

Faith

Kindness

Love

Persevere

St Elizabeth's Primary School and Nursery Class

Head Teacher, Miss Christine MacPhee

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Learn Together, Laugh Together, Be the Best You Can!

**Our School and Nursery Information Newsletter
September 2021**

Enjoyment

Respect

Our vision

Our vision is for everyone in St Elizabeth's Primary School and Nursery Class to strive to excel in all that we do through working hard and having loving, respectful relationships in a safe, happy and nurturing environment embracing a love for lifelong learning.

***All our latest information about our school and nursery is available on our App, available from the App or Google store.**

***Please follow us on Twitter - @StElizabetsPS.**

We also have our website which contains further important information.

Dear mums and dads, boys and girls,

We hope all families and friends are keeping well – thank you for your continued support of the procedures we still need to follow in and around our school. We hope you find our September newsletter informative. As always, should you have any questions or queries, please don't hesitate to contact us.

**** Welcome to our Team ****



We warmly welcome Donna Lynn to our nursery team – Donna has joined our team as an Early Years Worker.

**** Welcome to our Children ****

We warmly welcome our new nursery children - Ella, Eilidh, Harper Rose, Harvey and Kia.

We are delighted to have them and their families all joining our nursery and we look forward to working closely with your child during their time with us.



We look forward to welcoming more new nursery boys and girls and their families over the coming weeks.

**** Health and Safety ****

In line with guidance, we are continuing to follow all health and safety procedures in our school and nursery. Regular hand washing continues to be in place in all our classrooms and playrooms, daily and weekly cleaning routines and high levels of ventilation – although we are now beginning to feel the colder air coming in! We are also continuing to maintain 2m distancing between adults and children and all adults are wearing face masks.

All adults are asked to continue to please wear face masks within our school/nursery vicinity and we thank you very much for your co-operation with this – everyone is helping to keep us all safe.



**** Important Letters ****

Many thanks for returning the raft of letters and forms you would have received at the start of term. We have been able to update our records accordingly. If there are any forms still needing to be returned, would you please do so asap...thank you for your help with this.

Our nursery care plans have also been updated and hugethanks to yourselves and our nursery staff for taking the time to do this so quickly.

**** Breakfast Club ****

Our breakfast club runs from 8.15 to 8.45am each day and is open to any school child to attend. Children should arrive promptly and go to the dining room doors in the playground.

** Pupil Responsibilities **



** Pupil Engagement **



We have a Pupil Focus Group in our school that meets once a week to discuss key aspects of our school. They have been giving us their ideas about our corridor wall displays. We will also be establishing a Focus Group with our nursery children ...more info to follow!

We are currently in the process of selecting members for our Pupil Council – one child from each class will become a Pupil Councillor for the term from Oct – Dec. We are also creating a Reading Leadership Team and these children will be focusing primarily on how we promote Reading for Pleasure focus.



** Houses **



We have **4 houses** in our school and these are –

St Andrew – blue; St Columba – green; St Margaret – red; St Mungo – yellow.

Our St Mungo house was the winner of our monthly counting of our Golden and Green Counters. Well done boys and girls – the children enjoyed a sneaky play on Friday and were delighted to be our first winners of this session.

It was just brilliant playing outside at a sneaky play – I'm so glad my house won.
(P5 girl)

That was AWESOME!
(P7 boy)



MISSIO

The newly appointed Missio Champions in P6 are- Aidan, Ellie K, Ellie B and Emily.

They will lead us in prayer at assembly and will lead praying the rosary every Wednesday and Friday at 12.30 at the altar. They are also going to collect and count Missio money each Friday. Thank you so much boys and girls, we know you will be wonderful champions!

** School Details **

** School/Nursery Hoodies **

The latest round of hoody orders has been sent away and we are now waiting on the hoodies arriving however the order was particularly large this time so they may take a little bit longer to arrive. Hopefully they'll be winging their way to us very soon!



** School Uniform **



We would like to say a big thank you to all our families for the continued support of our school uniform policy. The children are absolutely beautifully turned out and are wearing their uniform so proudly. Well done and thank you boys and girls.

