



St. Andrew's Primary School October Newsletter 2016

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As ever, it's been a busy term since August and we now get ready for a wee break then, whisper it, the Christmas term!!

First of all, Congratulations to our very own Mrs Thomson (formerly known as Miss Black) who celebrated her wedding on Saturday. We wish her and David a long and happy life together.

Mrs Harkins – a sad farewell

One of our most-loved members of staff, Mrs Harkins, has decided to retire (very early I must add). Her last day at work will be Wednesday 12th October. I would like to thank her on behalf of our school community for the love, care and friendship she has shown to us all over the years. We will miss her greatly but are sure she will enjoy watching her superstar son playing for Ayr United.

Joint Harvest Celebration

This Friday we will join with our friends from Aileymill to celebrate the Harvest festival. This year Primary 1-3 will walk down to Aileymill for 10am on Friday and Primary 4 – 7 will walk to St. Ninian's Church for 1.30pm in the afternoon.

We are again joining with the Foodbank to mark the occasion this year.

Why not join us and bring a can, packet of dried food etc. which we will donate to the Foodbank. Please send a can or donation with your child on Friday. Thank you.



Father McGarry

As you will know, Father Peter has been transferred to another Parish and we have a new Parish priest – Father McLaughlin.

Some parents have asked that we have a collection to present Father Peter with a gift from the parents and pupils of the school. We will then invite him to visit the school to have his gifts presented.

If you would like to contribute to a gift please send/hand in your donation to the school office as soon as possible.

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 disabled badge or 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 me and the police regarding this.

Come as you Please

This Wednesday, 12th October, we will be having a special Come as you Please event when children can come to school out of uniform. Funds raised will support the Brightest Star Foundation who support parents and families. We will donate the funds we raise to the Quigg family's fundraising event at the end of the month.

Primary 7 Transition Programme

The pupils from primary 7 will attend St. Columba's this Thursday as part of their on-going transition programme. They will get the chance to experience life in high school and explore the building (following a timetable).

Primary school swimming programme

Beginning on Thursday 27th October the pupils in Primary 5 and 6 will attend swimming lessons at the Waterfront. This is a change for this year as previously lessons were for P6 only.

Parent partnership Fun Day/Fete

Many thanks to all of the parents, pupils and staff who made the Fun day such a huge success. As well as on the Saturday we had a group of parents who gathered, organised and set up the whole event. We really are grateful to them for giving up their own time. Thank you.

The Parent partnership are organising Halloween Discos which will be held on TUESDAY 1ST NOVEMBER. More info to come.

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.

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 .

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.



Work experience and other education students

You will notice a number of new faces around the school. We are a popular base for high school students for work experience and also for University students for placements. If your child mentions a new name of an adult who works with them and you are unsure of who they are please feel free to call and ask for clarification.

Pupil exit routes at 3pm

Can I remind you that pupils in Primary 4 – 7 exit the fire door at the end of the teaching block and walk round through the playground to the school exit. This enables pupils in Primary 1 -3 to walk down accompanied to the steps and along to the red lines where they are met by their parents. Thank you for your co-operation in ensuring the safe movement of all the pupils.

Cyber safety for pupils and parents

We have been offered the chance for our pupils to take part in Cyber safety workshops in school. I am sure you will agree that this is a very important area for children and these will take place for P6 and 7 on Thursday 27th October. We also have the opportunity for parents to attend a workshop on the same subject at 2pm – 3pm on the same day. I am sending a separate letter about this.

Remember if you have any questions, queries, worries 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.

Dates for Your Diary

October

Wednesday 12th Flu immunisation programme
Thursday 13th Primary 7 Mini-Induction Day @ St. Columba's
Friday 14th Joint Harvest Celebration with Aileymill
P1-3 - 10.00am in Aileymill School
P4/3-7 - 1.30pm in St. Ninian's Church, Larkfield.

October Holiday week

Monday 24th In- Service Day for school staff
Tuesday 25th Pupils Return
Authority Meeting regarding Transport Consultation
Thursday 27th CLD Cyber safety Sessions for P6,7 and Parents
Friday 28th School's 5th Birthday
Monday 31st Halloween – Pupils can bring costumes to change and dress up in the afternoon.

November

Tuesday 1st Halloween Discos
Monday 14th P1 Bookbug gifting session at South West library
Tuesday 15th Parent appointments 3.15pm – 8.00pm (info to come)
Thursday 17th Visit to school by British Athlete – more to come.
Thursday 24th St. Columba's European evening and Winter market
Wednesday 30th St. Andrew's Day – more info to come

December

Tuesday 6th Christmas Concerts – evening performances
Thursday 8th Christmas Concerts – afternoon performances
Friday 16th Christmas Wonderland – 1.30pm
Tuesday 20th Christmas service with Aileymill Primary – St. Andrew's Church, 11am
School closes for holidays at 2.30pm