

# **St Peter's Primary School**

**September 2018**

**Newsletter**



**Saint Peter's Primary School**

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Dear Parents/Carers



Welcome to our new school session 2018/2019. We were lucky to have some fabulous weather over the summer and I hope you all enjoyed a fantastic holiday spending time with your family! I am delighted to see our pupils returning to school looking very happy and healthy. Thank you, as always, for ensuring that school uniform is a priority. Our pupils look extremely smart and I am very grateful for your cooperation. The term ahead is sure to be a very busy one with lots of fun and engaging learning experiences to be enjoyed by everyone. I look forward to continuing our effective partnership throughout the year and celebrating the successes that lie ahead for everyone.

I would like to offer a special welcome to our new Primary 1 pupils, our new starts in Early Learning and Childcare setting and their parents/carers. The children have all settled very well and appear to be enjoying their new experiences. Well done for an excellent start.

### **Staffing Update**

I am delighted to welcome Ms Sorelle Cole to St Peter's. Ms Cole will work in our school office temporarily on a full time basis. I am sure you will all enjoy getting to know her and will offer her a very warm welcome as she joins our school community. We also welcome Mr Fraser McKechnie who will teach P5/6 this year. Mr McKechnie is delighted to join us and is looking forward to the year that lies ahead. I am sure you will provide him with a very warm welcome.

We will soon welcome a new Additional Support Needs Assistant, Mrs Lynsey McGregor. Hopefully Mrs McGregor will join us soon.

Mrs Karen Ewing (Classroom Assistant) and Mr John McIntosh (Inclusion Support Assistant) continue to support many of our children. These posts are supported by our Pupil Equity Fund.

The following staff visit our school regularly and work in close partnership with us:

Joanne Duffy Service Delivery Officer/Business Support (once per fortnight)

Karen Fraser Homelink Worker (every Thursday)

Amy Nolan Educational Psychologist (half day per month)

Jamie Forrest Active Schools Coordinator (monthly visits)

### **Students**

We will have many teaching and ELCC students visiting various classes throughout the year. I hope they enjoy their time with us and I am sure our children will benefit from their energy and enthusiasm.

## Religious Life of the School



### Primary 4

The children of P4 will prepare to receive the Sacraments of Reconciliation and Holy Eucharist by Canon Eddie, Deacon John, Miss Gordon, Mrs McAlaney and Mrs Everett. They will appreciate the prayers of everyone in our school community.

### Primary 7

This is also a very special year for the children in P7 who are now preparing to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation. This will take place on Thursday 2 May at 7pm in St Mirin's Cathedral. They will continue to be supported by the school and Parish Community and P7 class teachers Mrs Maclean and Mrs Fergusson.

It would be helpful if all P4 and P7 parents/cares, sponsors and family members supported the children at home by encouraging them to attend Sunday Mass and reminding them that daily prayer is part of their lives. There will be various Masses, Services through the year and I look forward to seeing many of you there.

All Primary 4 and Primary 7 parents are invited to attend a meeting on Thursday 11 October at 7pm in St Peter's Church Hall. This will be led by Canon Eddie and the dates of First Confession and First Eucharist will be issued at the meeting.



### St Peter's Parish Church

We are extremely well supported by Canon Eddie and Deacon John throughout the year and I thank them on behalf of everyone for the support and partnership they provide as we continue our faith journey. **We attend First Friday Mass with the whole school each month and we would be grateful if you could help out by walking to and from church with us. Please contact the school office if you are able to help.** You may see me drive to and from church and this is because transportation is required for one or more pupils on occasion.

### ECO Garden & Playground

I understand that our playground was vandalised during the summer holiday and a very kind and responsible parent took the time to repair the damage so that our children would not return and feel disappointed. I would like to thank Mr Paul Doherty for doing this, we are so grateful.

During the summer, Mr McIntosh worked closely with volunteers from Renfrewshire Council's unpaid workforce to clean up our Eco Garden. This was a massive job as the hedge had become extremely overgrown and the area was unable to be used.

I am aware that they spent at least 3 days working on making this area a safe place for our children to work and learn in. What a wonderful contribution to our community! We are

extremely grateful for their time and efforts. The children are very excited to be able to use their Eco Garden again.

Thank you to Mr McIntosh and the voluntary work team! We now have our Eco committee preparing and planning use of the garden again. Look out for information from our Eco Warriors.

### **Parent Council**

Everyone from our parent forum (any parent/carer of a child attending our School or Nursery class) is welcome to attend meetings and become a member of our Parent Council. They are always looking for new members and are very grateful for people who can help at any point throughout the year. Any contribution you can make will be greatly appreciated. It is through the work of the Parent Council that pupils and families can enjoy many fun activities. As a result of their commitment to fund raising many fabulous resources have been purchased which have enhanced the learning opportunities for all pupils.

Our Parent Council are looking for some new Office Bearers (Vice Chairperson and Treasurer) these roles will be key to the success of the Parent Council. Please consider this It is a great way to make new friends. Please consider putting yourself forward for one of these roles – you will be very well supported and your contribution will be greatly appreciated.

### **Citizenship Groups**

All pupils in P1 – P7 are part of a group. We are always keen to have our parents/carers/family members involved in the life of the school. Please contact the school office if you would be interested in supporting one of our group.

