

St Peters ELC

August 2025 Newsletter



Welcome Back



We hope all our families have had a restful and enjoyable summer break and had an opportunity to spend quality time, making new memories with your family. We would like to take this opportunity to welcome back our current families and children while extending a warm welcome all our new families. We look forward to another positive year ahead.

Children's Personal Details & Updates

On return, or starting nursery, families will receive new individual care plans, consent forms and annual data checks, it is extremely important these documents are returned to your child's key worker as soon as possible to ensure we hold up to date and accurate information and contact details. Please speak to your child's key worker, or a staff member if you require any support in completing these documents.

If any personal details change during your time at St Peters, please inform a staff member or contact the school office on 0300 300 0188 to ensure we continue to have up to date and accurate information (contact numbers, house address).

Staff Team

We would like to extend a warm welcome to Debbie Wilson, who has joined St Peters ELC as our Early Years Graduate, on a part time basis. We look forward to working alongside Debbie.

Family Committee

We have had an excellent Family Fundraising Committee who donated their time to organise termly events and fundraisers as well as donating their time to make environmental developments within our service. Unfortunately, due to children moving on into Primary 1, we have sadly lost many members of our committee, however, we are excited to recruit new members! Joining



the committee provides an opportunity to build and establish positive relationships with other parents/carers and family members. If you or a family member can spare a few hours each term, please speak to a staff member who will pass your details on to our current committee and an initial meeting will be arranged which suits our members.



Collaborative Learning

We are eager to develop working groups with families who can share their own individual talents, skills or knowledge with our children (and staff). If you or a family member has a particular interest or talent such as gardening, baking or needlework and can spare short periods of time we would like to invite you along to help implement and participate within these groups. Again, please speak to a staff member if this is something you or a family member is interested in.

Social Media

Our closed and private Facebook group is a great tool for sharing children's learning and play experiences as well as providing important and essential information. We would encourage family members to engage within the group and regularly check for new updates.



Keeping our Facebook group up to date with children's experiences and information requires time and effort from nursery staff, we would encourage and appreciate a high level of engagement from families while sharing home experiences and achievements within the group.



For our new families joining St Peters ELC, click the link to request to join. <https://www.facebook.com/groups/134159723911704> or use the QR code above.

Dolly Parton's Imagination Library

Dolly Parton's Imagination Library is a book gifting programme where all children aged 2-5 living in Renfrewshire receive a high quality, age-appropriate FREE story book through the post each month. Registration is easy, follow the link below to complete your registration and instil a love of reading in your child.

<https://imaginationlibrary.com/check-availability/>

Working closely with DPIL programme, we provide monthly home link tools to support Imagination Library at home while embedding "Dolly" experiences in our daily practise. We strongly encourage families to participate and engage with the monthly play and learning opportunities, which refer to the books /stories. Each pack contains an evaluation which we would appreciate being returned. Please post photographs (within our closed Facebook group) of your child receiving their new book, sharing the story with an adult or engaging with the activities. On your child's birthday look out for a special "Birthday Message" from Dolly herself! This can be found in the email address you used to register with the programme.



Stay and Play Sessions



We are excited to offer Stay and Play sessions which are extremely popular with parents/carers and family members. The programme allows family members to stay and play at nursery with their child, providing an insight into nursery routine, play and learning experiences offered, identifying children's friendships, observing staff interactions and interventions, promoting positive behaviours as well as forming and building positive and trusting relationships with staff members. These sessions will commence from week beginning 15th September.

Bookbug Sessions



Our monthly Bookbug sessions are extremely popular with our families. These sessions have previously been delivered by our Senior Early Learning and Childcare Officer (Lorna) who has been delivering the session for a number of years. Karen, one of our Early Learning and Childcare Officers has now recently completed the training and is excited to join and lead sessions with our families.

We are currently planning and arranging suitable times, which will be provided very soon. We hope to see you there!

