



Dundee Children and Families Service

St Andrews RC Primary School



Newsletter

December 2017



Welcome to our latest newsletter and diary dates.

Christmas Celebrations : The festivities in St Andrew's are in full swing and many thanks to all who have contributed thus far. The first Christmas update regards the **Christmas Fair**. We raised over £2200 which is a phenomenal amount—many thanks. More importantly lots of learning took place preparing for the day and lots of fun was had by all. Well done to all p6-7 children and staff involved for a huge effort behind the scenes and on the day. If you too contributed in any way—thank you again. Monies raised, as always, go back to the children and these particular monies will help subsidise our P7 Glenshee Trip in March. Second important Christmas news is the outings to see **Santa at the Ardler Complex**. As you would expect this has caused great excitement and has been thoroughly enjoyed by all. Ho ho ho! Moreover, this week's P1 and Nursery **Nativities** were lovely and put a nice warm glow in everyone's hearts. Well done all children and adults involved. Other important upcoming Christmas dates are at the end of this newsletter.

You may be aware that we did not charge for our Nativity performances. We choose instead to ask for foodbank donations in exchange for tickets. Moreover, we are hosting an optional **Christmas Jumper Day on Tuesday 19th Dec**. We again ask for foodbank donations on this day. These donations should be non-perishable, and in date. All appropriate items small or large will be gratefully received. Finally, almost all recent activities which do incur a cost have been **optional** to allow families a choice. Choices aren't always possible, but we are trying to minimise issues for families, yet maximise experiences for all children. Therefore, our class **Christmas Parties** on Thursday 21st December will have no cost attached. Just dress up, turn up and enjoy! (**party clothes can be worn all day**)

I am acutely aware that many families are struggling and not just at this time of year. If you have any further suggestions regarding 'costs' or ideas like the 'foodbank donations', please get in touch. Thank you.

Open Afternoon : Our Open Afternoon took place on Wednesday 29th November. During that afternoon we launched our P1 Book Bug and P2-3 Read Write Count projects. We also hosted a Parental Engagement Workshop with a business partner called Tree of Knowledge. There was also a crèche to help with child care too. Many thanks to all who helped make the day a success and thanks to all who attended. Our next open afternoon will take place next term and in response to feedback will also incorporate a workshop regarding GIRFEC (Getting it Right for Every Child). More info will follow next term.

Extra Curriculum Clubs : There will be **no after school clubs** next week during the last week of term or first week back in January. **Clubs will restart** during the second week back after the holiday, week commencing Monday 15th January. (**Please check Dundee Utd coaching sessions as this arrangement may change**)

Communication: I continue to highlight this important aspect of school life and listed below are important ways in which information is shared between home and school:-

1. Twitter standrewsrcprimary@standrewsrcprim
2. Homework Diaries
3. Our Parent Council Facebook page— St Andrews RC Primary School Parent Council
4. Newsletters like this
5. Regular letters home
6. Meeting with a member of staff
7. Call to the school office—01382 307830
8. Open Afternoons
9. Parent's Evenings
10. Emails to the school office saintandrews.primary@dundeecity.gov.uk
11. Our website <http://standrewsprimary.ea.dundeecity.sch.uk/>
12. School texts

The website is continually being updated and we are trying to incorporate as much useful information as possible. It does display our **Twitter feed** and a list of **important dates** ie Fit Friday, INSET, and recently we have added the option of **downloading newsletters** too. The next task is to update individual class pages so they can be a further source of information sharing too. Furthermore, our new Parent Council Facebook page is a welcome addition for sharing and clarifying information too. We will try to give you as much notice as possible regarding changes to dates, trips etc... but please be understanding as it is not always possible.

Finally, please keep us abreast of any important information regarding your child. The school office hours are 8.45am until 3.30pm. Calls out-with this time are unlikely to be answered. Moreover, lunchtime is not a good time to call either as it is one of the busiest times of the day. Finally, any other suggestions are welcome as we strive to ensure that home-school communication at St Andrew's is first class!

Staffing News: Mr James Snowden, P6/7 will be leaving us at the end of term. He is taking up a new post working with a charity catering for children and families coping with serious illness. We are very sorry to see him go, but wish him every success in his new post. Good luck James. Mrs Davidson, Principal Teacher, will take over class duties for P6/7 for the remainder of this academic year. Finally, we also hope to have appointed a new member of support staff next term. I will update you in due course.

Extended Review : A reminder that the Children and Families Service will undertake an Extended Review of the Learning and Teaching in St Andrew's during week commencing 15th January. Many thanks if you have completed a questionnaire ahead of proceedings. The team will visit classes, work with some groups of children, meet with groups of parents/staff and children and report back on their findings. A copy of these important findings will be made available.

Nursery : No important updates, other than we have very excited boys and girls waiting patiently for Santa!

Upcoming Important Dates (December)

Monday 18th December— St Paul's Christmas Concert and a curry!

Monday 18th December— Choir to Roxburgh House at 2pm

Tuesday 19th December—Christmas Lunch (**early lunch 12 noon**)

Tuesday 19th December—Christmas Jumper Day

Tuesday 19th December—Carol concert in church at 1.45pm

Tuesday 19th December/Wednesday 20th—P1-7 Snowman Drive in Hall

Thursday 21st - Class Parties in the afternoon.

Friday 22nd December—P6 swimming cancelled

Friday 22nd December - Dress down for the last day (no cost and optional)

Friday 22nd December—**School closes for holidays 12 noon.**

******* WINNING NATIVITY RAFFLE TICKETS—*******

Both prizes were won at the Evening Performances

I hope all families have a wonderful Christmas and enjoy the festive holidays. Please remember the saying 'the reason for the season' and be patient, tolerant and generous in spirit. I look forward to seeing everyone again in the new year. Hope Santa is good to you.



Happy Christmas,

John Neeson

Head Teacher

