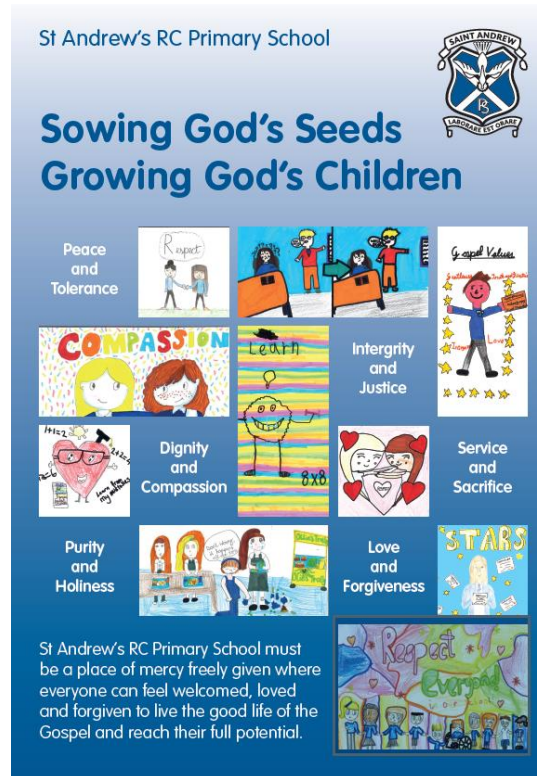


St Andrew's RC Primary School Newsletter

August 2024



Welcome back everyone to a new academic year at St Andrew's Primary School. It was lovely to see all the happy faces returning to school this week. I especially want to extend a warm welcome to all our new pupils and their families. All of the children have settled well into new routines, are making positive relationships with their new teachers and there is a real buzz around the school.

Last year proved to be another successful year with our families and staff working closely together to help make our pupils' school experience a positive one. I would like to thank you for your continued support in helping to make our school a brilliant place to learn and play.

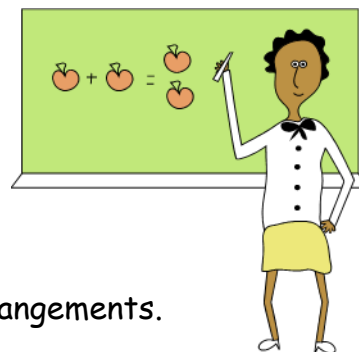
I look forward to further developing this partnership; working and building on the positive relationships we have already established.

Meet The Teacher

Our Meet the Teacher event is scheduled to take place on Wednesday 4th September.

This will provide you with key information about the planned curriculum, homework arrangements, classroom expectations and behaviour strategies used in each class.

I will be in touch in the near future to confirm time arrangements.



P7 Residential Trip - June 2025

Our annual Primary 7 Residential Trip to Inverclyde is planned to take place in June, 2025.

All P7 parents are invited to an information session on Wednesday 11th September at 6.00pm. This meeting will take place in the Assembly Hall. I look forward to seeing you there.



Online Payment System



iPayImpact is a secure payments system that allows you to pay for school-related items for your child(ren) online through your smartphone, tablet and computer. We would encourage you to register for an account to let you order school lunches, pay, manage and track all school payments. Families entitled to free school lunches, including all P1-P5 pupils, should also register to allow school lunch options to be ordered at home.

To use the iPayImpact school payment service you will need to register for a Mygovscot account and add a unique account reference for your child. P1 parents will receive their unique code shortly.

To register for a Mygovscot account please visit: <https://my.falkirk.gov.uk/>. Once on the site, please click, "Register for an account."

Allergies

This session we have several pupils within the school with severe nut allergies. Coming into contact with nuts, or any products containing nuts, could put our pupils at great risk.



To help us manage this, please ensure that your child's snack or packed lunch box does not contain any nut products.

Please also note that unfortunately we cannot accept any cakes/sweets etc into the classrooms to celebrate birthdays.

Your help with this matter is very much appreciated.

