

St Peter's Primary School

April / May 2017

Newsletter



Saint Peter's Primary School

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Dear Parents/Carers,

Welcome back to our new term! Our children have returned looking very healthy and happy after a fairly sunny Easter break. They all look so smart in their school uniforms, thank you for your co-operation with this. I am sure this is going to be a very busy and successful term with many fun-filled activities and engaging learning experiences.

Staffing Update

Congratulations to Mrs Clair Duckett (once known as Miss Clair O'Neill) who got married during the recent holiday! Mrs Duckett would like to say thank you to everyone who took the time to wish her well and to the many who arrived at the church to witness the lovely ceremony. I am sure you will agree that she was a beautiful bride who was blessed with a fabulous day. On behalf of the school community, I would like to wish Mr and Mrs Duckett all the luck in the world for a very happy future together.

Due to family commitments, Mrs McRobbie has not returned for the summer term. I would like to take this opportunity to thank her for all her hard work in teaching P5/6 and P6 each week. Hopefully, we will see Mrs McRobbie return in some capacity in the new school session. From Monday, supply teacher, Claire Cassidy will be covering the classes until the end of term.

Religious life of the school

We continue to pray for our pupils in primary 7 who will receive the sacrament of Confirmation in St Mirin's Cathedral on Thursday 4 May at 7pm. This will be a very special occasion indeed. Our pupils will be joined by primary 7 pupils from St Paul's Primary and St Charles' Primary.

Primary 4 will receive the sacrament of First Holy Communion on Sunday 7 May at 12pm. They are very grateful for all prayers and good wishes offered at this time.

Primary 6 pupils have been invited to participate in a special Liturgy celebrating the first Catholic school in Paisley with Bishop John in St Mirin's Cathedral at 11am on 12 May 17. The parent/carers of all the primary 6 pupils are also invited to attend so please come along if you can.

Pope Francis Faith Awards

All P7 children have completed the Pope Francis Faith Award course and their work has been sent to the Scottish Catholic Education Service to be verified. We hope to receive the children's awards by June 2017. P6 pupils will continue with the PFFA course work for a further year.

God's Loving Plan Lessons

Classes will complete the 'God's Loving Plan' programme this term. As the first educators of your child you may wish to address this in a way that suits your family context best. You will receive a parent/carer information guide before your child's class begins the programme. Please contact the school if you wish to discuss this further.

Spring Fling

A huge thank you to all of the parents/carers who are working really hard to organise this event that will take place in our school hall on Friday 21 April from 3.15-5pm. Please come along and enjoy this wonderful family event.

Health and Safety

We recently carried out a silent evacuation of the building, (should for any reason our fire alarm fail to sound). This was a very successful practice with the whole school evacuated in very good time indeed. I would like to commend everyone for their speedy response and the calm manner in which procedures were carried out. Your children are in safe hands!

McDougall's 'Eco Show'

We have booked 'The McDougalls – Green Machine' Eco Show for the whole school on Friday 9th June at 9.30am. 'Meet The McDougalls' is a new bright, interactive musical show for children of all ages. The company was originally formed for a one-off show at Irvine's Harbour Arts Theatre and since then has produced 10 national tours, playing to thousands of children and parents. I'm sure the children will thoroughly enjoy the Eco performance!

Primary 1 Induction

We will welcome our new primary 1 pupils and parents to St Peter's on 11 and 18 May at 1.30pm. This is a very exciting time for everyone. Our current primary 6 pupils will soon be preparing to be buddies and I know they are very much looking forward to this.

STAR Projects 'Walk A Mile' 10th May 2017

On Wednesday 10th May at 9.30am we will all go out into the playground and walk a mile to raise awareness of 'STAR Project's 'See Me' Mental Health Campaign, (Scottish Charity SC028133). The emphasis will be on 'talking' and we will encourage children to walk and talk with children they have not spoken to before. This will help us to build positive relationships across the primaries. Representatives from 'STAR Project's See Me' campaign will be here during our walk. You are welcome to come and join in as the more people we have walking...the better! You will receive a more detailed letter shortly

Book Fair

The next Book Fair will take place in the school from 31 May until 7 June. More details will follow shortly.

PATHS

As you know, we are always looking at ways to improve many aspects of our school. During recent years, we have focused on developing our nurturing approach and empowering children to consider their own behaviour and the consequences of their actions. It helps if children are able to understand their emotions and why they experience particular feelings at certain times. In order to develop our approach further, every member of staff will soon be trained in PATHS (Promoting Alternative Thinking Strategies). This is a programme led and delivered by Barnardos. We will be supported throughout the new school session by regular visits from a member of the Barnardos team. There will also be workshops available to parents/carers (dates will follow shortly). The staff team is very much looking forward to beginning the work and, hopefully, your children will soon be able to tell you all about it.

