



N E W S L E T T E R

Dear Parents/Carers and community of St Fergus' RC Primary School,

I hope you all had a fantastic summer and ready to go for another busy and exciting year in St Fergus.

We are delighted to welcome all of our returning children and families to St Fergus and a special welcome to the new families in P1 and across the school. Thank you for choosing to send your children to St Fergus and we look forward to working with you in partnership to give your child the best learning experience possible.

I look forward to meeting with you all throughout the year at the variety of events we offer.

As always, we welcome your calls and your queries so please do not hesitate to get in touch if we can be of help.

Many thanks, once again, for your support of our school.

Mr D Bald, Head Teacher

PARENT COUNCIL

All parents are invited and encouraged to St Fergus Parent Council.



Please come along to our first Parent Council Meeting on Wednesday 28 August 2019 at 6pm in the school. This is a social event for parents and carers to come together to talk about the school's successes and ways to make your child's learning experience even better. **Please be assured that you won't need to sign up for additional work or an office bearer position.**

There will be child care arrangements in place so you can bring your children along if you do not have any childcare.

STAFFING

We are delighted to be starting this academic year with our full compliment of teaching staff. A special welcome to Miss Adams and Mr Christie who started with us this year.

Teaching Staff

- P1—Mrs Britton
- P2— Mrs Wilkie
- P3—Miss Adams
- P4—Ms Quinn
- P5—Mr Christie
- P6—Mr Munro
- P7—Mr Hay

Supporting Learners—Mrs McDonagh, Miss Gunning and Mrs Mitchell.

Support Staff

Mrs Fleming (Admin), Keith Gibson (SFDW), Miss Clancy (Senior LCA), Mr Rennie (LCA), Miss Mulholland (LCA), Miss Smith (LCA), Mrs Strachan (PEYSA) and Mrs McDonald (PEYSA).

Senior Leadership Team

Mr Bald (HT), Miss Hendry (Acting DHT) and Mrs Smith (PT Supporting Learners)



Safe
Teamwork

Faith
Excellence
Responsible
Growth
Unique
Successful

Love, Respect

Happiness & Friendship

In St Fergus RC Primary School we aim:-

To create an inclusive community of Faith and Learning through nurture, love and care where all children feel safe, happy and develop their God Given Talents.

To provide a motivating and engaging learning environment which ensures high-quality learning experiences to allow each individual to maximise their successes and achievements.

To work in partnership with our whole school community to improve outcomes for all our children based on relationships of mutual trust and respect.

PROMOTING AND SUPPORTING LEARNER ATTENDANCE

In close partnerships with parents we will continue to monitor attendance and lateness on a monthly basis. This is to ensure that every child within St Fergus continues to grow, learn and develop. Towards the end of last session we started a monthly award for the class with the highest attendance as suggested by the Pupil Council. This was a great success and helped to improve the attendance by around 4%. If you would like to discuss attendance, please do not hesitate to contact Keith on 07930260531.

If your child is absent from school you must contact the school office on 436495 on each day of absence. There is an answer machine available so please call at anytime. If we have not been informed of a reason we will contact you via text message and/or phone call.

This is based on a school year's attendance (190 days)

| Percentage | School Days Missed | Outlook for your child |
|-----------------------|--|--|
| 100% Excellent | 0 Days | Gives your child the best chance of success |
| 95% Good | 9 days (1 week and 4 days) | |
| 90% Below Average | 19 days (3 weeks and 4 days) | Starts to become harder for your child to progress |
| 85% Unsatisfactory | 29 days (5 weeks and 4 days) | Serious Implications Harder to make and maintain friendships |
| 80% Unsatisfactory | 39 days (7 weeks and 4 days) <i>Same as Autumn Term (Aug-Oct)</i> | Becomes difficult to catch up with work A child with below 85% attendance can be referred to Attendance Review Meeting |
| 70% Unacceptable | 57 days (11 weeks and 2 days) <i>Same as Spring Term (Jan-Mar)</i> | Very Serious Implications Extremely difficult to catch up with work Increased risk of social isolation Child unlikely to have a positive view of education Becomes harder to succeed; unlikely to gain qualifications, resulting in a difficult transition to positive destination (employment, further education) Extremely likely to impact on confidence, self-esteem and mental health Procedures for prosecution |

LEARNING TOGETHER SESSIONS

After the success of the learning together sessions last year we will continue them again. This is an excellent opportunity for you to come and learn with your child in school. It gives you an opportunity to see them learning in school and talk to them about their learning.

