



## January and February School News Update

The school community of St. Peter's Primary School extends a 'Happy New Year' to all children, their families and the community. We hope the children had an enjoyable, fun and restful Christmas holiday period and are energised and excited to commence the new term ahead.

## School Improvement Priority 1 Update - Raising Attainment in Reading by June 2024

School staff have been working collaboratively to review and moderate Curriculum for Excellence planning, learning pathways and learning and teaching methods in reading with the aim to raise attainment in reading across the school from P1-7. Improvements have aimed to ensure reading pathways enable learners the opportunity to meet National Benchmarks and that they are consistent with South Lanarkshire guidance pathways. A review of the curriculum has focused on identifying, clarifying and direct teaching key reading skills within CfE Early, First and Second Level.

A consistent, age appropriate, approach to detailing the definition of reading skills is being piloted across the school from February 2024. Additional PM reading resources have been purchased to allow for use of an additional four PM reading levels to be covered in Primary 3 prior to progression to independent Novel Studies. Given some of the school reading resources used from Primary 4 to 7 are now out of print, the school is seeking to widen the reading resources available. This development has included the purchasing of Novel Studies, Complete Comprehension Resources, Primary Education Resources, Reading Egg Subscriptions and additional reading comprehension materials. Staff have continued to consider how Reciprocal Reading strategies can be used to support reading for understanding. Staff training on Reflective Reading is scheduled for March 2024 with the hope that additional strategies and approaches can be considered. A lunch-time Reading Club has been offered. The Scotland Reads Programme has been re-established to offer reading opportunities to specific learners. A Reading Project which seeks to review our library facility, in collaboration with South Lanarkshire Council, is due to be undertaken later in the term.

## How parents can support reading for understanding at home?

- Support reading aloud practise at home.
- Support children to discuss home learning reading tasks.
- Play games to help children read and recall sounds, common words and key words at pace.
- Encourage regular reading of a variety of texts and media for enjoyment at home.
- Encourage children to attempt to read more challenging (age appropriate) texts.
- Discuss the content of reading texts with your children to promote understanding.
- Ask questions in informal dialogue to check your child has understood the information contained in the text.
- Make good use of reading subscriptions/ apps/ online resources to explore a range of different texts.
- Use real life experiences e.g going to the shops/ restaurants /cinema etc as a valuable opportunity to read a range of vocabulary. Keep reading fun, enjoyable and challenging.

## School Enrolments for August 2024

A reminder to prospective parents/carers of children due to start primary school in August 2024 that school registration online was enabled from **Monday 8th January 2024**. Enrolment Week commenced week beginning **15th January 2024**. The school has now attempted to make phone contact with all parents/carers of families within the catchment area who have enrolled for school. We urge any parents/carers who have not yet enrolled their child(ren) for school to do so as quickly as possible. Information on enrolment is available on the school website and South Lanarkshire Council website.

## Sacramental/ Faith Life Update

Sacramental meetings led by Fr King for celebration of the Holy Sacraments will take place in St. Peter's RC Church on **Tuesday 6th February 2024** at the times below:

- First Reconciliation—6.00pm
- First Holy Communion— 6.30pm
- Confirmation—7.00pm

If you wish your child to be presented for one of the Sacraments, we would ask that you attend the relevant meeting. The school will aim to attend First Friday Mass on **2nd February 2024** in St. Peter's RC at 10am (weather permitting). We ask that children wear full school uniform and a waterproof jacket.

## Themed Days, Events and Excursions

Fiesta de España, on **16th February 2024**, is fast becoming Fiesta de las Culturas del Mundo covering cultural learning from around the world with a primary focus on life in Spain. Any parents/carers who have experience of living or working in other countries, particularly in Spain, may wish to offer their expertise for this event by contacting the school office.

Class teachers are now consulting with children regarding the selection of their class excursions. The Pupil Council is scheduled to participate in a consultation regarding the selection of the whole school excursion for February / March. These excursions should take place prior to the end of the financial year in March 2024. Further information will be forwarded in due course. Payments for the Primary 7 Outdoor Residential are required to be up to date by the 31st January 2024 to enable your child to attend Dalguise. Please contact the school office if you wish to discuss payment.

## P7 Leavers' Celebration

In order for the school to make arrangements for Leavers' Celebrations, we have offered parents/carers of Primary 7 the opportunity to run their own fundraiser to raise monies to support the types of celebrations requested. We are aware that one or two families have been trying very hard to kick start this fundraising ambition but are experiencing challenges in gaining the support of the wider P7 group of parents. We urge P7 parents/carers to offer support to ensure your children have memorable experiences. The school will require an update on projected available funds by middle of March 2024 and a guide as to the experiences and buses you would require to be provisionally booked.

I look forward to continuing to work in partnership with all children, families and the wider community. If you have any queries please do not hesitate to contact the school office.

