



St. Andrew's Primary School August Newsletter 2015

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Welcome to everyone – new and old!

A very warm welcome to all of our new Primary 1 pupils and their families, welcome to our other new pupils who have joined us and welcome back to everyone else. It's great to see our happy community growing all the time.

As usual this newsletter gives lots of information which will be helpful over the year.

Staffing changes

As you know, we have had some staff and class changes over the summer period. We said a sad farewell to Miss O'Neill and we welcome Miss Pyott to Primary 6. Mrs Carroll has been appointed to an almost full-time post in our school too.

We are very pleased to welcome a number of students from St. Columba's, Clydeview and Notre Dame who will be visiting for varying lengths of time for work experience.

School uniform

We are again the envy of Inverclyde (and were seen nationally on the news!) with our smartly turned out pupils in their tartan and navy. There will be times that we ask for the pupils to wear shirt and tie – for photographs, Festival, mass visits etc and I appreciate your help and co-operation with this. We are also aware that there are some companies who will provide clothing with our school badge on it but it is not part of our uniform (some different coloured sweatshirts/hoodies etc). We are very proud of how many of our pupils wear our uniform. Thank you for your support with this.

We are no longer asking the children to change their shoes every day when they come in to school. We still need sandshoes or training shoes to be worn for PE sessions.

School Fete

The Parent Council have organised a school fete for **SATURDAY 12th SEPTEMBER**. More details will come out regarding entry etc. but they are already collecting old toys (which are in good condition), tins, bottles and raffle/tombola prizes etc etc. These can be sent in to school from now. On Friday 4th September pupils can come to school out of uniform and bring a tin or raffle prize as their 'payment'.

Absence

If your child is absent from school for whatever reason we ask that you contact the school office before 9.30am or ask a brother or sister to let the teacher know the reason. As our office is very busy with children and parents in the morning it is probable that you will be diverted to Voicemail – please leave a message with child's name, who is calling and the reason for absence. We use a text messaging system if we have not heard from you to alert you to your child's absence and ask you to contact us as soon as possible.



Occasional changes in routine

Should your child's home-time or lunchtime arrangements change please inform the class teacher of this in writing or call the school office. Please make sure your child also knows of the change – e.g. gran picking up from school instead of dad etc.

Appointments

If your child has a medical appointment within the school hours please send a note of the date and time to the class teacher, or phone the school office in the morning. Your child should be collected by calling at the school office.

PE Kit and PE days

The Scottish Government has set a target of 2 hours of quality P.E. for school pupils. This is something we take seriously in St. Andrew's and we have adapted our timetable etc. to ensure this for all pupils.

It is very important that children take part in physical exercise and this is also helped by the pupils wearing appropriate clothing. Please ensure that your child has appropriate PE kit – t-shirt and shorts (polo shirt is great).

Pupils are not allowed to wear earrings during PE. Taping over them is not permitted. Please make sure your son/daughter is able to remove their own earrings as we are not allowed to remove them for them. No jewellery is permitted to be worn in PE.

Days for PE are:

Primary 1	Tuesday and Friday	Primary 2/1	Tuesday and Thursday
Primary 2	Wednesday and Friday	Primary 3	Wednesday and Thursday
Primary 4/3	Monday and Friday	Primary 4	Monday and Thursday
Primary 5	Tuesday and Friday	Primary 6	Monday and Wednesday
Primary 7/6	Tuesday and Wednesday	Primary 7	Monday and Thursday

These days can be subject to change or added times E.g. Primary 6 receive swimming lessons on Wednesday mornings from September to November. On these occasions we will inform you and the pupils of any change.

School Funds

School funds of 50p is payable on Monday of each week. This provides us with invaluable funding towards pupil trips, sports kit, playground play equipment and much, much more. I urge you to give your child the correct school funds every week – or, alternatively, send in the full amount for the year. School funds covered the cost of all trips throughout last year and no child was asked to pay extra for a trip – we are one of the very few schools who can do this.

Most of our expenses cover buses – a bus to Greenock town centre for a class (library, Foodbank, Hospice etc) costs around £75. For a bus to Glasgow we have to pay around £180 and even Finlaystone is £120. You can see how the costs all add up for us, so I urge you to please help by sending your weekly 50p.