Health Week

Mrs Maclean is currently planning Health week along with Jamie Forrest, our Active Schools Coordinator. Health Week will take place the week beginning Monday 19th June. Sports Day is on Wednesday 21st June and our big summer trip is Friday 23rd June. There will be different workshops and activities planned for your children. They are allowed to come to school in their sports clothes this week (no football colours), as they will be involved in physical activities throughout the week. We are looking into areas of Health and

Wellbeing such as mental health awareness, hand washing, walking to school, healthy eating, physical activity stations, mindfulness thinking and emotional wellbeing workshops. If you know of any services/people interested in helping, please contact Mrs Maclean at the school. We will provide further details nearer the time.

The end of health week will be celebrated by the whole school visiting Finlaystone Country Park, Langbank. Letters and consent forms will be issued shortly. The cost of the outing is £7.00 and pupils can begin to pay small regular amounts from 24 April (alternatively, payment can be made in full). Please do not hesitate to contact me should you wish to discuss the cost of the outing and be reassured that this will be treated in the strictest of confidence.

P3/4 and P4 Tennis

P3/4 and P4 have enjoyed two free tennis sessions led Brian Knox from the Strathgryffe Tennis Centre in Houston. Mrs Maclean is looking into improving our tennis lessons for children across the school and hopefully we will have a tennis input booked for Health Week this year. Four children from P3/4 and P4 have been chosen to take part in the Renfrewshire tennis competition on Friday 19th May. They will leave school around 9.30am and will return for 12pm. Good luck children!

P6 and P7 Cross Country Event

Forty children from P6 and P7 will attend the Johnstone playing fields on Thursday 27th April. A bus will leave school at 9.30am and will return for 12.30pm. Mrs Maclean will accompany the children with parent helpers. The children have been working hard during the Daily Mile to help them train for the event. We were successful in winning one medal at the last event so let us see if we can be just as good this time round! The children should come to school in their running clothes and should bring a packed lunch. Good luck everyone!

P5 and P6 Cycling Lessons

P5, P5/6 and P6 are starting cycling proficiency lessons this week. According to the guidance from 'Bikeability Scotland' Primary 5 should begin cycling lessons in the playground, leading to Primary 6 refining their skills and learning more about the road. Classes will use the big playground for cycling. Primary 5 and Mrs McAlaney will be doing cycling on a Thursday afternoon starting 27th April. Mrs Fergusson and P5/6 will be doing cycling on a Thursday afternoon starting 20th April and Mrs Maclean with P6 on a Tuesday afternoon from 25th April. Please remind your children to bring their bikes, helmets and suitable clothing to school. Cycling proficiency lessons will run for approximately 9/10 weeks.

St Peter's Drama Club

The St Peter's Drama Club's summer show is 'The Amazing Adventures of Super Stan'. If you attended last year's performance of 'Porridge', you will remember how busy our performance was. Therefore, this year, we are planning to do three shows to allow everyone to attend. There will be a community show on Wednesday 7th June at 1.30pm, a performance after school for families on Wednesday 7th June at 3.30pm and the evening performance on Thursday 8th June at 7pm. Tickets are priced £2.50 each (children go free). The money raised will go towards helping the school purchase stage curtains and radio microphones, which will help with all our school performances. Tickets will be available from the school office from 22nd May.

Mrs Maclean (P6 teacher and Acting Principal Teacher), Mrs Kenneth (ASNA) and Mrs Edgar (parent helper) are working extremely hard to prepare and support the children for their performance while encouraging them to develop many skills along the way. I would like to thank them very much for their time and efforts. You will not be disappointed.

P7 Residential Outing

Pupils from primary 7 will visit Lockerbie Manor from Tuesday 30 May until Friday 2 June. They will be accompanied by Mrs Duckett (P7 teacher), Mrs Maclean (P6 teacher and Acting Principal Teacher) and I. We are all very much looking forward to the trip and I am sure our pupils will do us proud as always.

As you can see, we have a very busy time ahead. All of these events contribute towards the very positive ethos that exists in our school. We are all working together to ensure that your children enjoy coming to school and experience learning opportunities which enable them to reach their full potential. I look forward to your continued partnership throughout this term.

Please remember that you are welcome to contact me at the school should you wish to discuss any matter. I am always happy to hear your views.

Yours sincerely

S Mazzoni
Head Teacher

Parental Newsletter – April/May 2017 - Comments/Feedback

Name (please print) _____

Signature _____

Date _____