Kind Regards  
CL Mullen  
Head Teacher

# Calendar Dates and Parental Engagement Opportunities

## Learning Showcases

- 31.08.23 Rm 1 at 2.15pm
- 12.10.23 Rm 2 at 2.15pm
- 30.11.23 Rm 4 at 2.15pm
- 07.12.23 Rm 3 at 2.15pm
- 29.02.24 Rm 5 at 2.15pm
- 21.03.24 Rm 6 at 2.15pm

## Class Assemblies

- 27.10.23 Rm 6 at 2.15pm
- 09.11.23 Rm 5 at 2.15pm
- 09.02.24 Rm 4 at 2.15pm
- 15.03.24 Rm 3 at 2.15pm
- 26.04.24 Rm 2 at 2.15pm
- 31.05.24 Rm 1 at 2.15pm
- 19.06.24 Rm 6 at 2.15pm

## Class 'X' Twitter Showcase Weeks

- 21.08.23 Rm 1
- 28.08.23 Rm 2
- 04.09.23 Rm 3
- 18.09.23 Rm 4
- 09.10.23 Rm 5
- 30.10.23 Rm 6
- 06.11.23 Rm 1
- 20.11.23 Rm 2
- 27.11.23 Rm 3
- 04.12.23 Rm 6
- 05.02.24 Rm 4
- 26.02.24 Rm 5
- 04.03.24 Rm 1
- 18.03.24 Rm 2
- 29.04.24 Rm 3
- 13.05.24 Rm 5
- 28.05.24 Rm 6
- 10.06.24 Rm 4

## Leavers' Celebrations (tbc)

- 08.11.23 Parent Celebration Meeting at 5.15pm
- 22.04.24 P7 Dalguise Outdoor Activity Centre
- 13.06.24 Leavers' Celebration Activity Day
- 13.06.24 Leavers' Celebration Meal
- 19.06.24 Leavers' Mass tbc
- 19.06.24 Leavers' Assembly

## PTA Meetings - Provisional Dates

- 06.09.23 at 5pm Conference Room - Postponed
- 08.11.23 at 4.15-5pm Conference Room
- 06.12.23 at 5.15-6pm Conference Room
- 07.02.24 at 4.30-5.15pm Conference Room
- 20.03.24 at 5.15-5.55pm Conference Room
- 08.05.24 at 5.15-5.55pm Conference Room

## Faith Life - Provisional Dates

- 01.09.23 First Friday Mass at 10am
- 08.09.23 Our Lady's Birthday Class Charities
- 13.10.23 Mass and P1 Blessing at 10am
- 01.10.23 All Saints Mass at 10am
- 01.12.23 Advent Mass at 10am
- 22.12.23 Christmas Celebration Mass at 10am
- 02.02.24 New Year Mass at 10am
- 06.02.24 Reconciliation Meeting at 6pm
- 06.02.24 Communion Meeting at 6.30pm
- 06.02.24 Confirmation Meeting at 7pm
- 21.02.24 Ash Wednesday at 10am
- 01.03.24 Lent Mass at 10am
- 25.03.24 Reconciliation at 6.30pm
- 11.05.24 First Holy Communion at 10am
- 06.06.24 Confirmation at 7pm
- 26.06.24 Thanksgiving Mass at 10am

## Planned School Events

- 21.09.23 Outdoor Learning led by Mr Hoggan
- 02.10.23 Challenge Poverty Week
- 05.10.23 Go Fresh Theme Day Menu
- 23.10.23 Care Experienced Week
- 31.10.23 Hallowe'en Games
- 09.11.23 P7 St. JOHS at 6.30pm
- 10.11.23 Photographs
- 16.11.23 Parents' Evening
- 23.11.23 Rag Bag Collection
- 29.11.23 Flu Immunisations
- 30.11.23 St. Andrew's Coffee Morning at 9.15am
- 01.12.23 Science Day led by Mrs Roy
- 12.12.23 Christmas Nativity
- 13.12.23 Christmas Nativity
- 14.12.23 Christmas Disco
- 18.12.23 P6 and P7 Party
- 19.12.23 P2 and P3 Party
- 20.12.23 P4 and P5 Party
- 21.12.23 P1 Party
- 16.02.23 Fiesta de España led by Miss Keatings / Mrs Sala
- 08.03.23 Spring Coffee Morning at 9.15am
- 27.03.24 Talent Show led by Mrs Wilson
- 18.04.24 World of Work led by Mr Milwain
- 09.05.24 Art Eco Theme led by Mr TARRIER
- 21.05.24 New P1 Induction 1 at 1.45pm
- 22.05.24 Parents' Evening
- 29.05.24 New P1 Lunch Induction 2 at 12pm
- 30.05.24 Health Day led by Mrs Kane
- 06.06.24 New P1 Induction 3 at 1.45pm
- 07.06.24 Sports Day led by Mr McSorley
- 14.06.24 House Treat
- 20.06.24 Class Transition Switch Day



## Promoting Parent Partnerships

### We need your help!

#### PTA Update

Many thanks to all families who contributed to our attempts to raise much needed funds in the August to December Term. With PTA support, the school is so grateful to have raised: £234.50 from Children's Raffle, £ 288.50 from Adult Raffle, £746.20 from sale of Nativity tickets and £304.20 for St. Andrew's Day. Many thanks for all your support. The Parent Teacher Association for session 2023-2024 invite and welcome any parents/carers interested in joining the PTA to call the school on 01698 281277 or email on [gw14stpeterspsoffice@glow.sch.uk](mailto:gw14stpeterspsoffice@glow.sch.uk) to inform of your interest. The next PTA meeting is scheduled for **7th February 2024 at 4.30pm** in the school conference room.

