

Faith

Kindness

Love

Persevere

St Elizabeth's Primary School and Nursery Class

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

Our School and Nursery Information Newsletter October 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 October 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 Mrs Shields to our teaching staff team – Mrs Shields is teaching Primary 5 on a Wednesday, Thursday and Friday until Mrs McGuire returns. Welcome also to Mr McQueen, a student teacher in P3/4 who has begun his placement with us this week. We are also delighted to welcome an HNC student, Sophie Manning, to our Nursery Team.

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

We warmly welcome our new nursery children – Alexander, Koby, Joey and Enzo.

The boys are settling in with us very nicely and we are delighted to have them and their families all joining our nursery - 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.



Can I please remind everyone that **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.**

**** Participatory Budget Consultation ****



Thank you to everyone who took the time to vote in our PB offer and to Mrs Wilson for organising this. I am delighted to say the winning project is “Developing our School Grounds”. The next step now is for the Participatory Budget Group to get busy spending the money... watch this space!

**** 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. We have listened to their ideas about our wall displays... our school is looking **FANTASTIC!**

Nursery Focus Group

We will shortly be creating a Nursery Focus Group and we look forward to introducing them to you in our next newsletter!

Pupil Council

We are proud to announce our Pupil Council for the term from Oct – Dec consists of Laila our Chairperson, Devon and Eleanor our Secretaries, Melissa and Jack our Treasurers and our little councillors Zofia, Amelia, Conor. The children have already begun to create a wall display for COP 26 and have lots of ideas and suggestions for our school. We look forward to working with them over the coming weeks. Well done boys and girls.

Nursery Buddies

Thank you to all the children in P5 and P6 who have applied to be buddies for our nursery children. We have begun to have our P6 children taking up this important role and the children and nursery staff are all enjoying having our wonderful P6 boys and girls involved. Thank you to all parents for supporting with application forms.

Head Pupils and Captains/Vice Captains

Our Head Girl and Boy, alongside our Captains and Vice Captains, had a virtual meeting with Stephanie Callaghan, MSP and Minister for Children and Young People. Participating in 'The Moment' was an opportunity to have Young People's voices heard. The discussion was centred on climate emergency and our wonderful children did us all proud. Well done and thank you boys and girls.

Extra Special Tea-Time Group

One of the many highlights of our week has got to be the tea time group on a Friday afternoon. It is a joy to meet with a specially chosen pupil from each class and to have a chat. We will continue to develop this as the year goes on.

**** Houses ****



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



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



Our St Margaret 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 winners for October!



**** Important School Information ****

**** School/Nursery Hoodies ****

The latest round of hoody orders has arrived in school. A big thank you to the support staff for sorting the order in readiness for distribution. Enjoy your hoodies everyone and wear them with pride.



**** School Uniform ****



We would like to say a big thank you to all our families for the continued support of our school uniform policy.

Now the weather is changing we ask that all children come to school prepared for colder, and wetter, days – **a warm, waterproof jacket every day please.**

**** 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 are delighted to be able to do indoor PE, especially with the change in the weather - **all children will now 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 much 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 Nursery children. Any donations most welcome for Nursery funds. Crazy Hair for our school children will be the following **Friday, 12th November** and any donations would be very welcome for our School Funds. We look forward to seeing some groovy hair designs!

**** 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. School children should come to school wearing a shirt and tie on if they have nursery siblings as photographs will be taken on the Nursery days – class, individual and sibling photographs will be taken over these days.

**** Poppies ****

We are once again taking part in the Poppy Appeal and poppies will be available from this coming Monday. Any donation would be greatly appreciated. Our senior pupils will be selling these poppies each morning in our school.



**** Book Week Scotland ****

Book Week Scotland takes place from the 15th-21st November and children are invited to bring their favourite book to school and nursery on Friday 19th November. Our P1 children will receive the annual book bag containing 3 lovely story books for them to enjoy at home



****MISSIO****

Our Missio Champions are continuing to lead us in prayer at assembly and praying the rosary every Wednesday and Friday at 12.30pm at the altar. They are also collecting and counting Missio money each Friday. Thank you so much for your generosity. So far we have collected **£40.51**.

**** Parental Engagement ****



**** Homework Consultation Update ****



Following our parental consultation we have reviewed our Homework Policy taking account of your views. We're delighted to say Homework is now back on the agenda and the children are telling us they are delighted to be doing it. Thank you to all parents for supporting homework, signing jotters and helping to ensure homework is returned each week.

**** Learning to Read Information Session ****

Our P1 parents are invited to our Learning to Read session on **Wednesday 10th November** at 6.30pm. This will be through Google Meet.

**** Parents Night ****

A huge thank you to all of the parents and carers who were able to "meet" and chat with their child's teacher. Although restrictions remain in place the Teams Meetings and Phone Appointments were a great success. As they say, "it's good to talk." Our nursery staff will also be making contact with nursery parents shortly for an update on your child.

**** 50/50 Draw ****

Our Community Partnership is organising a 50/50 Draw for the end of November. Tickets will soon go on sale priced at £2.00 with the draw being made on **Friday November 26th**. Good luck, everyone.

