



# St. Andrew's Primary Parent Newsletter

Dear Parent,

Where does the time go? Here we are back at school ready for a new educational year and the challenges ahead. I hope you all had a restful holiday and the weather didn't spoil it too much.

This is the first Parent Newsletter of the year which, I hope, will give you some useful information.

### Welcomes

First of all a big welcome to our new Primary 1 children. We are looking forward to working with them and their parents in the years ahead.

We have had quite a number of children who started in various classes throughout the school. We hope they settle in and feel part of the family of St. Andrew's Primary.

A big welcome to Miss Graham who is working in P2(2), Miss Boyle in P6/7 and Miss Fraser in P4/5. Also, welcome to our new janitor Miss Paterson.

### Changes

As you know our long standing 'lollipop' lady, Cathy Gillan retired after 31 dedicated years in St. Andrew's. We had a lovely presentation assembly to mark the occasion on Friday 28<sup>th</sup> August. We wish Cathy a long and happy retirement and hope that she never has to stand in the snow or rain again!

Also Mr O'Hagan our Brass Tutor is leaving us and moving on to pastures new. He will be replaced by Mr Thompson who will now come in on a Friday.

Mrs Bryson our Violin Tutor has changed from a Monday to a Tuesday.

Lastly Mr Holmes has now left and has been replaced by Mrs Caulfield.

### Communication by E-mail

As you are aware St. Andrew's Primary School send communication by e-mail, e.g. Parent Newsletters, Reminders and notification of meetings etc. If you have not been receiving e-mails from the school this term please update your e-mail address with the school staff via [office@st-andrews.e-dunbarton.sch.uk](mailto:office@st-andrews.e-dunbarton.sch.uk) and we will add your address to our directory. If you do not have an e-mail account, please send a note into your child's teacher requesting hard copies to be sent home.

### Allergies

I would like to remind all parents that any foods containing nuts are not to be brought into school. We have a number of children with allergies and it is for this reason that I bring to your attention our **NO NUT** policy. Thank you for your co-operation.

### Annual Data Check Forms

We have recently sent out your child's Annual Data Check Form

for you to check and make appropriate amendments. I would appreciate if you could return this to the school as soon as possible. If during the school year you would like to make any changes to the details we hold for your child, please request a new form via the class teacher or from the school office.

I appreciate that there is a lot of information in this newsletter, but I thought it would be useful to have all the dates in advance. I will however send reminders for some of these events.

I look forward to meeting and working with you throughout the coming year.

Yours sincerely,

Mr. J Kerr  
Headteacher

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## School Information

### Coffee Mornings

These take place on a Wednesday at 9.00am and everyone is welcome. A chance for an informal chat with staff and to meet other parents. The dates are as follows:

2 Sep	7 Oct	11 Nov	9 Dec	13 Jan	17 Feb	2 Mar	20 Apr	4 May	15 Jun
16 Sep	28 Oct	25 Nov		27 Jan		16 Mar		18 May	
30 Sep						30 Mar			

### Parent/Teacher Interviews

Monday	5 October 2015	7.00 – 9.00pm
Wednesday	7 October 2015	3.30 – 6.00pm
Tuesday	29 March 2016	7.00 – 9.00pm
Thursday	31 March 2016	3.30 – 6.00pm

### Home Learning Forum

These meetings which focus on various aspects of school life and how children learn will take place in school on the following dates:

Tuesday	22 September	2.00pm
Tuesday	27 October	2.00pm
Tuesday	17 November	1.30pm
Tuesday	19 January	2.00pm
Tuesday	16 February	2.00pm
Tuesday	22 March	2.00pm
Tuesday	26 April	2.00pm
Tuesday	24 May	2.00pm

### Storytelling

Come and tell a story to a group of children 2.20 – 2.50pm on the dates below:

Thursday	10 September 2015	Roald Dahl	2.15pm
Thursday	26 November 2015	Scottish Stories	2.15pm
Thursday	3 March 2016	World Book Day	2.15pm
Thursday	12 May 2016	Stories from Around the World	2.15pm

## School Information

### Curriculum Workshops

As there have been so many changes to the curriculum and in approaches to teaching and learning and because this change is ongoing we will be holding regular curriculum workshops for parents. These workshops will be of a more general nature than the Class/Stage Curriculum meetings, but will be very useful in helping you understand and support the teaching and learning of your child. As part of these workshops you will also be able to visit your child's class and see them in action! To give you advance notice, the dates are as follows:

Class	Day	Date	Time	Content
Primaries 1 – 3	Wednesday	28 October	10.30am	Literacy
Primaries 4 – 7	Wednesday	28 October	1.30pm	Literacy
Primaries 1 – 3	Wednesday	24 February	10.30am	Numeracy
Primaries 4 - 7	Wednesday	24 February	1.30pm	Numeracy

In the meantime please remember you are most welcome to visit the school at any time to discuss your child's progress and general well-being, all it take is a telephone call to arrange an appointment.

