



Telephone: 0300 300 1364
School email: stfergusenquiries@renfrewshire.gov.uk
School website: blogs.glowscotland.org.uk/re/stfergus/

Our Vision

'Working together to promote, excellence in achievement and well-being for all.'

Dear Parents/Carers,

Welcome back to St Fergus' for our new school session 2024/25. I hope you all have had a wonderful summer holiday. The term ahead is sure to be a busy one with lots of engaging and fun learning to be enjoyed, we are so looking forward to having parents and carers being involved in their children's educational journey. We have many events and activities taking place. I am looking forward to continuing our effective partnership and I am sure this will be a successful term for all.



I would like to offer a warm welcome to our new Primary 1 pupils and their parents/carers. The children have all settled very well and appear to be enjoying their new experience. Well done for an excellent start!

I was delighted to see all pupils return to school for the new term in uniform. School uniform contributes to success in many aspects of school life and encourages pupils to develop a sense of identity and pride in our school. Uniform also means that all children are equal with regards to clothing, and they are not competing with designer labels. Could I please remind all parents that our uniform is **plain grey** and **not black**.

The wearing of uniform is something I would strongly encourage throughout the year and would like to thank all parents for their support in this by getting their children off to an excellent start.

Of course, all uniforms are very similar, so it is very important that individual items of clothing are clearly labelled with each child's name. This will help to minimise the number of items lost as this can cause much unnecessary anxiety for children and expense for parents.

Nut Allergies

We are a nut free zone as we have children with a severe nut allergy which, for these children contact with someone who may have eaten nuts could be **FATAL**. Please always check the ingredients of your child's snack and lunch. I would ask for your co-operation and ensure that there are no nuts brought into school for snack or lunch. Please note that these ingredients can be found in chocolate spread, biscuits, cereal bars etc. Please always check the ingredients.



Staffing Update

We welcome Miss Rebecca Gardner as our Newly Qualified Teacher (NQT) in Primary 2 and Mrs Holly Bright who is our new Additional Support Needs Assistant who is replacing Mr Murphy. Mrs. Wilson's Maternity Leave will begin on the 23rd of August, I am sure you will wish her and her husband the best of luck as they become parents. In September we will be welcoming back in our school office, Mrs Nora Jafaar, from her Maternity leave.

Thank you!

On the last week of term Margaret, our Breakfast Club worker, former Canteen Supervisor and Cleaner announced her retirement. Margaret has been a long-standing member of our staff who will be greatly missed by everyone! We want to give Margaret the sendoff that she deserves, she has agreed to come along to our Mass on the 6th of September. I am sure that you will wish Margaret a long, well deserved and happy retirement.

Religious Life of the School



On Friday 16th August, Bishop John Keenan, informed our Diocese about changes to Parishes. Unfortunately, we will say goodbye to Father John on Friday the 6th September. Father John has been our longest serving Parish Priest here in St. Fergus' and has been a wonderful Chaplain to our school. I would like to take this opportunity on behalf of our children, staff and parents to say thank you to him for all the support and guidance given to our school community. Father will be celebrating our First Family Mass of this new school year which will take place on Friday 6th September at 9:30am. We hope many parents and carers will be able to

join with us in our school hall for Father's last Mass, where we will be able to thank him for his years of service. Following our Mass we hope that you will be able to join us for tea, coffee, and a chat.

Our new Parish Priest will be Father Thomas John Erambil who is also the Parish Priest of St. Peter's Church in Glenburn, I am sure that you will welcome him into our community.

Visit of the Papal Nuncio

Over the summer, the Papal Nuncio, Pope's Francis' Ambassador to Great Britain, has announced that he will visit our diocese between 28-30 August. The main event



will be Mass St Mirin's Cathedral on Thursday 29 August at 7pm to which Bishop John has invited representatives of each school. As this is a very important event for our Diocese we would like to have representation from our school, I will be asking our children this week if they will be able to attend. If you can, I would be most grateful if you could support them in attending this Mass. There will be refreshments in the Cathedral halls afterwards.

Main Office Times



Just a reminder of our office times, 8:30 – 12 noon and 12.30 – 4pm

Please be patient out with these times as there may not always be a member of staff to answer the door or telephone, please leave a message on the phone and Mrs Ingram will get back to you.

