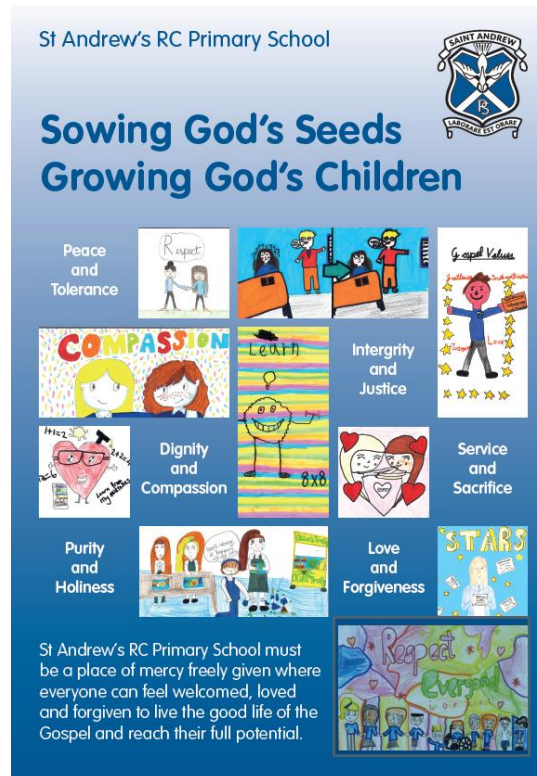


St Andrew's RC Primary School Newsletter

April 2026



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

During this term, children have been learning in assembly, and in class, about the Gospel Values of Dignity & Compassion, 'Forgiveness & Mercy' and 'Service & Sacrifice'. 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 these Values.

January – Dignity & Compassion

P1M – Holly McGuinness

P5M – Jaxon Moodie

P1HS- Ibrahim Adbullah

P5WD – Evie McQueen

P2C – Julia Bielecka

P6A – Amelia Milite

P2/3G – Arthur Knight

P6B – Tedum Ganago

P3S – Niamh Taylor

P7G – Freya Redding

P4C – Isla Baillie

P7L – Lola Barclau

P4G – Archie Lamont

February – Forgiveness & Mercy

P1M – Pheonix O'Holleran

P5M – Oliver Aitken

P1HS- AB Thakkar

P5WD – Riley Quinn

P2C – Hashem Abdullah

P6A – Leo Hanlon

P2/3G – Christina Rafferty

P6B – Esther Adeniji-ilori

P3S – Leo Wroblewski

P7G – Holly Macrae

P4C – Crawford Sutherland

P7L – Zak Dobson

P4G – Harry Renton

March – Service & Sacrifice

P1M – Chloe Muomah

P5M – Ava-Mai Batchelor

P1HS- Esme Gate

P5WD – Niamh Nolan

P2C – Bonnie Lyon

P6A – Zuzanna Matyga

P2/3G – Jamie Radziszewski

P6B – Callum Duffy

P3S – Oliver Dunabie

P7G – Bronwyn Berrick

P4C – Areej Hamad

P7L – Jude McPherson

P4G – Molly Smith

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

Sacrament of Reconciliation

Our Primary 3 pupils received the Sacrament of Reconciliation on Monday 23rd February. I would like to thank their teachers, Miss Grant and Miss Sloan, and Father Joshua, for all their hard work in preparing our pupils for this wonderful sacrament.

Please continue to keep them all in your prayers.



Holy Week

A number of children led us in reflection and prayer on Holy Thursday. During this, we learned about love being an action and how we can demonstrate this at home and at school.



Eco Week

Thank you to our Eco Committee who led our school in learning during Eco Week. The children visit classes, delivered assemblies and organised fun activities for everyone.

What a great week, thank you boys and girls!



Lenten Fundraising

Throughout this period of Lent, our Pupil Council organised a series of fundraising activities to raise funds for the SCIAF Wee Box Appeal.

Pupils enjoyed participating in the sponsored Wiggle Walk – this was great fun and even the rain didn't dampen our spirits.

Thanks to your generosity and support, we have managed to raise an amazing £1399 – thank you!

