



# St. Peter's Primary School Newsletter

May 2021



**Dear Parents/Carers,**

It's hard to believe we have reached the month of May already, what a year we've had! We are delighted that our children remain in school where we can see them daily and enjoy face to face teaching and learning. We value the trust you have placed in us while we ensure that your children are kept as safe as possible. It is so important that they are able to interact positively with their peer group as well as all of the adults who work in the school. Thank you for your continued cooperation and partnership.



## **Keeping everyone safe**

### Lateral Flow Device Testing (free tests available)

Almost all staff are engaging in this programme which involves carrying out 2 lateral flow device tests each week. Many staff members have received their first dose of the vaccine too which gives us reassurance in terms of the safety of everyone in our community.

### Important information:

The Scottish Government has confirmed that free lateral flow home test kits will be available to anyone who does not have COVID symptoms. The test kits are used to check that people are not asymptomatic. These are not a substitute of the PCR test which **must be taken** if a child or adult has any of the symptoms of COVID. PCR tests can be booked by gaining an appointment at the most appropriate designated centre using the NHS helpline or by requesting a home testing kit. Please remember that children should not attend school or nursery if they are displaying any of the common symptoms outlined by NHS:

- A new, continuous cough
- High temperature
- Loss of smell or taste

Please note that lateral flow device test kits can be ordered online from <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/testing/get-tested-for-coronavirus/> or picked up direct from the Coronavirus testing centres at Glasgow Airport and Bridge Street Car Park in Paisley. Anyone can now participate in this programme and I highly recommend that as many families as possible do. It helps to prevent transmission of the virus and also provides some reassurance and peace of mind.

Always contact the school office if your child is unwell or cannot attend for any reason. While we are not medical experts, we will be happy to provide as much guidance and support as possible. It can all be very confusing!



### Staffing Update

We have recently welcomed two new members of staff to our team. Karen Lafferty, Early Learning and Childcare Officer (ELCO), has joined our ELCC team in the nursery and Pauline Erskine, Additional Support Needs Assistant (ASNA) has joined our support team. It is wonderful to have two members of staff who are enthusiastic about joining us and keen to do a successful job for our children. I am delighted to have them with us. I am sure that you will soon get to know them and be able to offer them a warm welcome to our community.

Our janitorial, catering and cleaning team has been enhanced which means that we have more new members of staff to welcome aboard. This is a fantastic effort from Renfrewshire Council to ensure that we have an efficient team who are able to provide a positive experience for the children and staff of St. Peter's. Our team is as follows:

Michael McCambridge	Senior Facilities Operative (soft facilities management/Janitorial)
Rachel Hanton	Senior Facilities Operative (soft facilities management/janitorial)
Elizabeth Hay	Senior Facilities Operative (catering)
Liz Lawson	Day Cleaner – currently temporary
Elizabeth Murray	Facilities Operative (catering)
Janet McLardie	Facilities Operative (catering and cleaning)
Robert Creighton	Facilities Operative (catering)
Helen Haggerty	Facilities Operative (catering)
Evelyn Laurie	Facilities Operative (catering)
Andrew Ross	Facilities Operative (cleaning)
Fiona Pope	Facilities Operative (cleaning)
Agency/supply	Facilities Operative (cleaning)



## Outdoor learning

You will have seen the wonderful additions to our school playground in recent weeks. A massive thank you to Mrs Catherine McLean (Acting Principal Teacher) who has successfully led our improving the playground project even through these difficult times to ensure that the children can benefit from enhanced outdoor experiences. We now have a beautiful outdoor classroom which is already being used to great effect. The playground markings have also been well received by children and staff upon return from their spring break. This was paid for from various funds, one of which was our very generous parent council who raised money to support our children being able to access and use our grounds more effectively.





We are keen to ensure that our improved grounds are well looked after and plan to involve the children in taking responsibility for designated areas. I have also asked for additional community police and warden presence. By working together, we can build a better and stronger community.



### **Health and wellbeing – reminder of services available**

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 by telephone or email. Staff will highlight children as appropriate but please be reassured we will never make a referral without your consent. Thank you to all parents/carers who have spoken to me recently to request advice and guidance. Please know that we are here to support and help you and your family as best we can.



