

St Peters ELC - January 2026 Newsletter



Festivities



Firstly, we hope all our families had a wonderful Christmas, making new memories with family and friends and we wish you all the very best in 2026! Hopefully our families and children have had the opportunity and time to relax after our busy and exciting festivities leading up to Christmas!

Nativity Performance:

We would like to thank our children for what can only be described as a wonderful and confident performance! Children worked so hard learning their individual actions, lines and songs. We are sure our families are just as proud as we are of each and every child for taking part.



Christmas Fayre:

It was wonderful to see so many of our current families, as well as previous families attend our annual Christmas Fayre. Our annual fundraiser, organised by our active and dedicated Family Committee, raised a staggering £700! These funds will go towards supporting our annual Summer Family Fun Day! We would like to extend a huge thank you to all our families, friends and our local community for donating a wide variety of items and prizes.

Welcome



We would like to take this opportunity to welcome our new families and children to St Peters ELC and we hope you and your child have a positive experience.

Staffing

Following our recent interviews, for two ELCO positions, we are pleased to confirm we will soon welcome Jocelyn Robertson and Kasia Wilson. Jocelyn will job share with Maryam, sharing key worker responsibilities for our Green Group, while Kasia will job share with Katrina sharing Key worker responsibilities for our red group. Kasia may be familiar to St Peters families and children, having attended regularly on supply. Both Jocelyn and Kasia are looking forward to joining St Peters ELC.

Arrival and Collection Times

As we begin our new term, we would strongly encourage families to arrive on time for nursery. We open our nursery doors from 8.50am - 9.05am, this also supports and allows siblings to arrive at school on time. Children should arrive at nursery for 9am allowing all children to participate in our welcome time and group experiences. When children arrive during welcome time, it can have a disruptive effect on the focused play and learning. Children who regularly miss our morning welcome/group experiences are missing important aspects of play and learning, and with this in mind we would strongly encourage children to arrive on time. However, we do understand things can occur making it difficult and on occasions lateness may be unavoidable.

We aim to open nursery doors for 2.50pm where children are generally ready with jackets and shoes changed, this allows for families to collect nursery children first before collecting school children at 3pm.

Understanding Behaviours in Early Childhood

We see a wonderful mix of personalities, emotions and developing skills every day. Children are learning how to understand themselves, communicate with others and make sense of the world. Because each child grows at their own pace, a wide range of behaviours naturally appear in the group. Social skills are still emerging, sharing, turn-taking and understanding others' feelings take time to develop. When children struggle with these skills, it can lead to disagreements or moments of conflict. These situations are valuable learning opportunities where children practise empathy and cooperation. Some children have lots of language, others are still finding their words. When a child can't express themselves verbally, they may use actions instead, this is a natural stage of communication development. In order to understand their world, children will explore boundaries by testing limits, this enables young children to develop independence, helping them understand expectations and develop self-control. As part of early social development, children are learning how to interact, communicate and play alongside peers. During this stage it is natural for children to occasionally make mistakes as they learn how to manage their bodies and emotions. Minor incidents and disagreements are a common part of early childhood development and do not indicate a child is unsafe, while we always prioritise safety and supervision, these moments will happen even within a well-supported environment.

Using a range of strategies, we guide children gently and consistently to promote positive behaviours and emotional wellbeing. We monitor all interactions carefully and work with each child to ensure they feel safe, secure, supported and confident as they progress through important developmental stages.


Speech and Language Information

Renfrewshire Speech and Language Therapy Department is continuing to offer phone consultations. Contact details are 0141 314 4624. Families can contact the service on a Monday and Friday between the hours of 11am - 1pm.

Helping Children Become Confident Communicators and Early Writers

Many families will be aware, we use the Talk for Writing programme, a fun and interactive approach that helps children develop strong early language, storytelling and pre-writing skills, it's all about giving children the tools to talk, act out and understand stories long before they begin writing them.

We have observed significant progress in children's development through Talk for Writing. Children are becoming increasingly confident in retelling stories, using new vocabulary and understanding the structure of different texts. Many children are able to sequence events more clearly, use repetitive phrases while "signing" and embed aspects of the story through their imaginative and social play, supporting their oral storytelling!