Water

Several scientific studies show that drinking enough water can help support long-term brain development. It is for this reason that we encourage your child to bring in a water bottle to school.



Whilst your child is in class, only water is permitted. Water bottles containing juice can only be consumed during break times.

Bus Travel

We now have approximately 250 pupils travelling by bus to and from the school. As you can imagine this can be quite a challenge for all of us! You can help by ensuring that your child is clear about how they are getting home, which bus they should go on and at which stop they need to get off.



Parents are also reminded to encourage good behaviour on bus transport to and from school.

We will follow the 'At Home' arrangements that you provide us with, should this change, please contact the School Office at your earliest convenience.

All concerns regarding bus timetables should be reported to Transport & Planning on 01324 504966 or 504724.

Car Parking

Unfortunately, I witnessed extremely dangerous driving incidents at the school gates this morning. A large number of cars were parked on pavements very close to the school gates meaning it was hazardous for our pupils to enter the school grounds safely.



For the safety and interest of our pupils, please do not attempt to park on Hawley Road. If you do need to park, please park safely, further away from the school and walk the short distance to the gates.

Thank you to all our parents and carers who use the 'Drop Off' point at the end of Graeme High School car park, this really helps to reduce congestion and keep our children safe.

Playground

Since 2020, we have developed a one-way system in our playground. With limited supervision available in the morning, we require support to safeguard your children effectively. Reducing the amount of traffic in the playground is one very good way of doing so.



Parents of children in P1-P3 should enter via Hawley Road, passing the nursery and should exit the playground in the same way.

After a week of transition, from next week, we ask that parents of P4-P7 drop off children at the Drop Off point or Forbes Road gate and allow the children to enter the playground where they will be met by a member of school staff. No parents should enter into the P4-P7 playground.

Full details of our Drop Off/Pick Up policy, plan and the associated risk assessment is available in our school handbook which can be accessed via the Falkirk Council Website.

Your support in this matter is greatly appreciated as the safety of the children is of upmost importance to us all.

Uniform

All of the children looked so smart this week arriving in their uniform. We are all proud to be part of the St. Andrew's family and wearing the uniform helps to show this.



All children are required to wear full school uniform each day. However, we appreciate that in these difficult times this can be challenging. Should this become challenging, please contact the school office where we can support you in this matter.

In addition to this, we appreciate that items cannot be readily replaced. Therefore, please ensure that all items of uniform are clearly labelled with your child's full name.

Despite the sunshine, at times this week, please also ensure that your child brings a jacket to school every day - we all know how changeable the weather can be.

Achievements

As much as we value your child's academic improvement, we are delighted to hear about the achievements they have experienced out-with school. It is for this reason that the last Friday of each month we will continue to hold an Achievements Assembly. If your child has participated in activity out of school, please encourage them to bring in any certificates/trophies/medals to share. As a whole school community, we will celebrate their endeavours together.