### **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/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**

### First Holy Communion

Many children in primary 4 have now received the Sacrament of First Holy Communion. We have had five separate masses for small groups of children each time. These were wonderful occasions and I was so delighted to be able to be with the children during this special time in their lives. They were an absolute credit to St Peter's Parish, St. Peter's Primary School and to their families. Well done to them all! It was lovely to have Father Andrew celebrate with us and an important time for the children to meet him in person following on from their first confession. I am sure you will all agree that it was a very calm, spiritual and emotionally moving event. A huge thank you to Father Andrew, Sister Anne, Janet Geddes and all of the pass keepers and cleaners. I would like to thank our teachers Mrs McFarlane, Miss Stevenson and Mrs Duckett for preparing the children so well – all of the hard work was extremely evident on the day. Thank you also to Mrs Lawson who has been very busy organising the practical elements of the day. I am sure you will all agree that we are very lucky with the dedicated and committed staff we have here at St. Peter's.

Some children in primary 7 received the Sacrament of Confirmation on Thursday 13 May at 6pm in St. Peter's Church. This was a small group followed by another group on 20 May at 6pm and the final group on 27 May at 6pm. I know that the children have been preparing for a long time and I am sure they are all very excited that they have either just received or are about to receive the Sacrament. Miss Young and Miss Gordon have been working very hard with the children to help them develop spiritually while learning about the gifts and fruits of the holy spirit. I would like to offer them a huge thank you.

Mrs Ainsley Gavin will prepare a retreat and celebration day for the children in primary 4 and 7. This will give them time to reflect upon the importance of the Sacraments and have a little fun at the same time. Thank you to Mrs Gavin for organising this.

Please remember to keep all of the St. Peter's children in your prayers. They also think of you while they engage in daily prayer and offer their special intentions.

### **SCI AF during Lent**

Our children raised a magnificent £837.00. This is an incredible amount! Thank you so much for encouraging the children to support the focus Fridays. I would also like to thank Mrs Ainsley Gavin for coordinating this during the season of Lent. Well done, everyone!

### **God's Loving Plan**

Teachers will be completing various activities based on relationships and a special kind of love. The lessons are directed from the Paisley Diocese. The information shared with the children is available to you upon request. The booklets used are normally set out at our Parents' Evening for you to view but we are unable to do this at the moment. Please contact the school office if you wish to view the booklets. There is parental information that will be shared for all primary 6 and 7 parents prior to the lessons being carried out. All other pupil booklets can be emailed to parents/carers if you wish to have a look at the work completed.



## **Mental Health Awareness**

Thank you so much to Mrs Anne Campbell and Mrs Caitlin Maclean who organised our recent activities to raise funds for Mental Health Awareness Day. The children participated in a 'Step Out' for Mental Health sponsorship activity, took part in the 'Daily Mile' and our older children enjoyed cycling proficiency. The amount raised is absolutely tremendous! I believe we have raised a magnificent £798.50 so far. All of the money raised will be used across the ELCC class and classes within the school to provide the children with activities to promote positive mental health. A fun event has been booked for them on 28 May where there will be a bouncy castle in each playground using some of the money raised. Should the weather be unsuitable there is a second date selected (11 June) – surely one of these days will be nice and dry, if not sunny! I am overwhelmed by the effort our children have gone to in order to support this cause. Thank you so much as I realise this takes a huge family effort while supporting them. We will soon be asking for staff/parents/pupils views on mental health and wellbeing. We are in the process of creating questionnaires which will be emailed, however, we will also have paper copies available too if these are required by anyone. Your views are really important to us, so that we can plan our future activities.

## **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**

As always, thank you to Mr Paul Doherty for arranging and coordinating our meetings as Parent Council Chairperson. Unfortunately, the last meeting was postponed. The date of the next meeting will be communicated to you shortly. Our Parent Council recently used some of their funds to purchase playground games and toys for the children. These are going down a treat – thank you!