Home Link Strategies

Children will have the opportunity to receive home link bags which will consist of library books, Adventure Ted, maths bags, writing boxes, games and other activities. It is important children are supervised when using these and encouraged to look after the resources within each bag. Each bag should be used to promote interactions between family members while encouraging a play-based approach to learning. When returning the bag please ensure all resources are included and the evaluation form is completed. We do understand items may break or get lost, if this does occur, please tell a member of staff to ensure the items can be replaced before the next child receives the bag. We hope you and your child enjoy our home link tools.

PATHS Programme

PATHS is a programme delivered and supported by Barnardo's which promotes positive mental health and emotional wellbeing. St Peters Primary School follow the programme which we have adopted within the nursery which has proved to have positive outcomes. Children have the opportunity of being "child of the day" where they learn and develop skills to receive and offer compliments to their peers. Compliment lists are taken home where family members are encouraged to provide a compliment for their child before returning the form to nursery. The programme consists of daily lessons around emotions and feelings along with stories referring to the PATHS characters "Twiggle", "Daphne", "Juke" and "Henrietta".

Childsmile Programme (Toothbrushing)



Childsmile is a national programme designed to improve the oral health of children in Scotland. Research tells us that brushing at least twice a day with fluoride toothpaste can help prevent tooth decay. To support this, Childsmile has developed a national daily supervised toothbrushing programme to take place within early years establishments and school settings, in **addition** to brushing at home. Children are automatically enrolled in the programme, however, **if you do not want your child to take part in the programme**, we require a signed letter stating this decision for our records.

All staff delivering the programme have received up to date training and are familiar with all relevant risk assessment and infection prevention and control procedures.



NHS & Childsmile have provided a QR code which provides a depth of information on caring for child's teeth and getting the best oral healthcare with advice around healthy eating at all stages.

Healthy Eating - Snacks and Lunches

With a strong promotion of healthy eating, our menus are created in accordance with nutritional guidance set out by the Scottish Government. Children are offered morning snack which consists of a selection of cereals, toast, crackers and a wide variety of fresh fruits with a choice of milk or water to drink. Morning snack is available between 9.00am until 10.15am. An afternoon snack is then offered between 1.00pm until 2.15pm. Children's dietary requirements, likes and dislikes are catered for by knowledgeable staff, ensuring a healthy option is available for all our children. Please **do not** supply any snacks for your child to have during their session as they will not be offered these during their nursery session.

All nursery children are entitled to a free nursery lunch, we strongly recommend encouraging your child to opt for a nursery lunch catered by the school. We are aware some children refuse and require a packed lunch for different reasons, if this is the case we advise healthy options within their lunch box. For example, a main meal / lunch item and **not** snacks.

Renfrewshire school and nursery lunch options can be viewed by clicking the link below:

<https://www1.renfrewshire.gov.uk/article/12221/Nursery-school-lunch-menus>

Children are not required to bring any drinks within their packed lunches as water/milk are available for children. Children are encouraged to independently pour and drink from appropriate tumblers (rather than bottle tops which can be harmful to teeth). We expose children to healthy eating and drinking messages which will allow children to make independent and positive choices now and in their future.

We would like to remind all families we are a **NUT FREE** school and nursery. Please ensure any food items within packed lunch boxes **DO NOT** contain nuts. Sandwich fillers, cereal bars or snack items must be **NUT FREE**. We as families to be vigilant.



Sickness and Illness Procedure

Children suffering from sickness and diarrhoea must be clear for 48 hours before returning to nursery to reduce the spread of infection. If your child becomes sick or has diarrhoea, families will be contacted and advised to collect their child and should then remain at home until 48 hours clear of symptoms. Families will be contacted if children appear or complain of being unwell and unable to cope with a full day of nursery.

If your child is unwell at home and is unable to attend nursery, it is important that you notify the school office as soon as possible on 0300 300 0018 to report their absence.

ParentPay and Donations

As a cashless school/nursery we use ParentPay to receive any funds. Our new families will be provided with information on ParentPay along with a username and password. We would encourage you to access your account as soon as possible to activate your account. If you have any problems, please speak to a member of our office staff on 0300 300 0188 who will be more than happy to assist you. For current families please check your account is still accessible, if any difficulties occur our office staff will be more than happy to assist you.



