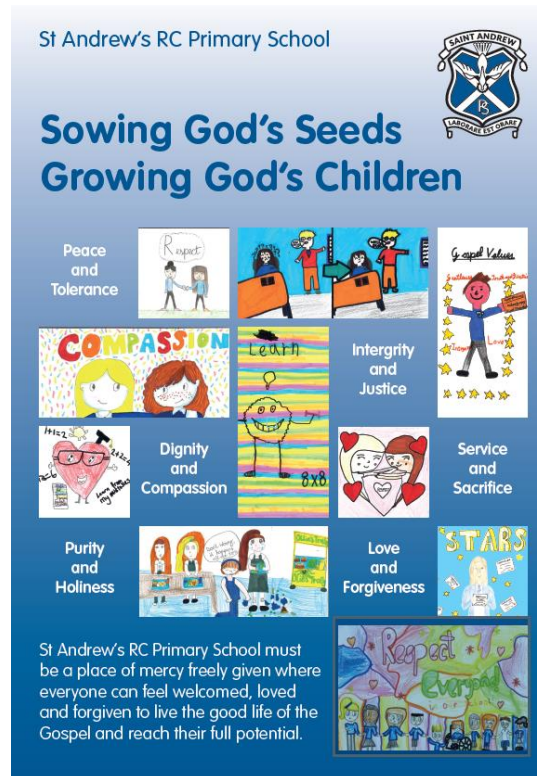


St Andrew's RC Primary School Newsletter

December, 2024



It has been another busy term here at St Andrew's Primary School with pupils and staff continuing to work extremely hard.

Please enjoy reading our update for this term and learning about some of the exciting activities we have been involved in.



Gospel Values

Throughout this term, children have been learning in assembly, and in class, about the Gospel Values of Gentleness, Purity and Holiness and Love. We discussed the actions required to live out this value in our daily lives. At the end of each month, the children nominated one person from their class who they witnessed demonstrating this value in action.

Gentleness

P1M – Billie Lyon

P1H/S- Olivia Acute

P2C – Lily Buchanan

P2M –Emilie Findlay

P3G – Elaine Macdonald

P3S – Jaycie Graham

P4S – Payton McGlynn

P4G – Praise Omoyeni

P5W/G – Ife Olabarniji-Taiwo

P6/5B – David Oronsaye

P6A – Godfrey Chimbata

P7G – Robyn Barlow

P7L – Bethani Craig

Purity & Holiness

P1M – Ronan Conner

P1H/S- Elaine McGuigan

P2C – Florence Cowans

P2M – Mia Fiedorowicz

P3G – Grace Adengi-ilori

P3S – Unique Ajileye

P4S – Ava Mai Batchelor

P4G – Harrison Bennie

P5W/G – Esther Adeniji-ilori

P6/5B – Rexx Parker

P6A – Jack Martin

P7G – Klara Garczarek

P7L – Sophie Buckie

Love

P1M – Rebecca Anderson

P1H/S- Nicole Abate

P2C – Arabella McDonald

P2M –Niamh Taylor

P3G – Cooper Mceachran

P3S – Lawson Black

P4S – John Thomas Macdonald

P4G – Lucas Stevenson

P5W/G – Nellie Bennie

P6/5B – Nicola Stogowska

P6A – Jason Abah

P7G – Jack Matheson

P7L – Tanatsaw Chapotera

Well done to all of the children who achieved certificates – you are role models to us all

St Andrew's Day

The pupils and staff thoroughly enjoyed St. Andrew's Day. It was a very busy day in school where we:

- Celebrated Mass with Father Joshua;
- Participated in fun activities about the life and work of St. Andrew;
- Enjoyed a special lunch and
- P6 & P7 had a ceilidh

I would like to say a special thank you to Father Joshua and all the staff for making this day so special for the children.