**Friendship Group**

**Missio & Sciaf**

**Fairtrade**

**ECO Group**

**Pupil Council**

**Fundraising Group**

**St Peter's in the News**

**GIRFEC Wellbeing Group**

**Healthy Lifestyle**

**Gardening Group**

### **Breakfast Club**

Breakfast club is up and running again. It is available to pupils at 8.30am supervise (**please note that doors cannot be opened to pupils before 8.30 as there will not be a member of staff there to them**). Pupils can buy toast, cereal and a drink (water, milk or juice) for a small charge of 50p They are supervised by a member of school staff until they join their line before the bell at 9am. Please collect a consent form the school office.



### **Attendance & Timekeeping**

Please contact the school office before 9.30am if your child is absent from school. If you fail to make contact with us you will receive a text at 9.30am and we ask that you respond to this as soon as possible by letting us know why your child is not at school. If we do not hear from

you at all, Mr McIntosh or another member of staff will contact you by telephone or may even visit you at home if we do not manage to speak to you, in order to ensure that every child is safe and accounted for. Please continue to cooperate with us on this matter. Please make sure your child knows who will collect him/her at the end of the school day. P1 – P3 parents should come in to the school playground. Please refrain from lifting children over the fence as this is unsafe.

### **No Dogs Allowed**

Some children are afraid of dogs and so I must inform you that you cannot bring dogs into the school playground. Please do not stand at the school entrance/exit with your dog either as this can cause lots of stress and anxiety for some. Thank you.

### **Toys**

Some pupils like to bring toys to school. While we do not discourage this, as it can be very comforting to some, we do ask that pupils do not bring valuable items. It can be very upsetting for children if valuable/sentimental items are lost or damaged. We have many playground toys that pupils are free to play with during break times. Thank you for your cooperation.



### **Wet Weather**

Pupils will be allowed to enter the building around 8.45 when it is raining if there is adequate supervision available.



### **School Photographs**

Tempest photographer will be here on Monday 1<sup>st</sup> October 2018 to take individual photographs.



### **Pupil Achievements**

We are always looking for reasons to celebrate pupils' successes here at St Peter's Primary and I am always overwhelmed by the amount of pupils who are keen to share information about their personal achievements. Each Friday pupils will have the chance to bring information to me about personal achievements they have accomplished. This does 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 of the children will have their photograph taken for our Achievement Board in the school reception area and will be asked to write a little bit about what they did. I am sure we will

soon have a fresh and plentiful display of confident individuals, successful learners, responsible citizens, and effective contributors. If some children are reluctant to come forward to share their success, it would be helpful if you could assist in keeping us informed.

Accompanying this letter is a sheet which allows you to give us details of your child's personal achievements. Please feel free to fill this with pride!

### **Homework Policy**

A copy of the homework policy also accompanies this newsletter.

### **Hands Up Survey**

The Hands up Survey is the largest national database to look at how children travel to school across Scotland. On Monday 10 September the children will be asked how they travelled to school.

### **I Am Me**

I Am Me are an inspirational community charity that aims to change attitudes and behaviours so that disabled and vulnerable people feel safe in their communities. The I Am Me group are visiting our school on Monday 17 September and each class will be shown a short film.

### **End of School Day**

Please ensure your child knows at the start of the day who is collecting them from school at 3pm. It can be upsetting for children when their routine changes unexpectedly. Please collect children from their exit doors in the playground. Children can only be collected from the main entrance when specific arrangements have been made with the Head Teacher.

### **Free School Meals & Clothing Grant**

Information and application forms for free school meals and clothing grants can be downloaded from the council's website [www.renfrewshire.gov.uk](http://www.renfrewshire.gov.uk) or can be obtained from Customer Services in Renfrewshire House. Although children in Primary 1 – 3 have the option of a free school meal every day it is still advisable to apply for the grants if you qualify.

### **School Uniform**

School uniform for St Peter's Primary school is as follows:

- White shirt and school tie
- Grey skirt or trousers (not black)
- Grey jumper (not black)
- Black sweatshirt
- Red polo shirt
- Grey socks
- Black shoes

Hoodies are not acceptable school uniform.

### **Water Bottles**

All pupils are allowed access to water throughout the day. This helps them to stay hydrated and helps towards increasing their concentration. Please provide your child with a water bottle (clearly marked with their name) which can be filled throughout the day using our water coolers.



### **Health and Safety**

Please remember to park safely around the school premises. We would ask those who use vehicles to adhere to the rules of the road. Our children will benefit from your good example.

### **Appointments**

If you wish to speak to a member of staff please enter through reception and report to the school office. It is always advisable to call ahead to ensure that someone (usually Mrs Lawson or I) is available to meet with you. While we make every effort to respond immediately to your concerns there may be times when this is not possible. I would like to take the opportunity to thank everyone who visits the school for various reasons for treating staff members with respect. I would also remind you Renfrewshire Council have a zero tolerance policy against violence and aggression.

### **Staff Car Park**

Please remember that the school car park is for staff only unless there are specific arrangements in place that have been approved by Head Teacher.

As always, I am happy to discuss any concerns or matters with you at any times. Please feel free to contact me at the school. If I am unable to speak with you I will always aim to return your call within 3 working days. Normally, I will return your call on the same day. You know that your views are very important to us and I would appreciate you taking a small amount of time to provide feedback in relation to our start to our term and the information provided in the newsletter. I look forward to seeing you all at various events in the very near future.

Yours sincerely

S. Mazzone  
Head Teacher