To gain access at the main entrance please follow the guidance at the keypad as the door cannot be operated from within the office until this has been followed.

Adult Presence in Playground Before 9am

Just a reminder that before 9am we try our best to provide an adult presence unfortunately, at times due to staffing issues, this might not be possible, and we request that you remind your children to stay in the playground for their safety.

School Attendance

Attendance is key for your child's success; at St. Fergus we would like all children to be above 95%. See below for some important facts:

Why is attendance at school and punctuality important?

Because every second counts.

90% attendance may sound good. However, this is the equivalent of missing a **half day of schooling EACH WEEK.**

If this continues **over every five years** a child spends at school, a child with **90%** attendance will miss **HALF A YEAR'S** schooling.

A child with **80%** attendance will lose **A FULL YEAR** of schooling over the same period.

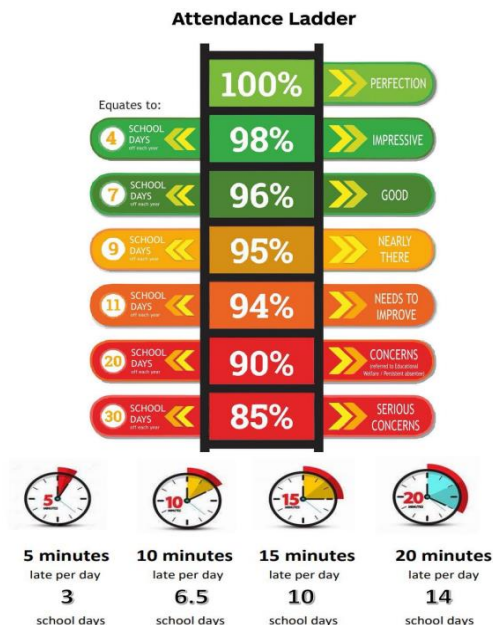


Did You Know?

A 2 week holiday during the school term means that the highest attendance your child can achieve is 94.7%

Did You Know?

If you are 15 minutes late each day you will have missed 2 full weeks of School in one year!!



Communication

Newsletters are issued regularly, via email, to provide general information and keep you informed of school life. On each there will be a list of dates for your diary to give advance notice of events taking place in school.

Meetings with teachers can be arranged through senior staff at a mutually convenient time. The school telephone number is 0300 300 1364 please feel free to use it.

Your child will receive an envelope this week with a paper copy of the yearly calendar and annual forms from Renfrewshire Council . Please complete and return to the school office by Friday 30th August:

- Annual Data Check
- Local Trip Parental Consent Form
- Parental Permission for Medication to be Administered (Selected Pupils)
- Image Release Form (Selected Children)
- Social Media Information and Consent Form
- Photograph Consent – School Meals (P1 only)
- Parent Pay Activation Letter (P1 only)
- Media Permission (Selected Children)
- OneRen Physical Activity and School Clubs Survey

We apologise for the number of forms, if anyone has difficulty in completing these please contact the office where Mrs Ingram or Ally can support you in this.

Parent Pay

We are a cashless school, and every child requires a ParentPay account whether they receive a free school meal or not. All new parents to our school will receive information on how to set this up over the next week. Should you need support in creating your ParentPay account please speak with Ally who can help you with this. More information can be found on the Renfrewshire Council's website:

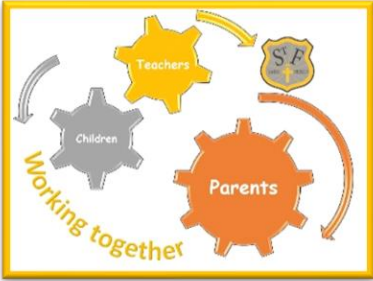
<https://www.renfrewshire.gov.uk/parentpay> A member of ParentPay will be in school on Thursday 29th August from 2.30pm – 3.30pm to help set up accounts.



Class Showcases

This year we will continue Class Showcases at the start of each term to allow parents to be invited into your child's classroom to have a chance to find out what is happening in the class and for parents to have a chance to be involved in their child's learning journey. Our first Class Showcase will take place on **Wednesday 18th September at 2pm**. Parents can enter the school via their child's class door.