This year we are **FREEZING** school funds at 2014 levels – no austerity packages here!
Alternatively, if you would rather pay for each term or for the year the cost is (per child)

August – December £7.00 (Not payable last 2 weeks as it's Christmas)

January – April £6.50

April – June £5.00

**Whole year £18.00 – 0% rise – not often we hear that these days – apart from your pay!!
Remember that if you have three or more children in the school we only ask for school funds from 2 children-£1 per week (call it bulk discount/ Pay Two Get One Free).**

Allergies

As we have pupils who are allergic to nuts and nut products I ask that you do not send any sweets or snacks which contain nuts in to the school. Thank you for your support in helping us stay 'nut-free' – this includes Nutella.

Water

All the children have access to drinking water during the day. Can I ask that if possible each child brings in a filled plastic bottle, with a sports top, so they can fill the bottle up with water and have it at their desk? This saves them having to leave the class to go for a drink, so missing out on learning time.

Please remember that no child is allowed to chew chewing gum within the school grounds. This is for various reasons – not least the mess which can result from discarded chewing gum.

In the promotion of healthy eating and drinking we do not recommend or encourage the bringing of high sugar cans of juice or high sugar and caffeine 'energy' drinks at all – especially not to drink at playtime. Our Health group and Pupil Council have asked if we can work this year to ensure healthier eating and drinking amongst the pupils.



Breakfast Club

The very popular Breakfast Club has started already from 8am – 9am every morning. Thanks to all the staff who help run this every day. If you would like your child to attend, please contact the school office to ensure there are sufficient spaces.

School Meals

A reminder that the price of a child's school meal has risen to £1.90. Pupils in Primary 1 – 3 receive free school meals if they wish one. Menus for the canteen have already been sent home.

NO DOGS ALLOWED

Please remember that dogs, of any size are not allowed in the school grounds. This is to prevent fouling and children becoming scared by the dogs. Thank you.



Mobile Phones

Please remember the Authority advice concerning mobile phones – I attach it for info. All pupil phones must be switched off at all times within the school grounds. The general rule is 'Not Seen or Heard'.

No Smoking

Inverclyde Council has a No Smoking policy in all of its establishments. Added to this, it is very unhealthy to have our pupils walking through a cloud of smoke as they leave school. **SMOKING IS NOT PERMITTED in the school grounds at any time.** Thank you.



Car Parking

The car park at St. Andrew's school is for staff, visitors to the school and for disabled access.

This is not a car park for general use.

We have two disabled parking bays. I have been advised that these spaces are for the use of parents whose children need the access – not for parents/grandparents with mobility issues. We have families who require these spaces for access. **I should remind you that there are insurance issues for cars in the car park which are not those of staff.**

I have been asked to remind you that parking on double yellow lines and pavements on Chester Road is not only prohibited but also increases the danger for your children as they try to access the school. Local residents and concerned parents have complained to myself and the police regarding this.

School and Playground security

As you will appreciate, we take pupil safety and school security very seriously in St. Andrew's. This is the main reason that we discourage parents, grandparents etc. from walking through the grounds to drop off or collect children (especially at the P1 and 2 steps). When there are too many adults around the children they can become unsettled and it is difficult for us to question everyone who comes in to ensure they should be there. We appreciate your help and support with this important matter.

Holiday Weekend

The school will be closed for the September holiday on Monday 7th September. Primary 1 pupils will attend full days after this.

Meet the Teacher

Within the next few days we will send more information and invitations to come in to the school next week to properly meet your child's new teacher. This will not be a Parents' afternoon for formal reports but a chance for each teacher to explain homework, expectations, general points to you to help clarify and prepare everyone for the year ahead. These will take place in the afternoons.

Primary 1 and 2/1 parents will be invited to meet the teacher on Thursday 3rd at 11am and we then invite the P1 parents to bring their child to the canteen to help prepare the children for attending all day – letter has already come out about this.



School Website

This is in the very final stages of being published and going live (in fact, I'm waiting to upload this newsletter on to it).

Primary 5 Singing sessions

Primary 5 will again have the opportunity this year to take part in the Youth Music Initiative singing programme. This will end in a Showcase of musical talent next June. Mrs Polly Beck will visit the class on a Monday morning to work with the children.

Judo taster sessions

All pupils will have the chance to participate in Judo taster sessions with Pro-Judo (the club that Louise and Kimberly Renick, Commonwealth Champions are part of) on Friday 11th September. At a point later in the year we will also have a visit from Kimberly and Louise who will perform some judo and hold a Q&A session – and show us their medals.

