



# St. Andrew's Primary School August Newsletter 2016

Head Teacher: Mr A Connick  
Chester Road  
Greenock  
PA16 0TT  
Tel no: 01475 715806  
Email: [INStAndrews@glowscotland.onmicrosoft.com](mailto:INStAndrews@glowscotland.onmicrosoft.com)  
**Twitter: @saintandrewsps**

## 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 changes over the summer. We welcome Miss Crawford, Miss Adams, Mrs Thomson, Mr Gillies and Mrs McClure to our staff. Ms Robertson has joined us temporarily for the moment too.

Congratulations to Mrs White and Mrs Millar who both got married during the holidays – not to each other, to Mr White and Mr Millar (not the janitor).

## School uniform

We are again the envy of Inverclyde 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.

## 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. If possible please try to make appointments for outwith school time (I know this can be difficult).

## 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:

<b>Primary 1</b>	<b>Tuesday and Friday</b>	<b>Primary 2/1</b>	<b>Wednesday and Thursday</b>
<b>Primary 2/3</b>	<b>Monday and Thursday</b>	<b>Primary 3</b>	<b>Tuesday and Thursday</b>
<b>Primary 4</b>	<b>Monday and Wednesday</b>	<b>Primary 4/5</b>	<b>Monday and Tuesday</b>
<b>Primary 5</b>	<b>Thursday and Friday</b>	<b>Primary 6</b>	<b>Monday and Wednesday</b>
<b>Primary 7a (Miss Adams)</b>	<b>Tuesday and Friday</b>	<b>Primary 7b</b>	<b>Wednesday and Friday</b>

These days can be subject to change or added times. 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 again keeping school funds at previous 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. Last session almost all of our pupils went without sugary drinks for a whole week – it CAN be done.



## 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 £1.95. Pupils in Primary 1 – 3 receive free school meals if they wish one. A menu for the canteen is accompanying this newsletter..

## 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 for your support .



## 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 5<sup>th</sup> September. Primary 1 pupils will attend full days after this.**

### **Meet the Teacher**

A letter inviting you to meet your child's new teacher is coming home today. These sessions give everyone the chance to 'put a face to the name' and get to know the teacher a little better. It gives us the chance to explain homework routines etc too.

Primary 3 will have a session later in the term.

### **School Website and Twitter**

Our school website has lots of information about the learning in St. Andrew's and news of what's happening. I hope to keep this more up to date this year with photos and other information. We have a number of Twitter feeds for the school – the main school one is @saintandrewsps and many classes have a feed too.

Primary 1 - @MrsMiddlesworth

Primary 2/1 - @P2\_1StAndrews

Primary 3/2 - @P3\_2StAndrews

Primary 4 - @inflt949

Primary 4/5 - @StAndrewsP43

Primary 7a (Miss Adams) - @stap7a

Primary 7b (Mrs Coggins) - @st\_p7

A few parents have not given permission for use of their child's photos so they will not appear.

**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 Mr Gillies at any time and we will try our best to help.**

## Some dates for your diary

### August

Thursday 25<sup>th</sup>

Primary 5 visit Beacon for author – Ali Sparkes workshop

Monday 29<sup>th</sup>

P6 Meet the Teacher 1.40pm

P7a meet the Teacher 2.15pm

**Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup>**

**Telegraph taking P1 photo**

P2/1 Meet the Teacher 11.45am

Primary 5 Meet the Teacher 1.40pm

Primary 7b Meet the Teacher 2.15pm

Wednesday 31<sup>st</sup>

Primary 1 Meet the Teacher 11am

Primary 1 parents invited to join children for lunch

Primary 4/5 Meet the Teacher 1.40pm

Primary 4 Meet the Teacher 2.15pm

### September

Thursday 1<sup>st</sup>

P2/3 Meet the Teacher 1.40pm

**Monday 5<sup>th</sup>**

**SCHOOL CLOSED**

Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup>

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

Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup>

Fluoride Varnishing for P1-4

### October

Friday 14<sup>th</sup>

School closes for October week holiday – 3pm as usual

Monday 24<sup>th</sup>

In-Service day for staff – School closed to pupils

Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup>

School re-opens

### November

Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup>

Parent Appointments 3.15pm – 8pm

### December

Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup>

School closes for Christmas Holidays at 2.30pm

- **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.**