



*Dundee Children and Families Service*  
***St Andrews RC Primary School***



***Newsletter***  
***March 2018***

## Welcome to our latest newsletter and diary dates.

It has been another busy term with lots happening during the months of January, February and March. As you will have seen in the press there were many 'bugs' flying about country-wide over the winter months! We were quite badly hit by child and staff absence, hopefully with the better weather coming, we will get back to some sort of normality. Please take the time to read this newsletter and, if possible, read it with your child too. Constructive feedback is always good too, so if you have any comments please feel free to get in touch.

**Extended Review :** Earlier this term the Children and Families Service conducted an Extended Review of the Learning and Teaching in St Andrew's. Many thanks if you completed a questionnaire ahead of proceedings. The team visited classes, worked with some groups of children, met with groups of parents/staff and have now reported back on their findings. A summary copy of these important findings will be made available on our website soon. The report is very positive and highlights many key strengths. It also provides some suggestions for improvement too. I will provide more information at our GIRFEC night next week.

**Open Afternoon :** Our Open Afternoon, (with the exception of P3/4 and P4) took place on Wednesday 21st February. The above classes will host an open afternoon next term, more details to follow.

Many thanks to those of you who took the opportunity to visit your child's classroom. Some of you many even have been brave enough to participate in some of the learning which occurs during a usual school day. We did have another workshop planned for that day regarding GIRFEC (Getting it Right for Every Child). This did not go ahead. Parent Feedback clearly shows that evening workshops are preferable. Therefore, we will now host this **GIRFEC** event on Tuesday 27th March. The workshop will be held in the school hall from 6.30pm until 7.30pm. We have a few of our partner agencies joining us, we hope you can join us too. More info on GIRFEC is available at:-

<https://www.gov.scot/Topics/People/Young-People/gettingitright>

**Parent Pay/Lunch:** The cost of school lunches for P4-7 will be increased next term to £2.10. All P1-3 children still benefit from free school meals. Can I please encourage every family, eligible to register for free school meals, to do so? If you register, but don't use the free meals, it still benefits the school regarding funding.

Finally, thank you to all of you who continue to use Parent Pay. This systems helps streamline school finances and saves a lot of time and effort. Please contact Mrs Blakeman, School Admin Officer, if you require any additional info or are experiencing any difficulties.

**Communication:** I again 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.dundee.gov.uk/> 12. School texts

**We are currently in negotiations with a company who can provide a home/school app which is designed to improve communication too.**

Our new website is under construction and should be ready to go live in August. In the meantime our existing website will still be able to be accessed. It displays our **Twitter feed** and a list of **important dates** ie Fit Friday, INSET, and the option of **downloading newsletters** too. We are also attempting to upload all class newsletter too. These should be available before the Easter holidays. Importantly, 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!

**Uniform :** The standard of uniform is very good at St Andrew's with almost all children following our guidelines regarding what to wear. In addition, please try to discourage your child from wearing hoodies, trainers, hooped earrings, make-up, etc..

**Trips :** During the course of this term many classes enjoyed the experience of an educational trip, mostly relating to individual class topics. During the course of next term, the remaining classes will partake too. These trips have been funded using our PEF money (Pupil Equity Fund) and have been free of charge. Feedback so far has been very positive.

Next term, April to July, all P1-7 children will have the opportunity to go on another trip, with the emphasis this time on social skills and having fun. There will be a cost attached to these trips, but we will keep these costs to a minimum.

**Nursery** : If you know or anyone with a child who is 3 before the end of August this year, and is considering a place at St Andrews Nursery, please get in touch ASAP!

**Road Safety** : Most people are taking heed of the advice regarding safe parking and drop offs. Traffic police did a spot check last week after school and handed out fines to a few irresponsible drivers. I have had a few 'choice' conversations with drivers over the last few weeks. I make no apologies for speaking to 'lazy parkers' and will continue to do so. One point I keep reiterating is how lucky we are to have the church car park. It's not ideal, it can be very busy, but what other school has that facility nearby? Please remember the previous message—**Don't take the risk**. Being late or "It was only a quick drop off," are no excuse. Ultimately, it will result in a fine for you, but more importantly it could end in tears for a child.

**Social Media**: As most of you will know, social media is a wonderful way to communicate and find out information. However, it can also cause upset, destabilise friendships and create a huge amount of anxiety. We have had a number of episodes **outside school**, involving Facebook, Snapchat, Whatsapp etc..., which have spilled over into school. We are happy to work in partnership with you to encourage responsible use of social media , so please get in touch if you require advice or indeed have any advice for us. Finally, you may wish to consider using particular settings ,commonly found on your phone ,to monitor social media activities. We are happy to advise. Below is a link to how to set up parental controls on Apple Products:-

<https://support.apple.com/en-gb/HT201304>

**Reporting to Parents**: Our recent Parents' Evenings were very well attended. Many thanks to all of you who participated and to those of you who took the time to complete our survey. The results of this survey will be available on our website soon.

Furthermore, we are working on ways to provide more information regarding learning and levels of achievement. Information is available at Parents' Nights, Open Afternoons and in end of session Reports but we are looking at ways to communicate this important information more regularly.

*I hope all families have a wonderful spring break and the sun shines (well at least for a couple of days!). Please remember not to eat too many Easter eggs and remind the children of this important fact too!*

*Best wishes from the St Andrew's team.*