Rag Bag Collection

We will be sending home bags soon for you to gather and donate your old clothes etc for our first Rag Bag collection of the year. This will be uplifted on **Friday 18th September**.

Remember if you have any questions, queries, worries etc etc you can call in to the school, call for a chat or speak to myself and/or Mrs McMahon at any time and we will try our best to help.

Some dates for your diary

August

Monday 31st Primary 5 singing with Mrs. Beck
Meet the Teacher Meetings – P2 Mrs Deveney

September

Tuesday 1st Meet the Teacher Meetings – P6 Miss Pyott, P7/6 Mrs Coggins and P3 Mrs Wylie

Wednesday 2nd

Telegraph photo for P1 pupils 10.30am

Meet the Teacher Meetings – P5 Miss Devlin, P5 Miss Caldwell

Thursday 3rd

Meet the Teacher meetings for P1 and 1/2

Primary 1 parents visit canteen with pupils – 11.30am

M&M Productions perform 'Treasure Island' for P5,6 and 7.

Friday 4th

Meet the Teacher Meetings – P4/3 Mrs Gisbey, P7 Mrs Boyle.

Come As You Please for fete

Monday 7th

SCHOOL CLOSED

Tuesday 8th

School re-opens at 9am. Primary 1 pupils attend all day.

Thursday 10th

Scottish Parliament Outreach visit for P 6, 6/7 and 7 pupils.

Friday 11th

Judo taster sessions with Pro-Judo for all pupils.

SATURDAY 12th

SCHOOL FETE

Tuesday 15th

Primary 4 pupils go on Greenock Heritage Trail with Inverclyde Trust

Wednesday 16th

Primary 7 pupils attend Diocesan Voacations Mass at St. Mirin's Cathedral 11am

Primary 6 swimming sessions start for 10 weeks

Friday 18th

Rag bag Collection

Hopscotch Theatre perform 'Rights of the Child' for whole school

Visit to school by Ms Ruth Binks, new Head of Education.

Friday 25th

MacMillan Coffee Morning

Monday 28th

Primary 3 start Roots of Empathy Programme

Wednesday 30th

Primary 7 science Transition session @ St. Columba's

October

Friday 9th

Harvest Celebration with Aileymill at St. Ninian's Church 11am

School closes for holiday – 3pm

October Holiday week

Monday 19th

In-Service Day – Pupils do not attend

Tuesday 20th

School reopens to pupils

Friday 30th

Hallowe'en Parties

Wednesday 11th November

Pupil Flu Vaccinations

- **Mobile phones and associated technology must be switched off at all times within the school grounds.**
- Pupils must not, under any circumstance, record lessons, instructions, discussions or conversations with members of school staff.
- **Unless express permission is granted by a member of the school senior management team to the contrary, mobile phones or associated technology must not be used to make calls, send SMS messages, surf the internet, take photos, video or any other application within the school and in school grounds or during any school activity.**
- Exceptions may be permitted in exceptional circumstances, should the parent/guardian specifically request it. Such requests will be handled on a case-by case basis, and should be directed to the Head Teacher. It is likely that in such circumstances mobile phones may only be used by pupils in a designated area in the school office area. (Refer to appendix 1 for a model permission request)
- Mobile phones or associated technology are not permitted into rooms where an assessment or examination is taking place, under any circumstances.
- Parents are reminded that in cases of emergency, the school office remains the vital and appropriate point of contact and can ensure a pupil is reached quickly, and assisted in any appropriate way
- Pupils are required to mark their mobile phone or associated technology clearly with their names
- **In order to reduce the risk of theft during school hours, pupils who carry mobile phones or associated technology are advised to keep them well concealed and secure and not 'advertise' they have them.**
- **The school accepts no responsibility for replacing lost, stolen or damaged mobile phones or associated technology belonging to pupils while travelling to and from school and whilst at school. Education Services does not hold insurance for personal property brought to schools and it will generally not pay for any loss or damage to such property. Pupils should think very carefully before bringing valuable items such as mobile phones or associated technology to school.**
- It is strongly advised that pupils use passwords/pin numbers to ensure that unauthorised phone calls cannot be made on their phones by other persons, or if stolen. Pupils must keep their password/pin numbers confidential
- **Breaches of this policy will result in disciplinary action which may include confiscation of the mobile phone or associated technology and banning the pupil from taking a mobile phone or associated technology to school in the future and for more serious breaches, exclusion from school.**