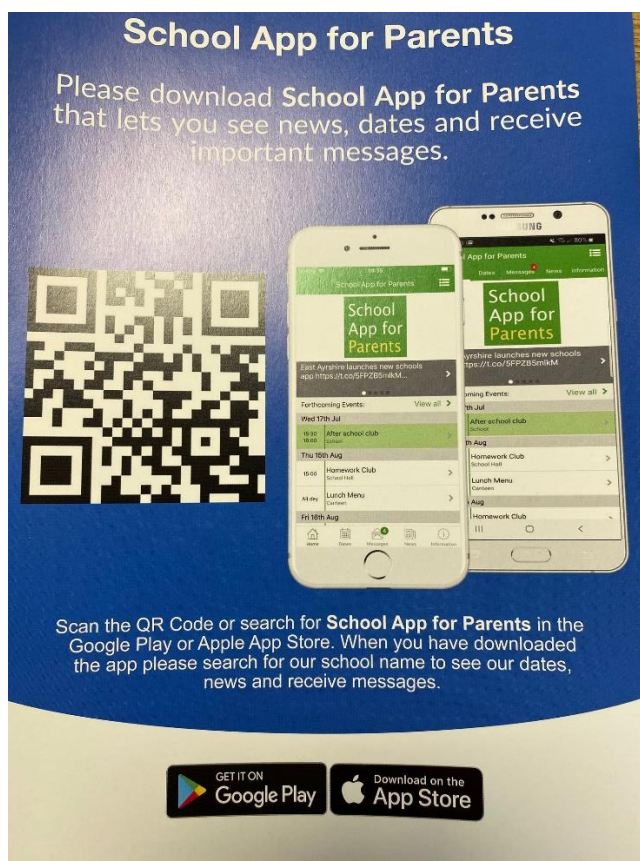
Communication

To ensure that you receive all communications from us, please keep us informed of any changes to your phone number or email address.

Sending communications via email is the quickest and cheapest method available to us. If you have not yet supplied us with your address, please do so as quickly as possible.

School App

Last session, we purchased our School App to support clear communication from school to home. Feedback from our parent body has been extremely positive and therefore we intend to use this again this year. To receive latest updates from school, we encourage you to download the app to your smart device. To download please scan the QR below.



School App for Parents

Please download **School App for Parents** that lets you see news, dates and receive important messages.

Scan the QR Code or search for **School App for Parents** in the Google Play or Apple App Store. When you have downloaded the app please search for our school name to see our dates, news and receive messages.

GET IT ON Google Play

Download on the App Store

The image shows a promotional poster for the 'School App for Parents'. It features a large QR code on the left. To the right of the QR code are two smartphones displaying the app's interface. The app shows a list of 'Upcoming Events' with dates and times, such as 'Wed 17th Jul' for 'After school club' and 'Thu 18th Aug' for 'Homework Club'. At the bottom of the poster are logos for Google Play and the Apple App Store.

Once downloaded, you will be asked to 'select your school.' Please choose, **St. Andrew's Falkirk**

Twitter

In previous years, we have used X (formally Twitter) to share regular class updates. A number of parents have provided feedback to us stating that at times the system was unreliable. Our team are in the process of looking at alternative methods and we will communicate this to you in the very near future.

Getting In Contact

Should you need to get in contact to discuss a matter relating to your child, your child's teacher is the first port of call. To do this, please contact the school office to arrange an appointment.

In the event that matters cannot be resolved then please telephone the school office to make an appointment to speak to a member of the management team.

Please note that the only email address that is manned regularly is standrewsprimaryschool@education.falkirk.sch.uk. To allow us to respond to you quickly and efficiently, please do not email school staff directly but use this address.

Recording of Absence

At St. Andrew's we value attendance. The impact of regular late coming or absence has a detrimental impact on your child's educational achievement. If you require support with getting your child to school please contact Mrs McQuade via the school office.



Please remember, if your child is absent from school, it is very important that you contact the school office before 9.30am to allow us to accurately record the absence.

Please also ensure that your child arrives on time for the start of the school day. Pupils arriving after the school bell at 9.00am, will be recorded as being late.

Calendar of Events



A copy of our Calendar of Events 2024-2025 will be emailed shortly. This should allow you to put important dates in your diary at home and plan in advance for any days off work etc.

Please note, although we will endeavour to stick to the calendar, unfortunately there may be occasions when dates or times may need to be changed or indeed events cancelled.

We will alert you to any changes as required.

PTA



Our newly formed PTA did an excellent job last year and I would like to thank them for all of their efforts. These events enriched our children's school experience and have supported the on-going development of our new library. Work is currently underway and I look forward to sharing with you and the children the final result.

PTA events for this year will be shared shortly.

Public Holiday - Monday 9th September

The school will be closed on **Monday 9th September** and reopen on Tuesday 10th September.

All holiday dates for this session, 2024-2025, can be found on our school website and on Falkirk Council's website.

I hope you have found the above information useful in helping you prepare your child for school. I look forward to looking closely with you in what I am sure will be another great year.

God bless,

David Short
Headteacher