Thank you to Miss Gallagher for supporting the Pupil Council with the planning for these events.



Sporting Success

Our School Football Team have been working hard during training sessions with Mr Laird. The children have attended a tournament in March and won all of their matches!

Of course, winning a tournament is an exciting occasion for us as a school. However, I am most proud of these children for demonstrating our values in action.

I'd also like to thank Mr Laird for his commitment to the team. This is a great experience for our children.



School 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 the uniform policy is adding to this, please speak with myself or the school management team who can provide supports.

As we draw closer to the Summer holidays, there has been an increase in the number of children wearing trainers to school. I understand families may be waiting until the new term to purchase replacement school shoes. However, I would like to remind you the trainers are not permitted in school and they do not form part of our uniform policy.

Summer Term Arrangements

I write in hope that this message may bring us a bit of sunshine. As we move into the final term of school, children are invited to wear summer clothing: summer dresses and shorts.

In the event of warm weather, the school follow NHS Sun Safe guidelines ([Sunscreen and sun safety - NHS \(www.nhs.uk\)](https://www.nhs.uk)). To do this we ask that you provide:

- A sun hat
- Sun cream
- Water bottle

As learning can take place outside of the classroom, staff will pay due diligence to limit sun exposure during hot days. However, we ask that you also pay due caution to risks posed by the sun and ensure that your child is wearing sun cream before they come to school. Unfortunately, we are not in a position whereby we can provide this as a school or apply sun cream to individual children. However, staff will support your child in reapplying sun cream and direct children to shaded areas in the playground to ensure they are safe and comfortable.

Ice Poles

As always, our Pupil Council will sell Ice Poles in the playground on a Friday. However, as we are living in Scotland, we all know that we can have four seasons in a day. Therefore, if there is an alternative warm day of that



week, ice poles will be sold then. Details of this will be provided on the School App closer to the time.

Achievements

It has been a real joy to celebrate the out of school achievements with the children this year. Not that it is of any surprise to all of 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.



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.

That 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.

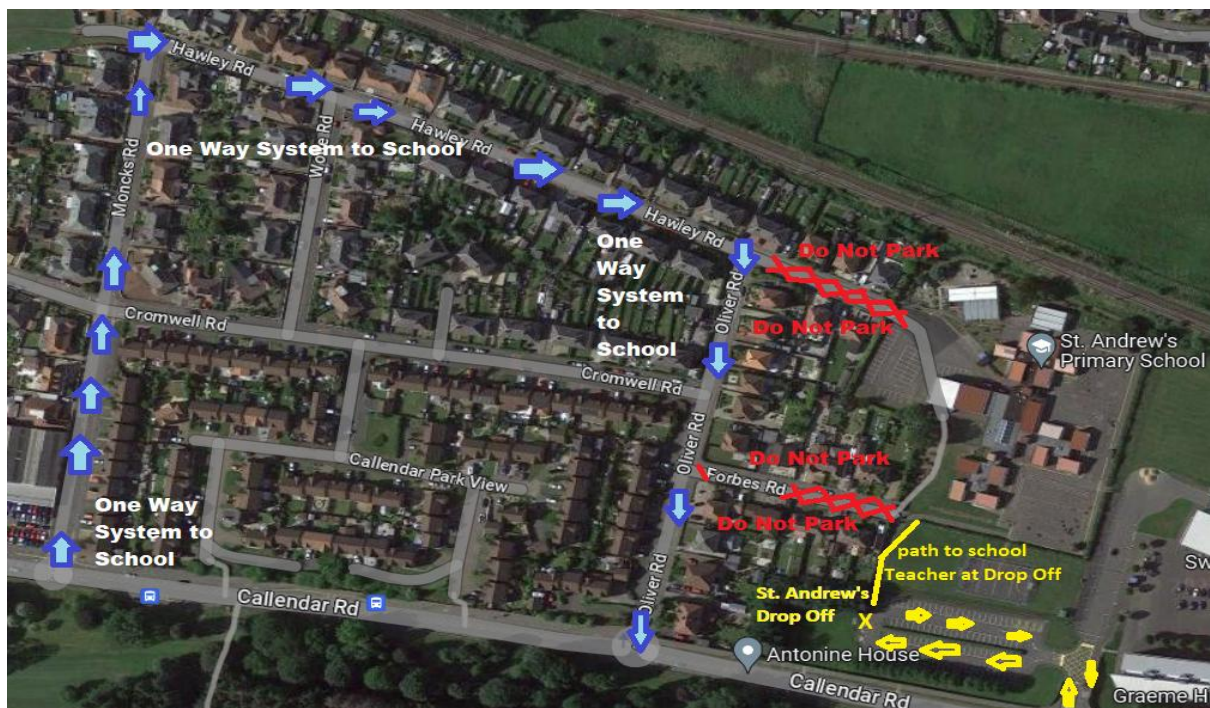
I appreciate your full support in this matter to ensure that all 400 children, staff and parents of our school are safe while on school grounds.