## **Transition**

### Primary 7 – S1

Many of our children will make the transition from primary 7 to S1 in August 2021. Unfortunately, the usual visits that children enjoy cannot take place. Pupils in primary 7 have, however, received visits from members of St. Andrew's Academy staff and they engaged very well with this. Mr Kevin Henry (Head Teacher) and other members of St. Andrew's staff have provided useful links for pupils and parents/carers to allow you to access useful information in supporting children making the transition. All primary 7 parents/carers should have received the links by email. They are as follows:

<http://www.standrewspaisley.com/the-transition-zone.html>

<https://sway.office.com/jhOUVTCHMKhnoY7O?ref=Link>

## Early Years – Primary 1

We will soon be inviting our new entrants to begin their transition to Primary 1. It is such an exciting time for families. To ensure our children have a positive start to their Primary education we have created a transition programme involving individual visits to our school along with groups of children from the same nursery bubble to enjoy outdoor activities with their new teacher. Further details will be sent out to parents before the end of May. Please accept apologies for the short notice. We have been waiting for guidance to ensure that we work within the restrictions we have in place at the time.

## Early Years Graduation

All of the children leaving our nursery to attend primary 1 in August will enjoy a graduation celebration. This will involve individual children being given a special moment with 2 parents/carers and staff from the nursery. Staff will ensure that this is a very memorable occasion for the children and their families. Parents/carers of children attending the nursery will be provided with further details shortly,

## **Pupil Progress Update**

All pupils engage in continuous assessment throughout the year so that teachers can discuss progress with them. Together, children and their teacher choose their next steps in learning alongside targets to be achieved. We also encourage pupils to engage positively with summative assessment which involves online assessments. Please be reassured that these are discussed with the children as part of their learning and children are supported through them to answer as confidently as they can. Summative assessments (GL and SNSA) are a small part of a large tool box used to inform teachers of pupil progress. We place great emphasis on teacher professional judgement and pupil voice. These are what we base our decision on when deciding which level children have achieved. We truly like to engage in dialogue with you about these important aspects of your child's progress and hope that you found the telephone calls which took place before the Spring break helpful.



## **Achievements**

Well done to Eilidh McKee who completed a race for life by walking 5K over the Gleniffer Braes. She raised £1360 for Cancer Research – wow! Well done, Eilidh, we are so proud of you!

Congratulations to Mateo de Medina Doig who received a gold certificate and prize from The Scottish Mathematical Council for his entry to the challenge competition. We are delighted for you Mateo!

I am aware that many children carried out very creative and magnificent activities to raise funds for our various chosen charities and I want to thank them all. We have such kind and thoughtful children here at St. Peter's who work hard to help others. An example of this would be our recent donation of £100.00 following the recent Kilt Walk for Glasgow Children's Hospital.

Please remember to share with me any achievements your child has accomplished recently. It is always lovely to be able to share these with our school community.

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.

### **Health Week**

Our school's Health Week is the week beginning 14<sup>th</sup> June. Children will be able to wear their comfortable/sports clothes to school this week. This can be leggings, joggers, shorts, T-shirts or a jumper with no football colours please. Children should ensure that they bring a waterproof jacket as most of our activities will be outdoors. Please remember suitable footwear for taking part in sports activities. Activities will include sports races within each class bubble, litter picking for Renfrewshire's 'Team Up to Clean Up' week, 'God's Loving Plan' lessons and healthy eating lessons. More information will follow from Mrs Maclean regarding the 'Team Up to Clean Up' litter picking event.



### **Activities Day**

Mrs Caitlin Maclean has been working closely with David Rose, our Active School's coordinator, to plan an outdoor fun day for the children. As we have been unable to have our lunch time and after school clubs, David and Mrs Maclean have looked at hosting different sports activities for all classes on Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> May. Children should come to school in their normal relaxed uniform and have suitable footwear.

Primary 7 will focus on activities related to outdoors such as the blind trail, bush craft, orienteering and team games. These are activities that the children would normally do during their residential trip to Lockerbie Manor. Primary 7 will be outdoors all day on Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> May and should bring a waterproof jacket.

### **Primary 7 Celebrations**

#### Awards

Our primary 7 children will receive individual awards as they leave in June. Unfortunately, we cannot have our awards ceremony which would normally involve parents/carers and family members attending. We are thinking as creatively as we can about how we can make this a special occasion to remember and we hope to be able to provide you with photographs of the children receiving their award.

#### Primary 7 Fun Days

The children have been busy raising funds for their fun activities. It is such a shame that they were unable to enjoy the residential outing that usually takes place. For this reason, we have planned activities such as an outdoor silent disco, outdoor cinema and inflatable obstacle course. Miss Young and Miss Gordon will communicate details with you nearer the time. Please be reassured that we will ensure the children will have a wonderful time and we will take lots of photographs that can be shared with you.