### Parent Council

There are several ways in which you can participate in school life and shape developments within the school. One of the main groups in which parents are represented is the Parent Council.

Parent Council meetings are scheduled to take place on the following dates:

Parent Council Meeting	Tuesday 1 September	7.00pm
<b>Parent Council &amp; PTA AGM</b>	<b>Tuesday 15 September</b>	<b>7.00pm</b>
Parent Council Meeting	Tuesday 27 October 2015	7.00pm
Parent Council Meeting	Tuesday 19 January 2016	7.00pm
Parent Council Meeting	Tuesday 22 March 2016	7.00pm
Parent Council Meeting	Tuesday 3 may 2016	7.00pm
Parent Council Meeting	Tuesday 7 June 2016	7.00pm

# School Information

## School Uniform

At the beginning of a new academic year may I take this opportunity to remind you of our school uniform. Please ensure that your child's uniform is clearly marked with their name and class.

<u>Girls</u>	<u>Boys</u>
White/Grey Shirt	White/Grey Shirt
School Tie	School Tie
Polo Shirt	Polo Shirt
Grey Skirt	Grey Trousers
Red Gingham Dress	
Maroon Sweatshirt	Maroon Sweatshirt
Maroon Cardigan	Maroon Jumper
Grey/White Socks	Grey Socks
Grey Tights	
Black Shoes	Black Shoes



## Attendance

### Family Holidays during Term-time

The Local Authority has requested that parents be provided with the following information.

You will probably be aware from announcements in the press and the media, the guidance on school attendance and absence issued by The Scottish Executive Education Department explicitly states that children missing school during term time as a result of a family holiday will have the absence recorded as unauthorised. Only in exceptional circumstances and with prior agreement from the school and where it is judged that the holiday is important to the wellbeing and cohesion of the family, following a serious or terminal illness, bereavement or other traumatic events, will a Headteacher record a child's absence authorised.

Other reasons for taking a child on holiday during term time such as the availability of cheap holidays or desired accommodation, poor weather conditions during school holidays or holidays which overlap the beginning or end of term will not be recognised by the school as justifying an authorised absence.

I hope that the above clarifies the situation in relation to children being absent from school as a result of family holidays during term time.

# School Information

## Attendance

### Attendance Monitoring

To ensure your child's safety please telephone or e-mail the school office before **9.00am** if they are going to be absent from school. If we do not receive notification we will call you to check that your child is safely at home. Also, if your child has been absent from school please send in a note on their return to school verifying their absence.

## School Library

We are in need of more Parents to help out in our School Library. If you feel you could help out in any way, the parents meet on a Tuesday and Thursday afternoon at 1.30pm in the Library Area of the school. Please complete the attached form indicating which days you would be able to help and return to the school. You will need to have a PVG Disclosure. Forms are available from the office.

## Health and Safety

### School Grounds/Car Parking

Parking in the bus bay, school drive or car park **is not** permitted. Parking in these areas endangers children's safety and creates considerable difficulties for the bus drivers. In the interests of all children's safety, you must refrain from parking in the above areas. I shall be grateful if you will avoid parking in areas which cause problems for the residents in Castlehill and College Gate. There is a car park near The Six Bells which can be used as an alternative. The manager of Morning, Noon and Night Store has also requested that parents refrain from parking in a manner which prevents deliveries being made.

### Playground Safety

To ensure the safety of all children, I would appreciate if you would speak to your child/ren about running in the playground at 3.00pm, when they are either heading for their school bus, or to meet their parent. We are experiencing a high number of bumps and bruises at this time. If you pick your child up in the playground, please ensure that they stay at your side until outside of the school gates.

### School Security

In the interest of security, please note that all parents and visitors are asked to report to the school office on arrival at the school. If you are returning your child to school following an appointment, or if you have a message to be passed on to your child, the office staff will be pleased to assist.

## St. Andrew's Primary PTA

Whilst shopping online, if you go via the web site [www.easyfundraising.org.uk](http://www.easyfundraising.org.uk) and then search for St Andrew's Primary PPTA - Bearsden, there are thousands of retailers linked through it who will give a varying percentage of whatever you spend to our school funds.