Snack and activity donations should be paid through your ParentPay account weekly (£3.50), fortnightly (£7.00), monthly (£14.00) or termly (Aug, Oct, Jan & Apr - £35.00) The funds should be paid straight into the "activity/snack fund" and **NOT** the lunch option. Funds are used to benefit children's snacks, events, celebrations and parties throughout the year. We appreciate your continued support.

Uniform, Clothing and Footwear

Nursery children are not required to wear a uniform; however, you may choose to do so which would consist of red or white polo shirts and red sweater with the nursery logo/badge, these can be purchased from School Wear Made Easy or Baru. Alternatively plain red / white polo shirts and jumpers can be purchased at a reasonable price from known supermarkets.

We would strongly encourage you **not** to send your child to nursery with expensive clothing, jackets or footwear. Children spend long periods of time outdoors, painting, splashing in water / mud and taking part in a range of messy experiences. We do encourage children to wear aprons, however, these do not always protect clothing and where children choose not to wear an apron, we will respect their decision.

We advise Parents/Carers to provide an adequate amount of spare clothing, underwear and socks, these should be named and stored in your child's bag (please label bag) which should remain at nursery on their individual coat peg.

Children will require indoor shoes. We would advise **plimsoles** (rather than slippers) as these are ideal for all types of indoor play including the use of the gym hall and they are practical due to the velcro straps, again please label the inside of your child's shoes. As children are encouraged to change shoes independently (on arrival and for outdoor play), we would appreciate children wearing outdoor shoes which are not difficult to put on, we would encourage parents/carers to avoid converse and other types of shoes/trainers which can cause some challenges (for children and staff).

Please ensure children have changed from outdoor shoes into their indoor shoes on their arrival.

We also ask all children to be provided with a pair of welly boots which remain at nursery. Parents/Carers can provide their own outdoor clothing (waterproof jacket and waterproof trousers) if preferred, however we have a selection of outdoor clothing which is laundered following our services procedures.



Please ensure your child arrives at nursery prepared and dressed for "Scottish" weather, we are aware some children will travel by car and perhaps not bring a heavy jacket/hat/scarf, etc, please remember your child will have the opportunity to be out in all weather conditions. If easier, items can be stored in your child's individual bag and remain at nursery for any sudden changes in weather.



To adhere to our sun cream application policy, sun cream should be applied by Parents/Carers before arriving at nursery, staff will re-apply when necessary, throughout your child's session. Consents forms will be provided with more information on sun cream application.

Speech and Language Information

Renfrewshire Speech and Language Therapy Department is continuing to offer phone consultations rather than previous drop-in sessions. Contact Details are - 0141 314 4624. Parents and carers can contact the service on a Monday and Friday between the hours of 11.00am - to 1.00pm

Collections & Resources

We continuously gather and collect many household items to support and extend play and learning opportunities for our children. If possible we are asking our families to collect, gather and be on the look out for the following resources, materials and items:

- Pieces of unwanted jewellery (watches, bangles, chunky necklaces)
- Jewellery boxes (ring box, earring box)
- Make up brushes
- Empty perfume / aftershave bottles
- Working clocks (variety of sizes and types)
- Kitchen utensils (wooden spoons, mashers, ladels, pots and pans, colanders, jugs)
- Weighing scales
- Cake stands
- Authentic ornaments
- Old mobile phones
- Dial telephones
- Keys
- Remote controls (TV)
- Bottle lids (tin, brass, plastic, thickened card)
- Plastic recycling materials (fruit pots, margarine tubs, small juice/water bottles)
- Cardboard recycling materials (tubes, small food/egg packaging boxes, cup holder)
- Shells, stones, pebbles
- Corks
- Spoons (unusual spoons)
- Plant pots (selection of sizes)
- Nuts & bolts, lengths of chain
- Buttons
- Padlocks with keys
- Dressing up items (adult sized) (t-shirts, shirts, hats, shoes)
- Buttons & zips
- Pieces of materials
- Odd socks (to make sock puppets)
- Wicker baskets
- Nails, screws & hinges
- Pieces of soft wood (pine skirting board off cuts) (planks of soft wood)
- Recycled materials (cardboard boxes, yoghurt cartons, egg cartons, tubes)