranged our meetings via Microsoft teams. Our parent council would really like to see more parents/carers attend their meetings. I am sure there are many of you who could make excellent contributions! You are all invited to attend the next meeting via Microsoft teams on 16 March at 6pm. You should provide Paul Doherty with your email address in order to be included in the group invitation. I look forward to seeing many of you there.



## **Easter Eggs**

A huge thank you to Renfrewshire Toy Bank who have donated almost 100 Easter Eggs for our children. We have also had many parents who have been really keen to contribute to the cost of purchasing chocolate eggs for our children to celebrate this special time of year. Every child will receive an egg as a result of the efforts of the Toy Bank, Parent Group and School/ELCC funds. Thank you, everyone!

## **Pupil Progress Update**

Teachers are happy to continue engaging with you via email within school hours (9am -3pm). Your child's teacher should have contacted you to arrange an appointment for discussing your child's progress and achievements as well as have a little chat about your child's wellbeing. I hope you are finding this useful and it allows you to discuss with your child their next steps in learning while encouraging them to do their best.

## **Continued Communication**

Mrs Lawson and I are happy for you to contact us regarding any school related matter. You can continue to reach us by using the following email addresses:

Mrs Lawson - [gw08kinneypatricia@glow.sch.uk](mailto:gw08kinneypatricia@glow.sch.uk)

Mrs Mazzoni – [gw07mazzonisharon@glow.sch.uk](mailto:gw07mazzonisharon@glow.sch.uk)

[stpetersenquiries@renfrewshire.gov.uk](mailto:stpetersenquiries@renfrewshire.gov.uk)

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



## **Achievements**

Please remember to share any achievements your child has accomplished recently.

I hope the children are enjoying receiving their star pupil awards as they pop through the door. We have so many things to celebrate and it is important to focus on these as we do our best to remain positive during challenging times.

Finally, I would like to thank you so much for your continued support. Our children thrive best when we work well together.

Please take care!

Best wishes,

*Sharon Mazzoni*

Head Teacher

## **Our School Motto**

**'ANYTHING IS POSSIBLE IF YOU BELIEVE IN YOURSELF'**

## **Our School 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**