** PE Uniform **

Many thanks also for your fantastic support with our PE uniform. We are delighted to see so many of our children wearing our school uniform as well as our PE uniform.

Plain black shorts or leggings/tracksuit bottoms
Plain white t-shirt or school polo shirt

Branded items, clothing with logos is not permitted to be worn, long hair should be tied up and jewellery needs to be removed.

We have now been able to begin to do indoor PE - all children will need a pair of black plimsolls please for indoor PE.

** Water Bottles **

Children are asked to bring a water bottle to school and nursery each day filled with water – please note diluting or fizzy juice is not permitted in our school or nursery and we thank you for your co-operation with this.

** Nursery Clothing **

As the weather is now turning that bit colder, we ask that your child attends nursery with a warm coat, hat, gloves and scarf as the children are outdoors every day and there are parts of our playground that can feel quite chilly. Many thanks everyone.

** Fundraising **

We are having a Crazy Hair Day on Friday 5th November for our school and nursery children. Any donations most welcome for school and nursery funds. We look forward to seeing some groovy hair designs!

**** Parental Engagement ****

**** Meet the School and Nursery Staff ****

We hope you enjoyed our short videos giving you a flavour of your child's classroom. We know it's not the same as being able to come in to school and see our classrooms but we know from your feedback that you enjoyed and appreciated these videos.

**** Homework Consultation ****

Many thanks for all responses to our Homework Questionnaire. The results are below

	P1	P2	P3	P4	P5	P6	P7	%
How would you prefer homework to be given out?								
Google Classroom	2	1	2	4	2	4	5	
Jotter	11	8	16	10	13	5	9	
How often?								
Daily	1	0	1	2	3	0	1	
Weekly	12	9	17	11	12	9	10	
Termly	0	0	0	1	0	0	3	
Given out?								
Mon – Thursday	5	3	4	2	5	0	2	
Mon - Friday	8	6	14	12	10	9	12	
Homework Type?								
Range of activities	7	7	14	8	10	7	5	
Specific learning focus	6	2	4	6	5	2	9	
What activities are valuable?								
Reading	2	2	1	4	2		2	
Spelling	1	1	1	2	3		2	
Maths	1	1	3	3	4		1	
Topic	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Personal Projects	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Mixture of activities	9	5	13	5	6	9	9	
How should homework be set?								
By the teacher	8	5	8	5	5	2	8	
By your child	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Combination of both	5	4	10	9	10	7	6	
Total responses	13/31	9/28	18/31	14/27	15/37	9/25	14/30	92/209
Percentage	42%	32%	58%	52%	40%	36%	47%	44%

Homework will begin after the October Holidays and, as a staff, we will take your suggestions in to consideration. Further information to follow. Thank you again for taking the time to help us with this aspect of your child's learning.

****Some Comments from our Homework Questionnaire – thank you for your thoughts****

- *Whilst I do think homework is important, I do think that 10-15mins each evening is enough. I think reading and spelling should always be a focus.
- *My child would prefer not to have homework – so perhaps some separate recognition within school for completing homework.
- *More feedback please so that parents know which areas require improvement.
- *I think homework is important and should be set each week – this gives parents chance to be involved in kids learning and also get an idea of how they are doing.
- *should include maths, spelling and reading activities.
- *I am happy for homework to be given out any way that suits the school. It is helpful to have work relating to literacy/numeracy which is done in class so we can support at home if needed.
- *I think having some help sheets or keeping the parents informed of how some of these questions are being taught in class so we can help our children in the same way.
- *It shouldn't be too onerous but not too easy either.
- *Not overload with too many different things to get done in the one week.
- *I think homework should include a mixture of things like science and environment based things ...these are good and keep it interesting.
- *Ensure the homework doesn't take too long but is enough to reinforce learning.

**** Parents Night ****

Our teaching staff are looking forward to talking to you on either Monday or Tuesday of next week. We have a combination of telephone calls and Teams video meetings taking place and fingers crossed everything will work smoothly.

The time allocation for parent night appointments is 7 minutes and we greatly appreciate your support and co-operation in helping us to adhere to this.