St Fergus Families Together Group (SFFTG)



Our first meeting is the 5th September at 2:15pm and all parents are welcome to attend. This year we have already some dates in the diary for fun activities for the children including Tuck shops, Healthy Fun day in October, Halloween treats and end of year Fun day. These dates can be found in our Annual Calendar.

For Primary 7 parents the SFFTG are inviting you to attend a meeting on Thursday 29th August at 3:30pm regarding end of year arrangements including the Leaver's Celebration.

Family Fun Events

Following on from the success of last year's events we would be delighted to see many families at our first event on **Wednesday 25th September at 6pm**, snacks, tea and coffee will be provided. This event will give all parents and carers the opportunity to spend time with their child, their teacher and support staff in their class. To allow for catering could parents please complete this simple online form:

<https://forms.office.com/r/LSF6EhgvKd>

Family Fun Evening - Wednesday
25th September 6- 8pm



The Cost of Going to School

There are several expenses connected with going to school: uniform, lunches, snacks, travel, PE kit, etc. In addition, from time to time, parents may be asked to contribute to the cost of school activities. At St Fergus' we try as much as possible to subsidise costs using school funds, however, the school recognises that families may still find it difficult to meet some of these expenses at times. I would ask that any parent concerned about expenses related to going to school, contact me. All such approaches will be dealt with in the **strictest confidence** and the school will always try to help.

P.E. Days

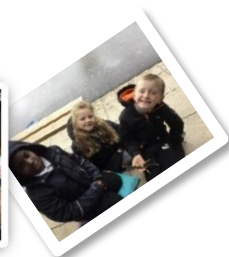


P1/2	Tuesday and Friday
P2	Monday and Thursday
P3	Monday and Thursday
P4	Tuesday and Wednesday
P5	Wednesday and Thursday
P6	Tuesday and Friday
P7	Monday and Wednesday

Children are encouraged to change for PE in our changing rooms and we ask that children ensure that they have their kit with them on these days. All items of jewellery including earrings must be removed for P.E. lessons and the school cannot accept responsibility for any item which is lost or stolen.

Outdoor Learning

Please remember that a lot of our learning takes place outside, in our ever-changing Scottish weather, we ask that your child comes to school every day with suitable outdoor wear including a waterproof jacket. If any families are experiencing difficulties in providing a suitable jacket, please contact myself or Mrs Rowley as we are always here to help.



Child Safety/Car Parking- Reminder

We are always concerned about our community's safety especially with regards to parking safety at the start and end of the day regarding parked cars. Could I please remind everyone of the following:

- No Parking on the yellow zigzags
- No Parking in front of our new neighbour's driveways on Bankfoot Road.
- No Parking in the staff car park unless using the disabled space. This must be authorised by the school on proof of Blue Badge.
- No parking in the drop off bays at **any time**, cones will be in place at the end of the school day to stop this from happening.
- Do not allow your children to exit your car at the entrance to the drop off zone.
- Please encourage both children and adults to use the school crossing.

Please inform anyone who is due to collect your child/children of the reminders above in the interest of keeping everyone safe. Thank you.

Mobile Phones



We are encouraging children not to bring their mobile phones to school unless completely necessary. If they do, it is school policy that they are switched off on entering the playground to ensure that no pictures or videos are taken of children. Your child's teacher will request that they are handed in and stored in a secure place until the end of day. Thank you for your understanding and support with this.

Health Promoting School

Last year we had an increasing number of children coming to school with juice in their water bottles, just a reminder that it is water that the children should be drinking during class time and there are 2 filtered refilling stations in the teaching area. Fruit/diluting juice should be kept for interval and lunch time.

Our Laudato Si and Wellbeing Leadership groups are promoting 'Wrapper Free Wednesdays' and 'Fruity Fridays' where we are encouraging healthy eating for snacks.



Team Around the Child Meetings

As part of our yearly calendar of support meetings all children will be discussed this term with regards to the Wellbeing Indicators of Safe, Healthy, Achieving, Nurtured, Active, Respected, Responsible, and Included.