In case you weren't aware, there is a container to drop off old clothes, shoes, curtains etc in the school car park at the rear of the building, for which the school receives money to boost funds.

Some parents and Mrs McConnell are keen to run a MacMillan Coffee morning on Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> September at 9am in the library area. In order to do so, we require the following:

1. Volunteers to help us on the day to set up and serve tea and coffee;
2. Donations of home baking;
3. Donations of raffle prizes, to help boost funds;
4. Parents, grandparents, aunties, uncles etc to support the event by coming in after school drop off and joining us for a coffee and some delicious home baking.

This is a great opportunity to catch up with friends and also to meet parents from other years and families new to the school.

## TEAM LEWIS

We have been super busy behind the scenes here at The Team Lewis Foundation organising our Training day for professionals that may encounter siblings of sick babies or children in their working day.

Our thoughts are teachers, nursery school teachers, and paediatric nurses and medical staff, if you fall under any of those categories or one which we have not thought of and would like to come along please get in touch.

The idea of the day is to help people be 'sibling aware' and to help your organisation come up with a plan as to what you can do in house to help support and care for our siblings.

We have decided to put on our first training day for free, so this is no cost to the delegates.

The training is on the 23rd November at a Glasgow based venue.

# St. Andrew's Primary PTA

We hope everyone had a lovely summer break. For those families who are new to the school, a very warm welcome from the PTA. We are a group of parents who arrange events to raise funds to enhance our children's experience at the school. This year, so far, we're delighted to welcome three new members to our team. We're always grateful of new members, but even if you can't manage along to our meetings, we always need assistance from the wider parent community with our social events so there will be plenty of opportunities to volunteer during the year! Our meetings are held in the school on Tuesdays at 7pm and last no more than an hour. If you would like more information, please contact Anne MacIntosh on 07866 009078.

## The dates for this session are:

25 August  
 15 September (AGM with Parent Council)  
 27 October  
 24 November  
 19 January 2016  
 23 February 2016  
 22 March 2016  
 3 May 2016  
 31 May 2016

We are delighted to tell you that we won Asda, Bearsden's "green token" competition! A cheque for £200 was given to the PTA, which will be put to great use on treats for the children. Sincere thanks to everyone who took the time to vote for us and to Asda for their extreme generosity, much appreciated.



We're proposing the following events for this forthcoming session (details of exact timings and venues to follow):

Friday 18th September	Quiz Night - evening
Saturday 24th October	Photographer - day time
Friday 30th October	Halloween disco (P4s - P7s only) - evening
Saturday 28th November	Christmas film morning
Friday 4th December	Christmas discos for all the children - evening
March 2016 - date TBC	Family Fun Night
Friday 3rd June 2016	Ladies Charity Night
Friday 17th June 2016	Family BBQ - evening

## St. Andrew's Parish

### Altar Servers

Anyone (who has made his/her First Holy Communion) who would like to become an Altar Server at St Andrew's Church is invited to contact Chris Sanders (942 7519) or Fr. Mackle (942 4635), who will gladly take your details.



Training sessions are due to commence soon.

### Netball

Netball Club resumed on Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> September. If any female adults wish to play recreational fun netball on a Wednesday evening at Donald Drewar please contact 0780693518.



### News

### Vouchers

We would greatly appreciate any vouchers that you receive from your supermarket being sent to the school, as they go towards getting PE Equipment, ICT Resources, books for the





