



Dundee Children and Families Service

St Andrews RC Primary School



Newsletter
November 2017

Welcome to our latest newsletter and diary dates.

Communication: Following feedback given, we have been working on widening the variety of methods available to strengthen communication between home and school. Listed below are my top 10 sources where you can seek out information to help improve the overall school experience for your child. Some of the list below will be useful when a quick answer is needed, whilst others are more appropriate if time is not a factor :-

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. Calls/Emails to the school office—01382 307830 / saintandrews.primary@dundeecity.gov.uk 8. Open Afternoons 9. Parent's Evenings 10. Our website <http://standrewsprimary.ea.dundee.gov.uk/>

The website is still a work in progress but it does display our Twitter feed and a list of important dates ie Fit Friday, INSET, etc... We hope to have it fully functional and up-to-date ASAP with the continued help of Mr Paul Thomson. Furthermore, our new Parent Council Facebook page is a welcome addition. **Guidelines regarding responsible and appropriate use are posted on the Facebook page.**

All classes are striving to tweet at least once a week and this term each class will also send home a newsletter. We are listening and trying to improve communication but please help by playing your part too. 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!



Extra Curriculum Clubs : Miss Kennedy is our 'School Clubs Lead'. You should have received a list of our available clubs. If not, more info is available via Miss Kennedy or the school office. Finally, please remember to be available/contactable during after school club activities in the event of cancellation or if an injury or sickness occurs. Thank you.



treeofknowledge

Open Afternoon : Our next Open Afternoon takes place on Wednesday 29th November between 1.15pm and 2.15pm. During the afternoon we will launch our P1 Book Bug and P2-3

Read Write Count projects. We will also host a Parental Engagement Workshop with a business partner called Tree of Knowledge (as advertised at Parents' Night). The workshop is from 2.30pm until 4.30pm. There will be a free crèche available to help with child care too. We are investing heavily in promoting Parental Engagement so please come along and participate in the workshop if you can. There are countless pieces of research which prove the benefits to be gained from strong home school links, but I like the quote below which nicely sums things up. Further information, including a leaflet, is available on request.

Coming together is a beginning; keeping together is progress; working together is success."
(Henry Ford)

Parent Council : The annual Bingo Evening on Wednesday 1 November raised more than £330. The money raised is used by the Parent Council to support events throughout the year i.e. P7 Disco, First Communion Breakfast etc...Many thanks to all involved, either in preparation, organisation or by being in attendance. It was great fun and everyone there agreed that the prizes were great and beautifully presented too. The only down side was the staff table—they were hopeless!!

Road Safety : Most people are taking heed of the advice regarding safe parking and drop offs. Local parking attendants and police did a spot check last week and handed out fines to a few irresponsible drivers. The problem was even highlighted in feedback given during Parents' Night. 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 could end in tears for a child.



Parents' Night : Many thanks to everyone who managed to attend our recent parents' night. Our attendance figures show that 90% of parents/carers attended. The children always value the conversations that take place and the support given. I have now collated the parents' night questionnaires and share the top responses from each question.

Q1– How can we develop outdoor learning?

A—32% of respondents would like more outdoor equipment, 25% would like the garden area developed and 15 % would like more sports areas, particularly football.

Q2—Have you heard of GIRFEC before?

A– 68% said no , 32 replied yes.

Q3—Can you please give any general/specific feedback?

A– 78% positive comments, 9% raised issues and 13% gave a variety of suggestions.

School Improvement: On the back of our successful Meet the Teacher event our next parental event is our **Open Afternoon**. This takes place on Wednesday 29th November as stated opposite. Moreover, following feedback received at Parents' Night we will host a GIRFEC information evening in the new year. More details to follow.



Community Groups : These groups held their first meeting last Friday. The groups will continue to meet fortnightly on a Friday for 1 hour. Many thanks to all of you who discussed the group options with your child. The P1-3 'Curricular Groups' will start next Friday 24th Nov. These groups will run alongside the P4-7 Community Groups. More info regarding the infant groups will follow soon.

Nursery : The last Nursery newsletter went out two weeks ago and there are no important updates.

Upcoming Important Dates (November and December)

(see attached sheet)

Many thanks

John Neeson

Head Teacher

Feedback :

Please provide any feedback in the space below and/or alternatively leave contact details if you require to speak to any member of staff. Thank you.