Scottish Performance

To end our St. Andrew's celebrations, children from Primary 6 & 7 presented their Scottish Performance with a mixture of poetry, dancing and songs. Well done boys and girls, you were brilliant!

A special thanks to Mrs Baird, Mrs Adams, Miss Gray, Mr Laird and Mrs Webster for making this possible.



Nativity

It was an absolute joy to watch our children from Primary 1-3 perform the Nativity. They were so confident and sang out with smiles on their faces. Well done everyone, you did a wonderful job of reminding us of the real meaning of Christmas!

I would like to extend a huge 'thank you' to all the staff in P1-P3 for supporting the children to make this happen.



Uniform

We are very proud of our school uniform at St. Andrew's and I am delighted to report that all children wear school uniform every day. Research on the benefits of school uniform suggest it adds value to our school ethos, supports safeguarding children from harm and avoids discrimination that can be caused by children not having access to particular items of expensive clothing.

However, we are aware that we are all living in challenging times at the moment and if you feel the uniform policy is adding to this, please speak with myself or the school management team who can provide supports.

As we move towards the winter term, it would be greatly appreciated if you could make sure your child wears a warm jacket each day. Outdoor learning is an important part of our curriculum and we would like to make sure the children are comfortable.

Achievements

It has been a real joy to celebrate the out of school achievements with the children this year. Not that it is a surprise to us, but we really do have such talented children in the school. For this reason, we will continue to make the last Friday of each month our 'Achievements Assembly'. If your child has participated in an activity out of school, please encourage them to bring in any certificates/trophies/medals to share. As a whole school community we will continue to celebrate their endeavours together.



Staffing

I would like to welcome Miss Boyle and Mrs McCall who have joined our St. Andrew's family. They have both taken up post as Support for Learning Assistants in the school this term. Miss Boyle and Mrs McCall have been working with children across the school and supporting in the playground.

I am sure you will join me in welcoming them to our community.

Drop Off/Pick Up

To ensure the safety of all of our pupils, the following arrangements are in place for drop off and pick up at school:

Travelling by bus

Children arriving by bus will access the school through 'Bus Gate' in our P4-P7 playground. Arrival to school is supervised by a Support for Learning Assistant. Departure from school is supervised by SMT and class teachers.

This gate is used for children travelling by bus only.

Travelling by car

Arrival

We have a designated 'Drop Off' point at the front of our school. This is accessed by entering into Graeme High School. This space is to be used for drop off only and we ask that parents/carers do not park in this space.

Children will enter the school through the drop off gate which leads directly into the playground.

Alternatively, if parking on Oliver Road or Hawley Road we ask that:
P1-P3 – enter the school via Hawley Road into the infant playground
P4-P7 – enter the school via Forbes Road.

Departure

At the beginning of the school year, we will ask you complete an 'At Home' arrangements form. Teachers will adhere to the instructions you have given unless given written notice from a parent/carer.

If your child(ren) is to be collected from school, the following arrangements will be in place:

P1-P3 will exit via Hawley Road

P4-P7 will exit via Forbes Road

Children in P4-P7 who have younger siblings in P1-P3 will be allowed access to the infant playground to collect family members. These children will then be asked to leave the school grounds via Hawley Road.

Please be reminded that the Staff Car Park is for staff only. Blue Badge holders are eligible to park in the disabled spaces in the staff car park. However, please telephone the school office to make an appointment to see me before doing so.

It has come to my attention that at the beginning of the school day, a minority of parents are crossing the staff car park with children. This puts you and your child at risk as there are several blind spots when entering into the car park. Please use the path on the car park perimeter to ensure everyone is safe.