#### Parent Partnerships

The school is working hard to provide a number of distributed opportunities to welcome parents/carers to school over the school year. We hope that you have enjoyed sharing in class assemblies, showcases, X feeds, the St. Andrew's Day Coffee Morning, Christmas Nativity and Advent Mass. We look forward to welcoming Room 1-3 parents to a Spring Coffee Morning on **8th March 2024 at 9.15am**.

Many thanks to our parent volunteers who are participating in the Scotland Read's Programme. Our children look forward to these one to one reading sessions. We hope communication of external SAMH Parent Workshops has enabled some parents/carers to access a variety of useful information. The school continues to work towards offering in-school parent workshops from February to May 2024. More information will be forwarded in due course. As mentioned in previous newsletters, the school requires to build a greater bank of parents/carers who are available to support a range of school events e.g. school excursions, themed days, clubs, Scotland Reads etc. Supports which involve direct unsupervised contact with the children require parents/carers to hold a current PVG Check which covers approval for supporting in St. Peter's Primary as a South Lanarkshire Council school. The school has provisionally booked a DJ for a 'Shorts and Shades Disco' on 30th May 2024. For safety and supervision of the children at the scheduled disco we require a set minimum of PVG checked adults to be in attendance. Depending on staffing nearer the time, the school hopes to be in a position to offer the support of some members of staff. In order for the Disco to go ahead we would require the support of at least 4-5 PVG checked parents/carers. We are grateful to a few parents/carers who have contacted the school to offer their support. We hope we can reach out to as many parents/carers as possible to increase these numbers to support whole school events, like the school Disco, themed learning days and whole school excursions, to go ahead as planned.

***Parents /carers you are a most valuable resource, we need your help to offer our children a wider range of experiences! If there are barriers to parental engagement please inform school staff to enable consideration of your views.***

**Many thanks for all your support!**



## Health and Safety Update

### PE Health and Safety Notice

For health and safety, children with longer than shoulder length hair should have their hair tied up for PE, unless for any medically specified reason (informed to the school by parent/carer). It is advised that earrings are not worn on PE days. If it is not possible to remove earrings, they should be taped up for PE. All other jewellery should be removed for PE lessons. All children should wear appropriate indoor shoes (plimsolls when participating in PE indoors. Children will not be permitted to wear Crocs, boots, high heeled typed shoes, slippers or shoes with no covered heels as indoor shoes or for PE due to the safety risk to children. Indoor shoes should be shoes that are not worn outside to reduce wear damage to floors and carpets. In addition, we encourage children not to wear false nails to school due to the risk of injury whilst playing or participating in PE. Children will not be permitted to participate in PE wearing false nails to prevent risk of harm.

### Traffic Management Health and Safety Notice

Families are reminded that children are asked to exit the school via the pathways provided. As part of our Traffic Management Systems, children should not cross the car park. It is hugely important that adults collecting children also observe this rule to ensure the children are supported to follow the safety rules.

Vehicles blocking or parking at emergency or main gate exits or out with parking bays or the drop off zone will be asked to move their vehicles to a safe location. A consultation meeting has taken place regarding congestion on Hightstonehall Road outside the perimeter fences of St. Peter's Primary School, Neilsland Primary School and Woodlands Nursery with a view to considering measures to reduce parking in the area, eradicate parking on pavements, prevent engine idling and minimise additional safety risks to pedestrians and other road users. A further update will be provided in due course. In the interim, we would join with Neilsland Primary School and Woodlands Nursery to encourage children and families to walk to school, ride bicycles or scooters to keep active, reduce congestion and minimise impact to the environment. In addition, children bringing bikes / scooters to school should dismount and walk with the equipment in the school grounds to avoid accident or injury to themselves or others.

### Inclement Weather Health and Safety Notice

A reminder to families that in the event of inclement weather requiring the closure of some school gates, the children will enter the building through the main pedestrian access gates and follow gritted pathways to the PE hall where they will be supervised by staff. Risk assessments of the outdoor pathways and playground areas are completed at regular intervals throughout the school day. Updates on the weather forecast or any advance weather warnings are considered.

**Many thanks for all your support!**



## [easyfundraising.org.uk](http://easyfundraising.org.uk)



Raise **FREE donations**  
when you shop online



## Anytime is the perfect time to sign up to [easyfundraising.org.uk](http://easyfundraising.org.uk)

Families may purchase a range of items, insurances, holidays, TV and internet packages over the Christmas period and throughout the school year which could earn the school some extra funds free of charge. The school is funded a percentage of the items or services purchased. Please refer to the [easyfundraising.org.uk](http://easyfundraising.org.uk) website for more details.

To help - google search [easyfundraising.org.uk](http://easyfundraising.org.uk)  
Click on sign up to cause  
Search for St. Peter's-Hamilton (dash is required)  
Create your own account