Parking

As you know, I have been working with Police Scotland, Falkirk Council Roads department, Local Councillors and our Parent Council to look at ways to improve the

traffic during drop off/pick up times. 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.

I am saddened to write to inform you that, despite regular reminders of safe driving and parking out with the school gates, we have had three incidents where children have almost been run over by cars. Each of these incidents have been a direct result of people parking close to the school gates or parking over junctions. I am sure you will agree this is really worrying for our children and parents and is completely avoidable. As well as the risk this poses for children entering and leaving the school gates, I am concerned that in the event of a serious incident, emergency services will not be able to access our school grounds.

It is for this reason that all incidents of unsafe parking will be reported directly to Police Scotland.

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 continue 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

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 Senior Leadership 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.

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.

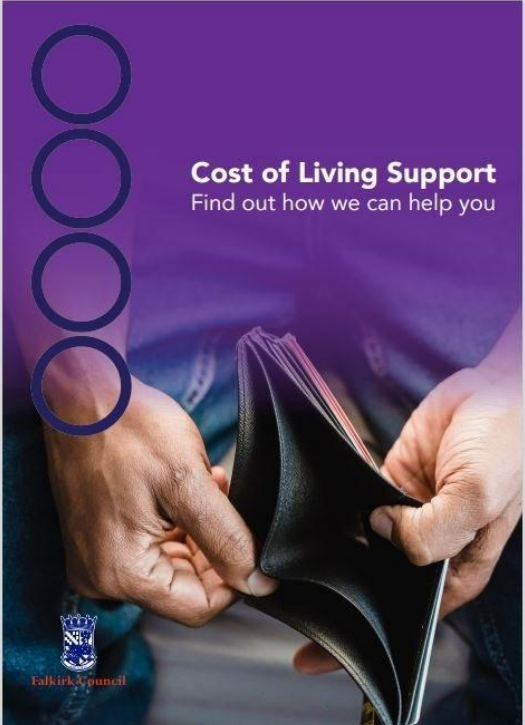
We have had several very positive stories of the experiences of St Andrew's parents working with ETU.



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](#)



Cost of Living Support

Find out how we can help you

Falkirk Council

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 April** – School Opens
- 20th April** – Eco Week
- 24th April** – Go Green Day
- 29th April** – Easter Mass (in school)
- 30th April** – P4 & P5 Easter Performance
- 1st May** – In-Service Day
- 4th May** - Public Holiday
- 1st June** – World of Work Week
- 8th June** – P7 Residential Trip
- 13th June** – P7 Confirmation – St. Francis Xavier’s Church (11am)
- 14th June** – First Holy Communion (St Anthony’s – 11am)
- 15th June** – P7 Transition to St. Mungo’s
- 16th June** - P7 Transition to St. Mungo’s/P2-P6 Move Up Afternoon/P1 Induction
- 17th June** – Winner House Prize
- 19th June** – P7 Leavers’ Mass (time tbc)
- 21st June** – First Holy Communion (St. Francis Xavier’s: P4C 10am & P4G 12noon)
- 23rd June** – P1 Picnic
- 24th June** – Sports Day
- 26th June** – School closes at 1.30pm

I hope you have found this information useful in helping to prepare your child for school and thank you for your continued support.

God bless,

David Short
Headteacher