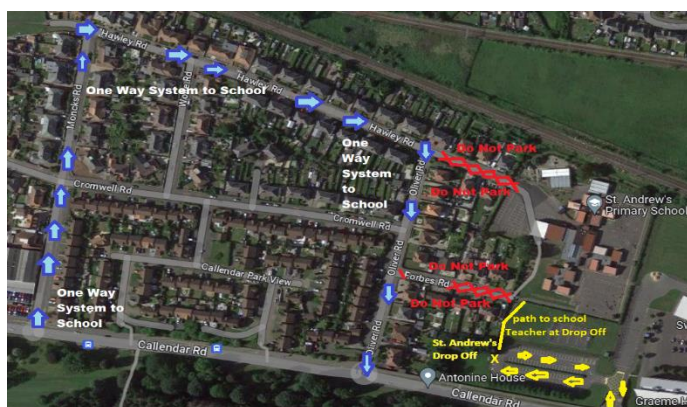
After crossing the car park, I am aware that people are using the gate, opposite the nursery entrance, to gain access the school playground. On frequent occasions this gate is left open which puts our youngest learners in the nursery at risk. This gate should not be opened unless by a member of staff. Instead, please follow allocated path to enter the through the entrance gates.

I appreciate your full support in this matter to ensure that all 400 children, staff and parents of our school are safe while on school grounds.

Parking

You will be aware that the roads outside of the school grounds become incredibly congested which increases the risk to our children when travelling to/from school safely.

For this reason, I strongly encourage you to use our suggested one-way system that was shared by our Parent Council and the Management Team when your child started school. I have included an annotated diagram below as a reminder of the one-way system.



We do understand that this is a change, for some, however if we all work together we can keep our children safe and make journeys to/from school more comfortable for everyone.

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.

If you are finding it challenging to ensure your child maintains good attendance at school, please see the below link which has a range of supports:

[Attendance Supports- Parents and Carers \(thinglink.com\)](https://www.thinglink.com)



Falkirk Council Employment and Training Unit

Falkirk Council's Employment and Training Unit (ETU) offers personalised support for parents who need help progressing their careers or finding employment.

ETU can also help with debt advice, school clothing grant, benefit advice, and free school meals.

Contact 01324 504408 or etu@falkirk.gov.uk to arrange an appointment with one of their friendly team of staff.

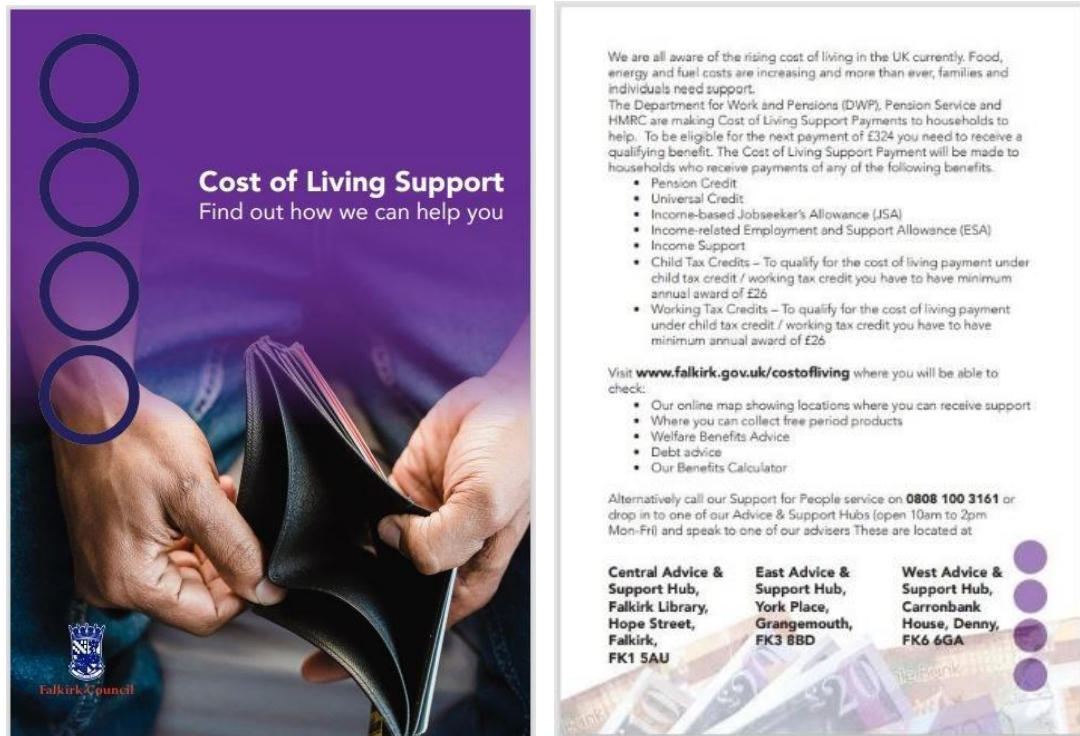
We have had several very positive stories of the experiences of St Andrew's parents working with ETU.