During these meetings myself, Mrs Rowley, your child's class teacher and Ally, our Inclusion Support Assistant will be present for these discussions. Should you wish more information regarding this please do not hesitate in contacting the school office to arrange a suitable telephone appointment with myself or Mrs Rowley.

Administration of Medicine

During any year some pupils will require to be given medication at school. Parents are asked to note the following points should this apply to their child:

- Medication will be administered by authorised members of staff at the discretion of the Head Teacher. This will only be possible when a Parental Permission Form is completed. Forms are available from the school office, when required.
- School staff are not permitted to give non prescribed medication to pupils (e.g., Calpol, antihistamines, cough medicines etc)
- Pupils requiring antibiotics should have dosage arrangements made, such that the antibiotic can be taken before and after school wherever possible.
- Medicines will be stored in a secure location not accessible to pupils. Exception to this is asthma inhalers which **MUST BE READILY AVAILABLE WHEN REQUIRED**. Inhalers will be kept by pupils in school bags and pupils will be self-administered as required. Supervision by school staff can be arranged if

parents are concerned about their child's ability to administer correctly. This arrangement would normally apply only to younger children in Primaries One and Two or pupils recently diagnosed.

- No pupil will be allowed to take part in school outings without essential medication. This includes ASTHMA INHALERS. It is the responsibility of parents to ensure that INHALERS and other essential medications are provided. If these are not available, then unfortunately pupils must be asked to remain in school.

A copy of Renfrewshire Council's policy "Guidance on the Provision of Health Care in Schools" is available from the Head Teacher by request. The above advice, relating to practice in St Fergus' Primary school, is reflective of this policy.

Diary Dates

The diary dates have been provided to all families in their child's envelope and can also be viewed on our website:

<https://blogs.glowscotland.org.uk/re/stfergus/information-2/diary-dates/>

however **please note that some may change**. I will do my best to keep you informed of any changes in our newsletters and on our website.

Pupil Achievements

We are always looking for reasons to celebrate pupils' successes here at St. Fergus' Primary and I have been overwhelmed by the amount of pupils who are keen to share information about their personal achievements. Please continue to share these with us by sending an email to the school, a Facebook message, or via their SEESAW account.

Please note that their achievements do not need to be something that they have won a medal or certificate for. Pupils who have worked hard at something and reached a target or goal will be very welcome.

All the children will have their photograph taken for our Achievement Wall in the Gym Hall. I am sure we will soon have a fresh and plentiful display of Confident Individuals, Successful Learners, Responsible Citizens, Effective Contributors and Faith Disciples.



School Photographs

This Year's school photographs will take place on Tuesday 3rd September. All children will have the opportunity to have an individual/family photograph and P1 and P7 class groups. Their proof photos will be in their school bags the next day. Please note you only have 1 week to order them online to receive free delivery to the school, thereafter there is a charge and will be sent straight to your home address. The school will receive commission on all photographs ordered.

Bikes and Scooters

It has been lovely to see so many of our children cycling or scooting to school as it contributes to children's general health and well-being. However, to ensure the safety of everyone entering and exiting the school playground we would ask you to remind your children to come off their bikes or scooters prior to entering Bankfoot Road.

A Reminder from the School Nurse

Head lice can be present in a small number of children at any time. They are easily treated with prescribed lotions or removed by regular bug busting. To help keep your child free from head lice we recommend weekly bug busting with a fine-toothed nit comb used on wet hair. If no lice are found repeat this once a week. If you do discover live, walking head lice and are unsure what to do, please seek advice from the pharmacist, your GP, or the School Nurse.

Flu Vaccination Date

This year the Flu Vaccination date is Monday 7th October.

Home Support

Should anyone require support from our Home Link worker (New Title 'Family Wellbeing Worker') , Karen Fraser, she can be contacted in the following ways:

Mobile number: 07717275207

Email: karen.fraser@renfrewshire.gov.uk

OR: Leave a message for Karen with Mrs Ingram in our school office.

Are You Getting What You Are Entitled To?

