



Parental Newsletter



October/November 2021

Dear Parents/Carers,

It's hard to believe we have almost reached the end of October. I hope you all enjoyed a lovely break during our October holiday week. The autumnal weather is providing us with lots of beautiful colours to enjoy, although it does mean that the temperature has dropped considerably. Please remember to ensure that your child comes to school dressed for the lovely Scottish weather (waterproof jacket, comfortable relaxed joggies/leggings and suitable footwear, especially on their outdoor focus days).

Religious Life of the School

All Saints Day is a holy day of obligation and it takes place on Monday 01 November. Primary 7 only will attend 10am Mass in St. Peter's Church. The rest of the school will attend a virtual mass from their classrooms at 10 am. This will be live streamed from St. Peter's Church.



Staffing Update

We have sadly said goodbye to Mrs Angela Robertson, Classroom Assistant (Mon-Wed), who retired earlier this month. I am sure she is enjoying her retirement and has been in touch to thank everyone for the lovely send off she received. I am sure she is missing our lovely children but enjoying this new chapter in her life. Mrs Robertson's post will be advertised shortly on Myjobscotland and filled using Renfrewshire Council's recruitment procedures.

Miss Linzi McGregor, Additional Support Needs Assistant (ASNA), has gained a new post within another school in Renfrewshire and will leave St. Peter's on Friday 12 November. Miss McGregor has been a member of staff here at St. Peter's for the past 3 years and has shown real commitment and dedication to supporting many children during her time here. I would like to take this opportunity to thank her for all her hard work and wish her well as she moves on to pastures new. I am sure you will all join with me in wishing her well. Miss McGregor's post along with additional hours that have been granted for St. Peter's Primary will be filled using Renfrewshire Council's ASNA supply team. There will also be a part time post advertised shortly on Myjobscotland. Miss Kellie Donnelly has joined our team as a supply ASNA and is thoroughly enjoying her time here so far. We are delighted to welcome Miss Donnelly as a member of our staff team.

Parents Evening

You should have received your telephone appointment which has the selected date and time for you to receive a phone call from your child's teacher. This is an opportunity for you to have valuable time discussing your child's wellbeing and progress with staff who work with them closely each day and know them so well. I hope you find these conversations both informative and helpful.

Class newsletter

Each class teacher has prepared a newsletter which will provide you with information regarding what your child will be learning in class this term. This will include curricular news as well as details about homework and classroom expectations. These will be distributed within the next week.

Halloween

Children can come to school dressed in their Halloween costumes (please note this is optional and those who do not wish to 'dress up' can come to school in uniform or casual clothes on this occasion). Please let us know if you would like help selecting a costume for your child as we have plenty here that could be put to good use. There will be Halloween themed activities taking place in each class throughout the morning of Friday 29 October. Our pupils will be learning important aspects of the curriculum in a very fun and engaging way while celebrating the annual event. Parties will take place in each class during the afternoon. Teachers will prepare party games and children will be given some treats to celebrate the occasion. This will include a small bar of quality chocolate, a small packet of jelly sweets, a packet of corn snack crisps and a bottle of flavoured water. Our very generous parent council have kindly agreed to provide a donation to help towards the cost and this is greatly appreciated by everyone. Thank you!



Autumn Festival

Our children have been busy designing and making a class scarecrow to take part in our first ever St Peter's Scarecrow Competition which will be held on Thursday 28th October. Each class, including St Peter's ELCC, will display their scarecrow in the playground (although if weather is not suitable for this, we may need to display them within the school building instead). Throughout Thursday each class will have a chance to view each of the fabulous scarecrow creations, vote for their favourite and take part in a little scavenger hunt. The winning class will win an extra playtime and be provided with a hot chocolate and marshmallow treat on the day of their choice.

In addition to this each, children can pay £1 to guess the scarecrow's birthday (please note this is entirely optional). The competition will begin on Thursday and will continue until it is drawn on the afternoon of Monday 1st November. The winner who guesses the birthday correctly will be the lucky winner of a £30 voucher to Gravity Trampoline Park. If children wish to take part in this, they should bring £1 to school between Thursday 28th - Monday 1st November and give it to their class teacher with their chosen date. Please note, if their chosen date is not available their teacher will help them to choose an alternative. The money raised will go towards further enhancing our playground with some new equipment.



Staggered Entry and Exit Times

We are keen to revisit our procedures at the beginning and end of the school day. The reason for this is to reduce the amount of time between each class arrival and departure. We understand the weather is getting much colder and it would be better for everyone if we could successfully manage to do this. We are confident that the majority of our school community is adhering to the safety measures we have in place and we ask that you continue to do this while moving swiftly through the playground. This will help us to carry out our plan effectively. We would like to propose the following with the new changes starting on Monday 01 November:

Door	Staff to welcome class	8.50am-2.50pm	9am-3pm
Infant entrance/exit	Mrs Phelps and Mrs Duckett/Mrs Everett Mrs Phelps and Mrs Thomson	Primary 2/3	Primary 2
Primary 1 Class Door	Miss McGregor/vacancy and Mrs Mitchell	8.50am-9.00am Primary 1 to have a soft start (this means the children can enter anytime between 8.50am-9.00am) with their school day beginning at 9.00am	Primary 1 to leave via class door at 3pm
Middle entrance/exit	Miss McNamara Miss Young	Primary 3/4	Primary 4/5
Door next to middle corridor in corner of playground	Mrs McFarlane (Mon, Tue, Thurs & Fri) Mrs Maclean (Wed)		Primary 5
Upper entrance/exit	Miss Pacitti Miss Gordon Miss Stevenson	Primary 6	Primary 7a & Primary 7b

I would be really happy to hear your views regarding this and would urge you to contact me by telephone or email to let me know how you feel about our plans.