Cost of Living Support

The rising cost of living is impacting many families and individuals. Visit the link below for more information about available support

[News - Cost of living support - how we can help | Falkirk Council](#)



The flyer is divided into two main sections. The left section has a purple background with a photograph of hands holding an empty wallet. On the left side of this section are four white circles stacked vertically. The text 'Cost of Living Support' is in white, with 'Find out how we can help you' below it. The Falkirk Council logo is in the bottom left corner. The right section has a white background with black text. It starts with a paragraph about the rising cost of living and the support available. This is followed by a bulleted list of benefits. Below the list is a paragraph about where to find more information, including a website and a list of support hubs. At the bottom, there are three columns of text listing the locations of the Central, East, and West Advice & Support Hubs. On the right side of this section are three purple circles stacked vertically.

Cost of Living Support
Find out how we can help you

We are all aware of the rising cost of living in the UK currently. Food, energy and fuel costs are increasing and more than ever, families and individuals need support.

The Department for Work and Pensions (DWP), Pension Service and HMRC are making Cost of Living Support Payments to households to help. To be eligible for the next payment of £324 you need to receive a qualifying benefit. The Cost of Living Support Payment will be made to households who receive payments of any of the following benefits.

- Pension Credit
- Universal Credit
- Income-based Jobseeker's Allowance (JSA)
- Income-related Employment and Support Allowance (ESA)
- Income Support
- Child Tax Credits – To qualify for the cost of living payment under child tax credit / working tax credit you have to have minimum annual award of £26
- Working Tax Credits – To qualify for the cost of living payment under child tax credit / working tax credit you have to have minimum annual award of £26

Visit www.falkirk.gov.uk/costofliving where you will be able to check:

- Our online map showing locations where you can receive support
- Where you can collect free period products
- Welfare Benefits Advice
- Debt advice
- Our Benefits Calculator

Alternatively call our Support for People service on **0808 100 3161** or drop in to one of our Advice & Support Hubs (open 10am to 2pm Mon-Fri) and speak to one of our advisers These are located at

Central Advice & Support Hub, Falkirk Library, Hope Street, Falkirk, FK1 5AU	East Advice & Support Hub, York Place, Grangemouth, FK3 8BD	West Advice & Support Hub, Carronbank House, Denny, FK6 6GA
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Diary Dates

Please find below a list of key dates for your diary. Should there be any changes, we will inform you as soon as possible. More information will be issued regarding arrangements/times etc. closer to the time of events.



20th Dec – School closes 1.30pm
6th Jan – School re-opens
29th Jan – P7 Inverclyde meeting – 6pm
12th Feb – Parents' Night
13th Feb – Parents' Night
14th Feb – Holiday
17th Feb – Holiday
18th Feb – In-Service Day (school closed to pupils)
19th Mar – Open Afternoon

Happy Christmas

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your continued support throughout this term. Your input into our school is invaluable and I look forward to continuing to work in partnership in the new year.

On behalf of the pupils and staff of St. Andrew's RC Primary, I would like wish you a happy and peaceful Christmas.

God bless,

David Short
Headteacher