****Nursery Learning Journals****

We continue to use our learning journals as our main communication with our nursery parents, please log in throughout the week to keep updated on your child's progress.

The staff will be posting weekly photographs, videos and comments of children to show their fantastic efforts in nursery and to allow you to see them in action.

The journals are also used for sending out newsletters, accident forms and general information.

**** Emergency Contacts ****

Should your emergency contact or personal details change at any time throughout the year, would you please remember to let our school/nursery office know asap in order that we have up-to-date information for your child. Thank you very much.

**** Photographs ****

We will be having our photographer visit us on Thursday 4th and Friday 5th November for our school children and Monday 8th and Tuesday 9th for our nursery children. Children should come to school wearing a shirt and tie on those days please – class, individual and sibling photographs will be taken over these days.

****Improvement Plan for this Session ****

Can you help us with our Reading for Pleasure focus? We would be delighted to accept any donations of good quality books for our school library which we are in the process of revamping. Many thanks for all books that have already been donated.



Following the phone call our Head Pupils made to Waterstones in East Kilbride, we were delighted to receive a pack of 6 books for our school. Huge thanks to the team at Waterstones for their generosity.

****Standards and Quality Report ****

Our **Standards and Quality** Report from last session has been uploaded and is available on our website. This reflects the work and progress of our school and nursery for session 2020/2021.

**** Focus on Literacy and Numeracy Support****

We have a range of support in place for our children and you may know about IDL Numeracy and IDL Literacy. Some of our children use this resource for a period of time to help them increase their confidence and skills in certain areas.

We will be introducing a new resource called Reading Eggs across our school. This provides reading and maths resources, games and activities and we will be using this in school. Each child will have a login and will also be able to access material at home. Our teaching staff have been trained on this resource and we were all very impressed with it – we think the children will love using it to help their learning.

You will shortly receive a parent information leaflet with your child's log-in details, we hope you are able to log in and enjoy using this program with your child.

****Working alongside our Parish****

Myself and Mrs Currie, Head Teacher of Our Lady and St Anne's, meet regularly with Fr O'Farrell and we work closely together to plan for school and parish events. Dates are in the diary for the following sacraments -

Reconciliation (for P4 children)	Tuesday 19 th October at 6pm
First Holy Communion	Saturday 14 th May at 11am
Confirmation	Tuesday 31 st May at 7pm

Our P3 children will be prepared for the Sacrament of Reconciliation this year and we will receive a date for this shortly. Letters for these children regarding the Sacrament are home in bags.

We have recently received donations of beautiful, brand new First Holy Communion dresses – we would be delighted to offer these to the families of our P4 girls – if you would like to be considered for one, would you please contact the school office or speak to either myself, Mrs Wilson or Mrs Campbell at the school gate.

****Important Information****



****Diary Dates****

Monday 11 th October	October Holiday week
Monday 18 th October	School and Nursery begins for Term 2
Tuesday 19 th October	Sacrament of Reconciliation, 6pm
Friday 29 th October	School and nursery Hallowe'en Parties
Thursday 4 th November	Photographer in for school photos
Friday 5 th November	Photographer in for school photos
Friday 5 th November	Nursery and school Fundraiser – Crazy Hair Day

Please remember to check App and Twitter page for updated information.

****Morrisons – Good to Grow Initiative****

FREE gardening equipment for our school

For every £10 you spend (in store or online) at Morrisons, you'll get a Grow Token to help your school get everything they need to get growing. Download the MyMorrisons app today to start collecting Grow Tokens and choose the school you'd like to donate them to.

Your chosen school will be able to exchange their Grow Tokens for FREE gardening equipment to get kids growing.



****...and finally****

We hope all our staff, families and children enjoy the October break when it comes. As the weather turns that bit cooler let's hope we can get a last little bit of sunshine and warmth before autumn really takes a grip!

If at any point, you have a concern, a worry or a compliment please speak to myself, Mrs Wilson (Depute Head Teacher) or Mrs Campbell (Principal Teacher).

Many thanks to all our families for your continued support of our work – we greatly appreciate this. Best wishes everyone

Miss Christine MacPhee, Head Teacher