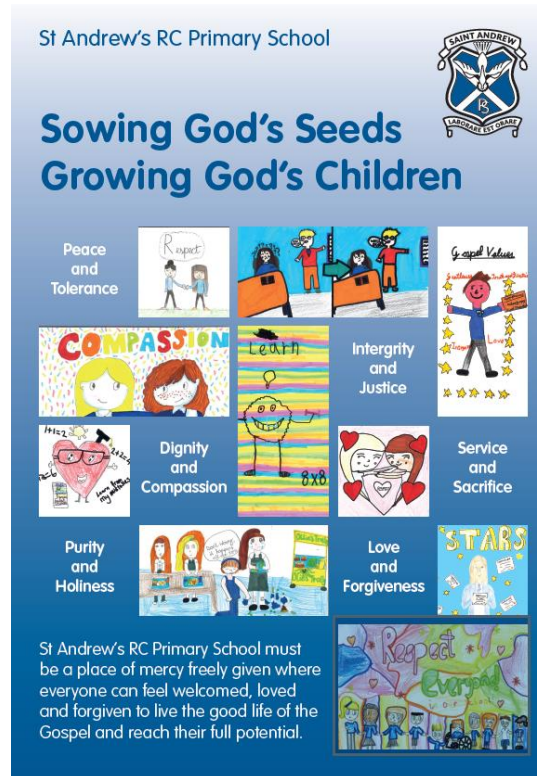


St Andrew's RC Primary School Newsletter

August 2025



Welcome back everyone to a new academic year at St Andrew's Primary School. It has been lovely to see all the happy faces returning to school. 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.

Our School

As a community of faith and learning, we have worked together with pupils, parents, staff and partners to create our vision and aims. This is an important piece of work. It sets out what makes us different from every other school and provides a framework for how we work to ensure our children receive the best possible experience. This is broken down into three components: Vision, Values and Aims.

Our Vision:

Sowing God's Seeds Growing God's Children

Our Aims:

As a community of faith and learning at St. Andrew's, we will work in partnership with parents and carers to form God's people through:

- Fostering positive relationships based on the Gospel Values
 - Nurturing children on their faith journey
 - Providing high quality learning experiences
- Provoking curiosity, inquisitive thinking and problem solving skills
 - Encouraging self-belief and resilience

We are committed to doing this in a happy, loving, safe environment where all children are included, celebrated and valued.

Children will experience creative teaching approaches and participate in engaging experiences so that when they are ready to leave St. Andrew's, they are equipped to use their God given talents to contribute to wider society.

It is really important to us that our Vision and Aims do not just become a message on a poster. It is for this reason, that everything that we do as a school is with this in mind. To do this, we develop a school improvement plan which you can learn more about in more detail below. In addition to this, we have a range of pupil leadership groups who work together to shape how these statements become a reality.

Our Values:

As we are a community of both faith and learning, our pupils, parents and staff told us that it was important that our school values reflected Catholic teaching. It is for this reason that our values are based upon the Gospel Values

Each month we focus on one value. During this time, your child(ren) will learn the actions and behaviours that will allow them to demonstrate our values in their daily lives.

Our focus for this term will be:

September - Peace & Tolerance

October - Gentleness

St Andrew's RC Primary School



Sowing God's Seeds Growing God's Children

Peace and Tolerance			
	Learn	Integrity and Justice	
	Dignity and Compassion		Service and Sacrifice
Purity and Holiness		Love and Forgiveness	

St Andrew's RC Primary School must be a place of mercy freely given where everyone can feel welcomed, loved and forgiven to live the good life of the Gospel and reach their full potential.



Headies Headlines

It is very important to me that you as parents and carers have the opportunity to learn about the work we do to keep improving your child's learning experience. Equally, that you have the opportunity to offer feedback or indeed your skills and talents to our school.

It is for this reason that there will be an opportunity for you to come into school to meet with me each month where I will share some of the work that is happening to keep improving our school.

The first meeting will be Wednesday 10th September at 6pm.

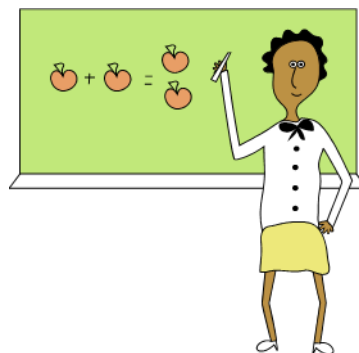
Meet The Teacher

Our Meet the Teacher event is scheduled to take place on Wednesday 3rd September.