Email: gw07mazzonisharon@glow.sch.uk Tel: 0300 300 0188

As always, I ask that you use our one-way system where possible and move as quickly as you can through the playground. Please do not be tempted to gather and stop for long chats with other parents/carers within our school grounds. Only one parent should bring your child/children into the school grounds. You cannot stand at the top of the stairs (our school entrance) as this is causing some congestion at our only entry point. Please be mindful that others need to use this space and they may feel uncomfortable by having their safety compromised by small gatherings. I trust that you will fully cooperate with this as I know you have made every effort to comply with all our other requests.



Playtimes and Lunchtimes

We have adapted our school day slightly to allow some changes regarding how we structure playtimes and lunchtimes. This means that children from two classes can sometimes be in the playground at any one time. Children are no longer required to be kept in bubbles but we are still encouraging our set routines such as keeping a sensible/safe distance and participating in regular hand washing. Not all classes are enjoying the benefit of these changes yet as we are taking a very gradual approach. We hope to be able to ensure that all children from the same stage get the chance to mix with others in a different class, e.g. primary 3 from p2/3 and primary 3 from p3/4. This means our plan will change from time to time to allow this to happen. Please feel free to contact me at the school if you require any further information in relation to this.

The current plan for this term is as follows:

Time	Playground A	Playground B	Playground C
10.25-10.40am	P2	P3/4	P6
10.25-10.40am	P2/3	P4/5	
10.40-10.55am	P1	P5	P7a & P7b
	A primary 7 buddying rota can begin.		



Free School Meal Entitlement

The Scottish Government introduced free school meals to all children in primary 4 this year which means that all children in primary 1, 2, 3 & 4 now receive free school meals. The plan is to introduce free meals to children in primary 5 in January and the government wish to further extend this to children in primary 6 & 7 in August 2022. Very soon, all children who attend St. Peter's Primary will be in receipt of a free school meal. The Scottish Government also plan to provide all pupils with a carton of free milk each day which will be a healthy and nutritious initiative and most welcomed here at Peter's.

Allergies

We have recently become aware that one of our children has a nut allergy. For this reason, you must not send your child to school with any type of nuts on any occasion. I know that you will treat this information with respect and I thank you very much for your cooperation.



Headlice

Please remember to regularly check your child's hair for headlice. It is recommended that you carry this out on a weekly basis and treat your child's head if you discover that headlice exist. It is always helpful if you inform staff at the school if this is the case. Please be reassured that the information will be treated in a strictly confidential manner.

Active Schools

I am delighted to announce our Active School Programme will be available online this week to sign on to the following lunch time and after school classes. Details of how to sign on to allow you to add your child on to the register will be available on the school website and school app shortly.

Tuesday lunch – Dance – P2 & P3

Tuesday 3 – 4pm -Netball – P6 & P7

Wednesday lunch – Football – P6 & P7

Wednesday 3 – 4pm – Dance – P4 & P5

Thursday 3 – 4pm – Multi Sport P2 & P3

Friday 3 – 4pm – Dance P6 & P7

Parent Council

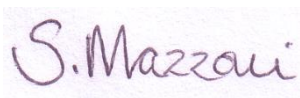
Our parent council continue to meet online each month to organise and plan activities which help enhance the experiences our children have when they come to school. This year, they are continuing to raise funds to help support the improvement of our school grounds. We have managed to recruit some children from primary 4-7 who will attend the beginning of their meetings (first 15 mins). Each pupil will speak with their class about ideas related to how the parent council can support our school. The children will then speak with the parent council to share their views and gain feedback on how they can work together to improve outcomes for everyone. Miss McNamara and Miss Young are our teacher representatives and Fr Andrew Coleman is our Church representative. Please come along and join in with their meetings. You will feel very welcome and at ease straight away – it really is a friendly bunch and they are keen to have as many people involved as possible. If you wish to attend, all you have to do is send your email address to our parent council chairperson who will include you in the electronic invitation. His email address is as follows:

Chairperson Paul Doherty email: pauldoherty15@hotmail.com

The next meeting will take place on Monday 01 November at 6pm online via Microsoft teams. I look forward to seeing many of you there.

Finally, I would like to thank you for the cooperation and partnership you have continuously provided. Your support has enabled us to continue to provide the children of St. Peter's with many valuable and engaging learning experiences while helping them to enjoy positive relationships. Together, we can achieve many great things for our school community. Let's keep working closely together to maintain high standards at St. Peter's Primary School.

Best wishes,



Sharon Mazzoni

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