 You may notice your child retelling stories at home, using actions, or talking about characters. This is a wonderful sign that they're building the skills they need for future reading and writing success.

Our new Talk for Writing Model Text is "We're Going on a Bear Hunt". Our play and learning will be shared in our Private Facebook Group!

Dolly's 80th Birthday Celebration

We're excited to let you know we will be marking Dolly Parton's 80th birthday with a special celebration. This isn't just about a birthday—it's a chance for us to recognise and appreciate the incredible work she does through the Imagination Library; a programme that provides free books to children and helps foster a lifelong love of reading.

Dolly Parton's commitment to early literacy has made a real difference to children around the world, including many in our own community. To honour her contribution, we'll be enjoying some book-themed activities with the children and celebrating the joy of stories. Dolly turns 80 on Monday 19th January, however, our celebration day is planned to take place on Tuesday 20th January!



We strongly encourage all families to register with Dolly Parton's Imagination Library, where your child will receive a free, high-quality book every month. Scan the QR Code to register your child with the programme and support our nursery to achieve 100% registration!

Self-Evaluation Processes

As stated in our November 2025 Newsletter, we are keen to involve families in our self-evaluation process. We have created themed "challenge questions", these will be posted within our Facebook group – paper copies of questions will be provided for families who are not members in our Facebook group. Families can either share their response within the comments or provide a written response if they wish their comment to remain confidential. We would strongly encourage families to become involved in this process as it enables parents/carers to share their ideas, thoughts and feelings while shaping and developing our service.

Primary 1 Registration

Families should have completed their online registration for children due to start Primary 1 in August 2026. You must register your child at your catchment primary school and apply for a placement request (to your school of choice) if this is applicable to you.

If your child is still aged 4 on the first day of school starting in August 2026, you can apply for an additional year of nursery. If this is something you would like to discuss please do so, however, you must still register your child for your catchment school and then complete a deferred entry application.

Snack Donations



Snack donations for Term 3 (January - March) should continue to be paid through individual ParentPay accounts, ensuring you choose **snack/activity fund** option and **NOT** lunch option. If families have any difficulties donating, please contact our school office on 0300 300 0188 where a member of our clerical team will be happy to assist you. A payment of £35.00 pound can be made or weekly donations of £3.50 can be added to your account. If families have not yet activated their account (new families) please speak to a staff member.

Your donations not only help to purchase daily snacks for our children but help to provide our children and families with many events throughout the year such as parties, celebrations, fun days and gifts. We appreciate your continued support.

Facebook Participation

Families have been invited and joined our nursery Facebook group, a space to celebrate play, learning and all the wonderful achievements which happen at nursery and home. We encourage families to share their child's home learning moments including our focused "home link" experiences such as Adventure Ted, "Rhyme of the Week" and "Dolly Parton Imagination Library" activity packs. By sharing photos, stories and moments of discovery, you help strengthen our community and inspire other families too. Family posts help us celebrate each child's progress, connect play and learning between home and nursery and show children their efforts are valued both at home and in nursery. Your involvement makes a real difference and we enjoy viewing the wonderful things your child is exploring at home.

Clothing and Footwear

A little reminder to families to ensure children are supplied with an appropriate amount of clothing, underwear and socks. All items of clothing should be stored in your child's individual bag located on their coat peg. Children's clothing items should be labelled with their name, this ensures families will receive the correct jumpers / cardigans home at the end of the session.

If any families have unwanted winter hats, gloves or scarves, our nursery could make good use of these for our outdoor play sessions.

Collections and Resources Required

As always, we continue to seek various resources and household items to support play and learning. if any families have any of the following, which are no longer required, please donate to our nursery -

- Paint trays and rollers (varied sizes)
- Dispenser bottles (such as hand soap - please wash out before handing in)
- Spray bottles
- Measuring tapes
- Pots and pans
- Unwanted mobile phones
- Unwanted remote controls (TV)
- Keys
- Make up brushes (washed)
- Step ladders (if secure)
- Bangles
- Watches / Clocks
- Metal utensils