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

P1-P3 - 5.30pm-6pm

P4-P7 - 6.10pm-6.40pm



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 Monday 15th 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.

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

Medical

As per Falkirk Council policy, all medicines were returned home at the end of last session. To ensure we are able to keep your child(ren) safe. If you have stipulated that your child has a medical condition, please ensure that medicines are sent into school as a matter of urgency.

Our team are in the process of reviewing all medical and care plans to ensure that we follow guidelines correctly whilst they are in school.

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

The safety of our pupils is and will remain the highest priority. Please support us in adhering to safe parking when dropping your children at school. Parking on pavements, at junctions pose a serious risk to your children.



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 the first few weeks of transition, from next week, we ask that parents of P4-P7 drop off children at the Drop Off point at 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 look so smart 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.



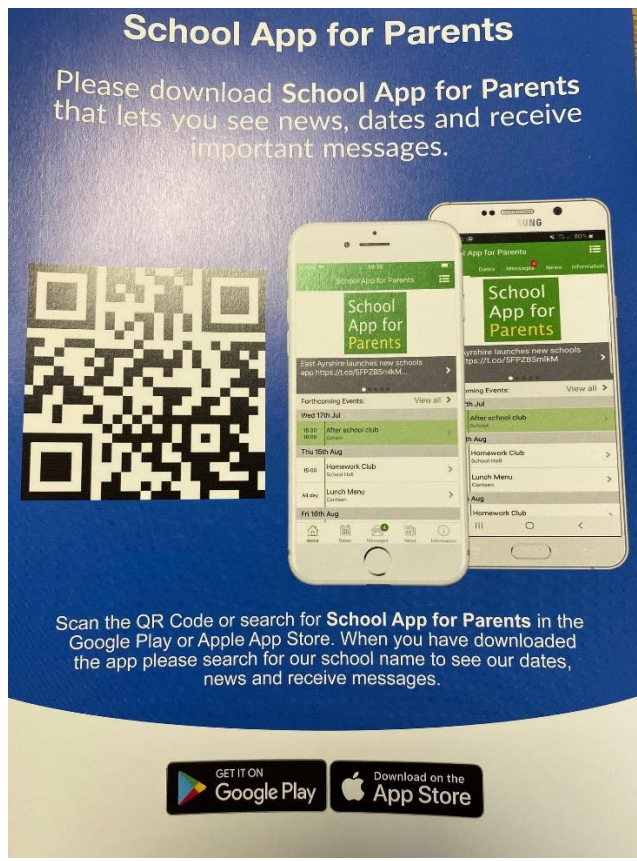
Communication

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

We purchased our School App to support clear communication from school to home a number of years ago now. 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.



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

All official communication will come through the School App and we ask that you check this regularly for updates.

BlueSky/SeeSaw

We have recently created a BlueSky account where we will share whole school events as and when they happen.

For updates regarding your child's learning, these will be on SeeSaw.

We hope you find these updates informative and enjoyable to read.

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.



Attendance Matters



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.

Parent Council & PTA

We are always keen for our parents and carers to be a meaningful part of our school community.



Both our Parent Council and PTA do invaluable work that helps shape the good work we do as a school. To name but a few our Parent Council have helped developed our Vision, Values and Aims and also create family learning events.

Our PTA have supported us to develop our new library and lead brilliant events that the children love.

Dates of our first meetings will be coming soon and I hope to see as many people there as possible.

Bounce-a-Thon

You may recall, last session we had to postpone the PTA Sponsored Bounce-a-Thon due to bad weather. The new date is Friday 26th September - please keep your fingers crossed for a dry day.

Children should come in to school in dress down clothing. To keep children safe, we ask that children wear long sleeves and tracksuit bottoms. More information will follow on a separate letter.

Public Holiday - Monday 8th September

The school will be closed on **Monday 8th September** and reopen on Tuesday 9th September.

All holiday dates for this session, 2025-2026, can be found on our school website and on Falkirk Council's website.

Calendar of Events

A full copy of our Calendar of Events 2025-2026 will be emailed shortly. This information will also be available on the School App and our website. This should allow you to put important dates in your diary at home and plan in advance for any days off work etc.

Whilst we wait on the confirmation of some dates, please find below a copy of events coming up this term.

3rd September - Meet the Teacher

8th September - Public Holiday

10th September - Headies Headlines

15th September - P7 Residential Meeting

26th September - PTA Bounce-a-Thon

8th October - Parents Evening

9th October - Parents Evening

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.

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

God bless,

Mr Short
Headteacher