### Leavers' Hoodies

Many children are excited about receiving their leavers' hoodies. These are on order and will be given to the children as a gift from everyone St. Peter's Primary School before they leave in June.

### Year Book

The children are currently creating their year book which will also be a memorable leaving gift for them.

### School Dance

I am aware that there will be some disappointment around the absence of a leavers' dance/prom which usually takes place in the evening with many parents/carers involved. This is normally organised by our Parent Council and I am sure they are very disappointed too that it cannot take place. This decision has been taken under the guidance and direction from Renfrewshire Council. Please be reassured that the children will have a very special and memorable send off. Staff will provide a physically distanced guard of honour for them on their last day.

### Leavers' Mass

A specially dedicated Mass has been arranged for all of primary 7 on 24 June at (time to be confirmed). This will take place in St. Peter's Church and each child can invite one parent/carer or family member to join with them in prayer.

### **Sensory Room**

We have received funding from Renfrewshire Council to create a sensory room within the school. The room is currently being painted with neutral colours and the equipment has arrived so we expect the room to be ready for use within the next two weeks. This will be such a great support for our children who require opportunities for sensory breaks throughout the school day. Please look out for photographs on our school app and website.

### **School Property**

Please remember to clearly mark your child's name on all their belongings. We have had many items left behind which do not have children's names on them. This makes it very difficult to return items to their owner. It is such a shame to see so many new items going to waste.

### **Parent Drop Off and Collection**

Please remember that all parents/carers should use our one-way system when dropping off and collecting children at the beginning and end of each day. Only one parent/carer should do this. I must ask that you do not remain within or around the school grounds at any time. The area at the top of the stairs can become very congested at times and this can prevent people from feeling confident while entering our grounds. Please do not stand here for any reason and for any length of time. Thank you so much for your support.

You have been very cooperative throughout the pandemic and this has helped to ensure that positive cases of covid are kept to a minimum within our community. I cannot thank you enough for this and I ask that you continue to do all you can while we have the restrictions eased to level 2 in Renfrewshire. We cannot become complacent and we must continue to give our best efforts in order keep everyone safe.

### **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.

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

Please take care!

Best wishes,  
*Sharon Mazzoni*

Head Teacher

### **Some Diary Dates**

#### **May**

Tuesday 18		Bikeability for P6/7 and p7 <b>(Please ensure children bring their own helmet to use)</b>
Thursday 20		Bikeability for p4/ <u>5</u> and p5/6 today
	6pm	Primary 7 Confirmation in St. Peter's Church (group 2)
Wednesday 24		Raffle to be drawn – prize winners will be announced by the end of the day
Tuesday 25		Bikeability for p6/ <u>7</u> and p7
		Primary 4 retreat taking place in St. Peter's Primary and organised by Mrs Gavin
Wednesday 26		Primary 7 retreat taking place in St. Peter's Primary and organised by Mrs Gavin
Thursday 27		Bikeability for p4/ <u>5</u> and p5/6 today
	6pm	Primary 7 Confirmation in St. Peter's Church (group 3)
Monday 31		HOLIDAY

#### **June**

Tuesday 01		Primary 7 on-road cycling begins today (primary 5 and 6 remain in school grounds)
Wednesday 02		Primary 7 obstacle course taking place in school playground
Thursday 03		Bikeability for p4/ <u>5</u> and p5/6
		Primary 7 trip to Gleniffer Braes
Friday 04	am	Silent disco in our playground for Primary 7
	Pm	Outdoor Cinema for Primary 7 in St. Peter's playground
Tuesday 08		Photographer here to take group photographs of primary and ELCC classes
Thursday 10		Bikeability for p4/ <u>5</u> and p5/6
		Primary 7 Transition Workshop (Homelink worker leading)
Monday 14		Focused Health Week begins (Mrs Caitlin Maclean will provide timetable nearer the time)
Tuesday 15		Bikeability session (last session for primary 5 and 6)
Thursday 17		Primary 7 Awards Celebration
Tuesday 22		Last Bikeability session for primary 7

Thursday 24 Primary 7 Leavers' Mass in St. Peter's Church

Friday 25 1pm School closes for Summer break

Please note that the organisation of all events is dependent upon Renfrewshire Council remaining within tier 2 level.



### **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**