Free School Meals

Your child may be entitled to free school meals if:

- Your child attends a Renfrewshire school or has been placed in an educational establishment outside Renfrewshire-by-Renfrewshire Council, or
- 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>

Clothing Grants

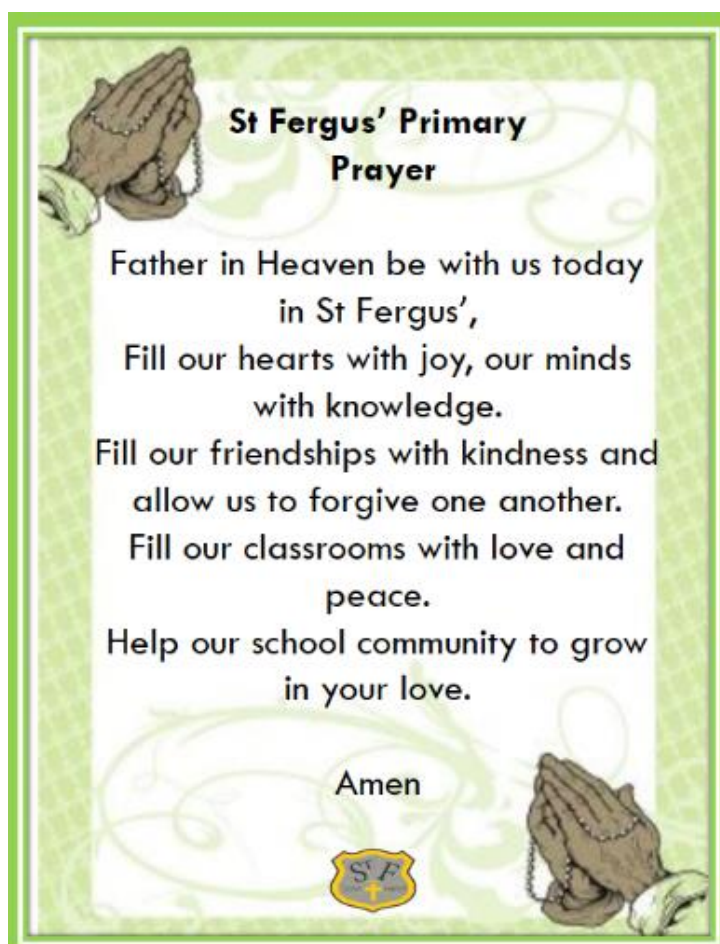
Parents or carers of children attending Renfrewshire primary, secondary or additional support needs schools during the school session who satisfy the financial conditions are eligible to apply for free school meals and/or clothing grants. A clothing grant is a payment made by Renfrewshire Council to qualifying parents or carers to assist with the purchase of school uniforms. For session 2020-2021, the level of clothing grant is £100 per eligible pupil. A maximum of one grant will be paid for each child during any school year.

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

Kind Regards,

Mhairi McDonald

Mhairi McDonald
Head Teacher



Our Vision:







'Working together to promote, excellence in achievement and well-being for all.'

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
18	19	20	21 P7 to Mass + Confession	22	23 P6 to Mass + Confession	24
25	26 P5 to Mass + Confession	27	28 P4 to Mass	29 P7 Parent's Meeting 3:30pm - End of Year Arrangements 3:30pm	30 P3 to Mass Author Visit -P5 11am – 11.45am	31

September

1	2	3 School Photographer	4 Possible P7 retreat to Edinburgh	5 SFFT GROUP Meeting 2:15pm	6 Family Mass 9.30am School Hall	7
8	9 P1 +2 to Mass	10	11 P7 Mass for Confirmandi St. Mirin's Cathedral 10.15am	12	13 P6 to Mass	14
15 National Coding Week	16 P5 to Mass	17	18 P4 to Mass Class Learning Showcase 2pm	19	20 P3 to Mass	21
22 Maths Week Scotland	23 P1 +2 to Mass	24	25 P7 to Mass Family Learning 6pm	26 SFFT Group Tuck Shop Non Uniform Day £1	27 School Closed	28
29	30 School Closed					

Our Aims:

-  To understand the value of God's Love in our school and local community.
-  To promote a positive attitude and mindset to learning.
-  To use our voices to promote positive changes for all.
-  To provide a happy, safe and stimulating learning environment for all.
-  To develop skills for learning, life and work in our curriculum.
-  To support each child's needs in their unique learning journey.