## **Religious Events: Session 2015 / 2016**

*These are the events to which you are very welcome to attend*

First Friday Mass	P6	Friday 2 <sup>nd</sup> October	
Service of Commitment in Church	P3	Sunday 25 <sup>th</sup> October	10.00am
Remembrance Prayer Service	P7 & P6/7	Tuesday 3 <sup>rd</sup> November	2.00pm
Remembrance Prayer Service	P6	Thursday 5 <sup>th</sup> November	2.00pm
First Friday Mass	P5 & P4/5	Friday 6 <sup>th</sup> November	
Remembrance Prayer Service	P5 & P4/5	Tuesday 10 <sup>th</sup> November	2.00pm
Remembrance Prayer Service	P4	Thursday 12 <sup>th</sup> November	2.00pm
Remembrance Prayer Service	P3 Classes	Tuesday 17 <sup>th</sup> November	2.00pm
Remembrance Prayer Service	P2 Classes	Thursday 19 <sup>th</sup> November	2.00pm
Remembrance Prayer Service	P1 Classes	Tuesday 24 <sup>th</sup> November	2.00pm
Mass – In School	Whole School	Monday 30 <sup>th</sup> November	11.00am
First Friday Mass	P7 & P6/7	Friday 4 <sup>th</sup> December	
Carol Service in Church	Whole School	Tuesday 22 <sup>nd</sup> December	10.00am
Reconciliation Parents Meeting in Church Hall	P3 Classes	Thursday 14 <sup>th</sup> January	7.00pm
First Communion Parents Meeting in Church Hall	P4	Thursday 28 <sup>th</sup> January	7.00pm
First Friday Mass	P6	Friday 5 <sup>th</sup> February	
Lenten Service	P1 & P2	Tuesday 1 <sup>st</sup> March	2.00pm
First Friday Mass	P5 & P4/5	Friday 4 <sup>th</sup> March	
Reconciliation Service	P3	Tuesday 8 <sup>th</sup> March	2.00pm
Reconciliation Service	P4 & 4s of 4/5	Thursday 10 <sup>th</sup> March	2.00pm
Stations of the Cross (P7)	P6	Tuesday 15 <sup>th</sup> March	
Stations of the Cross (P7)	P5	Wednesday 16 <sup>th</sup> March	
Stations of the Cross (P7)	P4	Thursday 17 <sup>th</sup> March	
Easter Service in Church	Whole School	Thursday 24 <sup>th</sup> March	10.00am
First Friday Mass	P7 & P6/7	Friday 1 <sup>st</sup> April	
Stage Mass	P7 & P6/7	Tuesday 26 <sup>th</sup> April	2.00pm
Stage Mass	P6	Thursday 28 <sup>th</sup> April	2.00pm
First Friday Mass	P6	Friday 6 <sup>th</sup> May	
Stage Mass	P5 & P4/5	Tuesday 10 <sup>th</sup> May	2.00pm
Rehearsal for First Communion (1)	P4	Thursday 12 <sup>th</sup> May	After 10.00am Mass
First Communion (1)	P4	Sunday 15 <sup>th</sup> May	12.00pm
Rehearsal for First Communion (2)	P4	Thursday 19 <sup>th</sup> May	After 10.00am Mass
First Communion (2)	P4	Sunday 22 <sup>nd</sup> May	12.00pm
First Friday Mass	P4 & 4s of 4/5	Friday 3 <sup>rd</sup> June	
Thanksgiving Service in Church	P4	Sunday 5 <sup>th</sup> June	12.00pm
Leavers Mass	P7	Thursday 23 <sup>rd</sup> June	10.00am

<b>August 2015</b>	
Teachers return (In-service day)	Thursday 13 August
In-service day	Friday 14 August
Pupils return	Monday 17 August
<b>September 2015</b>	
September weekend	Friday 25 September to Monday 28 September (Inclusive)
Pupils return	Tuesday 29 September
<b>October 2015</b>	
In-service day	Friday 09 October
October break	Monday 12 October to Friday 16 October (Inclusive)
Pupils return	Monday 19 October
<b>December 2015 and January 2016</b>	
Christmas and New Year	Wednesday 23 December to Tuesday 05 January (Inclusive)
Pupils return	Wednesday 06 January
<b>February 2016</b>	
February break	Monday 08 February to Tuesday 09 February (Inclusive)
In-service day	Wednesday 10 February
Pupils return	Thursday 11 February
<b>April 2016</b>	
Easter weekend	Friday 25 March to Monday 28 March (Inclusive)
Easter break	Monday 04 April to Friday 15 April (Inclusive)
Pupils return	Monday 18 April
<b>May 2016</b>	
May day	Monday 02 May
In-service	Thursday 26 May
May weekend	Friday 27 May to Monday 30 May (Inclusive)
Pupils return	Tuesday 31 May
<b>June 2016</b>	
Last day of school	Tuesday 28 June

**Comments**

Name of Child \_\_\_\_\_ Class \_\_\_\_\_

Please comment on any issues or concerns.

Signature of Parent \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Thank you.



**St Andrew's Primary School  
Parent Helpers for Library  
Session 2015-2016**

Name of Child \_\_\_\_\_ Class \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Parent \_\_\_\_\_ Tel. No. \_\_\_\_\_

I will be able to help in the Library on (please tick the appropriate box(es))

Tuesday Afternoon

Both Afternoons

Thursday Afternoon

Signature of Parent \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_