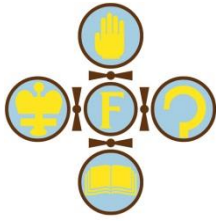


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ST.FILLAN'S P.S.

Newsletter Friday 6th January 2023

Dear Parents/Carers,

Welcome back to all in our school community. After a shorter Christmas break than usual it was great to see so many smiling faces at the gate when the children returned this week. On behalf of all the staff I would like to extend our warmest wishes for 2023 to everyone and hope that it is a year of hope and optimism for you all.

Industrial Action

Next Tuesday 10th January there is scheduled industrial action and the school will be closed to all pupils. There is further action planned for Monday 16th January. Please keep an eye on social media for details of any changes or updates. Please see the transcript from the letter issued from the Director of Education to all parents yesterday. A link to the letter can be found here

Dear Parent/Carer

School closures update due to ongoing industrial action – 10, 11 & 16 January 2023

I wrote to you before the end of term about the next round of industrial action that has been called by several teacher unions and I said I would update you when the schools went back.

Unfortunately, there has been no change to the planned strikes and because we have no certainty on how many teachers will report for work, we have been left with no option but to close schools to pupils on the following days:

Tuesday 10 January 2023: All Primary schools, including ASL primary schools (Secondary schools open as normal)

Wednesday 11 January 2023: All secondary schools, including ASL secondary schools (Primary schools open as normal)

Monday 16 January 2023 – Primary and Secondary schools, including ASL schools.

Our intention is that nursery classes and standalone nurseries will open as normal.

I apologise once again for a situation that is beyond the Council's control, since pay negotiations take place at a national level. I know that having to make alternative arrangements so soon into the new term is difficult for families.

Details of free school meal payments for eligible families to cover the strike days will be posted on our website in the next few days.

We will continue to keep you informed as soon as we have any new information and will update the Council's normal communication channels.

Yours sincerely

DOUGLAS HUTCHISON

Executive Director of Education

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Sacramental update

Sacrament of Reconciliation

At this time of year pupils in Primary 3 begin their Sacramental preparation for the Sacrament of Reconciliation (First Confession).

If your child is currently in P3 please follow the link [here](#) and complete this online form as soon as possible so we can gather all the necessary information.

Sacrament of Confirmation

Our Primary 7 pupils will make the Sacrament of Confirmation on Tuesday 28th February at Christ the King Parish Church. Further details will follow

Sacrament of First Holy Communion

Our Primary 4 pupils will receive the Sacrament of First Holy Communion on **Saturday 6th May at 10am and 12 noon Masses.**

Parking in the School

Please be mindful of the children crossing the road at the back gate if dropping off your child. The back gate is not supervised by staff members in the morning and we are concerned that an accident could occur due to lack of awareness.

Road Safety and Parking on Crompton Avenue/Safe Streets Campaign Reminder

A reminder that it is not permitted to drive down Crompton Avenue between 8.30-9.15am and 2.45-3.30pm as the school is part of a school free car zone scheme run by GCC. This has been in place since session 2019-2020. Please note that the Community Police have been issuing tickets throughout last session and will continue to support the school by reminding the public of the restrictions that are still in place and must be obeyed.

Car Park

Please do not use the school carpark at any time for dropping off your child including breakfast club and after school (Exemptions for blue badge holders). Parents and children must use pedestrian areas only when accessing the school grounds. Other City Building staff drive through the main gate and will be unaware that parents have been incorrectly using this gate as a pedestrian walkway. This could have serious repercussions and result in an accident.

Outdoor PE

Please ensure that on outdoor PE days children have appropriate clothing to keep them dry and warm. It would be advisable to provide a change of clothes in your child's bag in the event of them getting wet. We have a very limited supply in the school.

Health and safety

Please ensure that your child does not bring electronic smart watches of any kind to school. A number of children have returned after Christmas with watches that can take pictures and/or record/film/facetime. This is not appropriate for use in school. In addition we are not insured for any

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damages. Can we also request that no energy drinks, chewing gum or lollipops are brought in for snacks. Thank you for your support with this matter.

Communicating with the school leadership team

Please remember that we are using the form system to facilitate communication. **If there is a matter of urgency** that you wish to discuss please use the link [here](#) and the matter will be addressed as soon as possible. This form should not be used to report absences as this should be reported to the school office.

Nursery Class News

Our Nursery class is very much part of the school and we look forward to including relevant Nursery Class news in our forthcoming newsletters over the coming weeks and months. Mrs Kelly is now appointed to the position of DHT for the Nursery class and we will begin to arrange transitions for our Nursery children who will be moving into Primary 1 for the forthcoming session in August 2023. Mrs Kelly and Mrs Higgins our Team Leader Child Development Officer will work closely with our P1 teachers to arrange these visits to our P1 classes even for those children who will not attend St Fillan's.

Our Nursery class will also be celebrating Burns Day and the Chinese New Year over the next few weeks. To see all updated learning for your Nursery class child please access through the Seesaw App.

Thank you

Finally, I want to thank everyone who showed such generosity before Christmas both towards the staff in their kind and supportive words and gifts, and to the Homeless Charities that we work with. They asked for us to extend their sincere thanks to all who helped support those less fortunate through the donations they made. The response to our Giving Gate this year was quite simply unbelievable. Thank you to everyone who contributed to our appeal and showed the strength of our school community. You really have made such a difference to the lives of many of our families over Christmas.

We were so very fortunate to have such a wonderful community.

Kind regards,

Mr Brian Bourke, Headteacher.

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Dates for your diary

Please appreciate that dates and times may be subject to change. Additional dates may be added in subsequent newsletters.

10.1.23 School closed to pupils for industrial action

13.1.23 Panto for all children

16.1.23 School closed to pupils for industrial action

19.1.23 St Fillan's Day

25.1.23 Burn's Day Celebrations

13.2.23 Holiday

14.2.23 Holiday

15.2.23 In-service

28.2.23 Confirmation for P7 7pm at Christ the King Parish Church

31.3.23 Close for Easter holidays 2.30pm

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