They will be 9-10am or 2.15-3.15pm. This will give you 30 minutes in the classroom with your child and 30 minutes to have a cup of tea, coffee and biscuit and have a chat with other parent/carers and staff. All parents/carers and family members are welcome to attend.

The dates for this session will be:

- Thursday 29 August 9-10am
- Tuesday 26 November 2.15-3.15pm
- Wednesday 5 February 9-10am
- Monday 23 March 2.15-3.15pm



SUMMER FAIR

A special thank you to our Parent Council for their efforts in organising and running our 50th Anniversary Summer Fair. Thanks to all our parents, families and children who came along and had a fantastic day.



RELATIONSHIPS POLICY

Last term we spent a lot of work moving away from our Behaviour Management Policy to creating a Relationships Policy. Underpinning our Relationships Policy is a Restorative Approach that is being introduced across all Dundee City school and across the country.

Restorative approaches offers a powerful approach to promoting harmonious relationships in schools and can lead to the successful resolution of conflict and harm. In St Fergus Primary, it forms part of a whole school approach to building positive relationships as a focus for supporting high quality learning and building a positive school culture and ethos where everyone treats each other with **love and respect**.

In the coming weeks please look out for 'Yellow Good News' Letters which will be used to celebrate and recognise our learners.

The blueprint below details our whole school approach. We will discuss this further at the next Parent Council Meeting.

St Fergus RC Primary School Behaviour Blueprint



Please take note of the following dates. We will keep you informed of any changes.

| Date | Day | Event |
|-----------|-----------|---|
| 15-Aug-19 | Thursday | Feast of The Assumption. Mass in the church at 1.45pm |
| 28-Aug-19 | Wednesday | 6.00pm Parent Council Meeting |
| 29-Aug-19 | Thursday | 9.00-10.00am - Learning Together Session |
| 29-Aug-19 | Thursday | 10.30am - Coffee Morning for Families Connect Information |
| 29-Aug-19 | Thursday | 11.30am - P1 Lunch with Parents |
| 2-Sep-19 | Monday | P1s start full time |
| 4-Sep-19 | Wednesday | Families Connect Session 1 |
| 4-Sep-19 | Wednesday | 1.45pm - P1 Welcome Mass in Church TBC |
| 6-Sep-19 | Friday | August Attendance Meeting |
| 9-Sep-19 | Monday | Hands Up Survey |
| 9-Sep-19 | Monday | P2 Pause Prompt Praise |
| 11-Sep-19 | Wednesday | Families Connect Session 2 |
| 16-Sep-19 | Monday | Snap Shot Week |
| 16-Sep-19 | Monday | P2 Pause Prompt Praise |
| 18-Sep-19 | Wednesday | Families Connect Session 3 |
| 18-Sep-19 | Wednesday | 12.30pm - P7s at Safe Taysiders |
| 23-Sep-19 | Monday | P2 Pause Prompt Praise |
| 24-Sep-19 | Tuesday | Tempest Photographs |
| 25-Sep-19 | Wednesday | Families Connect Session 4 |
| 27-Sep-19 | Friday | MacMillan Coffee Morning |
| 30-Sep-19 | Monday | P2 Pause Prompt Praise |
| 02-Oct-19 | Wednesday | Families Connect Session 5 |
| 02-Oct-19 | Wednesday | September Attendance Meeting |
| 07-Oct-19 | Monday | October Holidays—School Closed for 2 weeks |
| 21-Oct-19 | Monday | Term 2 begins. 9am |

SCHOOL HOLIDAYS 2019-2020

School Holidays

Monday 7 October 2019—Friday 18 October 2019

Friday 14 February 2020

Monday 23 December 2019—Monday 6 January 2020

Monday 17 February 2020

Monday 30 March 2020—Friday 10 April 2020

Monday 4 May 2020

Monday 29 June 2020—Friday 16 August 2020

PARENTAL COMMUNICATION


We aim to continue to improve our ways of communication with parents and carers. Key information and dates will be shared on the school app and twitter feed as early as possible. As we embark on our ECO School journey we will send letters and newsletters on email. Please ensure we have the most up-to-date email contact and mobile number.

We will continue to use our text message service but this will be for emergencies only.

How to contact us...

St Fergus' RC Primary School
Scotsraig Lane
Dundee
DD2 3TP



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 st-fergus.primary@dundee.gov.uk

 @StFergusPrimary