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

You will be able to virtually "visit" our fantastic new nursery if you login to the Journals and view the short video.

Thanks to everyone who took the time to take part on our parent/carer questionnaire on Family Engagement. There is still time to share your views as the form has not closed yet and will close on **Monday 1st November**. Have your say... your opinion matters!

**** Christmas Show ****

With restrictions remaining in place as we move towards the Festive Season our nursery and school children will once again be producing a virtual Christmas Show. The children are busy getting ready to produce another sensational masterpiece. Our nursery children will entertain us with their beautiful singing, our younger school children will entertain us all with "Hey Ewe", while the older children will be singing their way into our hearts with Christmas Carols and Songs. Watch out on the APP and Twitter for the date of our virtual entertainment.

Improvement Plan for this Session

Thank you so much for all donations of books and games so far. It is much appreciated by ourselves. We would be delighted to continue to accept any donations of good quality books for our school library which we are in the process of revamping.



Our Library is coming along nicely... watch out for some pics winging their way to you via our Twitter feed!

** 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 have another resource called Reading Eggs across our school. This provides reading and maths resources, games and activities and we will be using this regularly. Each child has a login and can access material at home. We hope you are enjoying using this program with your child.

** Can you Help Us?

In line with our Improvement Plan, we are continuing to develop outdoor play and learning. We have identified some resources we are needing help with to support learning. We are wondering if families would be able to help donate any of the following items for us...we would greatly appreciate your help before look in to buying these resources. We are looking for –

- clipboards
- chalks and chalkboards
- loose parts – tyres, piping, wooden crates/trays/planks
- gardening resources ... trowels, rakes, watering cans etc.
- pots and pans – any shapes and sizes, any condition as they will help us create a mud kitchen
- sturdy measuring scales
- outdoor tents
- some sort of greenhouse structure for growing fruit, veg, plants
- construction resources... child friendly tools and work benches.
- water trough/ pipes which can be moved to control water flow
- sand pits
- garden equipment.. sundial, rainfall collector, thermometers etc

We are also looking for donations of Christmas Jumpers that have gotten too small-these will be made available for our children to take for this year.

Please hand any items in to the school office and thank you very much for any support you can give us with any of this.

****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 -

First Holy Communion
Confirmation

Saturday 14th May at 11am
Tuesday 31st May at 7pm

Twenty-two of our P4 children received the Sacrament of Reconciliation in our Lady and St Anne's Church when we returned from the October break. The service was very moving and the children were a credit to us all. Thank you to our families and staff for making this special occasion so memorable.

We don't yet have a date for our P3 First Reconciliation. We'll be in touch!

**** All Saints Day****

To celebrate All Saints day on Monday, our P7 children will attend 10am Mass at Our Lady and St Anne's Church – this will be the first time we have been able to attend Mass for quite some time and we are very much looking forward to it.

The Mass will be streamed for the rest of our classes to join in from school.

November is the month of the Holy Souls and we will say a prayer each week at Assembly for family and friends who are no longer with us.

****S2 Confirmation****

Due to COVID hitting us in 2020, our P7 children at the time were unable to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation. I am delighted to say they will now receive this Sacrament on **Wednesday 3rd November at 7pm** in the Church and we wish all our former children a wonderful celebration and a lovely evening with family and friends.



**** Baptism****

If any family would like to have your child Baptised, please contact Fr O'Farrell who will be very happy to discuss this further with you.

****Important Information****



****Diary Dates****

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|-------------------------------------|---|
| Friday 29 th October | School and nursery Hallowe'en Parties P5 Active Schools Club (2.40- 3.40pm) |
| Monday 1 st November | P7 attending Mass in Our Lady and St Anne's (Mass Livestreamed for the rest of the school) |
| Tuesday 2 nd November | Mr Devlin, Brass Tutor, in school |
| Wednesday 3 rd November | Flu Immunisation - School |
| Thursday 4 th November | Photographer in for school photos |
| Friday 5 th November | Photographer in for school photos |
| Friday 5 th November | Nursery Fundraiser – Crazy Hair Day |
| Friday 12 th November | School Fundraiser – Crazy Hair Day |
| Monday 15 th November | Catholic Education Week Inservice Day – School and Nursery closed for pupils |
| Monday 15 th November | Book Week Scotland begins |
| Tuesday 23 rd November | Mr Devlin, Brass Tutor, in school |
| Friday 26 th November | Community Partnership 50/50 Draw |
| <u>December</u> | |
| Friday December 10 th | Christmas Jumper Day |
| Tuesday 14 th December | P4/5 and P5 Christmas Party Mr Devlin, Brass Tutor, in school |
| Wednesday 15 th December | P1 and P1/2 Christmas Party P3/4 and P4/5 Christmas Party |
| Thursday 16 th December | P6 and P7 Christmas Party |
| Monday 20 th December | Nursery Christmas Party and Craft Fayre |
| Wednesday 22 nd December | School and Nursery close at 2.30pm for the holidays |
| <u>January</u> | |
| Wednesday 5 th January | School and Nursery re-open |

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

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

Please remember, 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

