



ST ANDREW'S FOX COVERT R.C. PRIMARY SCHOOL
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Edinburgh
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Head Teacher: Mrs Rebecca Favier, BEd (*hons*), MEd.

05.11.2019

Newsletter No. 3

Autumn has definitely arrived; the trees are golden and there is a real chill in the air! Our staff and pupils are very much looking forward to the next 7 weeks and have lots of **learning** planned for both with in and beyond the classroom.

Inside our building is (apart from snagging) is nearly complete. Thank you so much for your patience and understanding throughout **our build**. Your positive comments (particularly from those of you who attended the learn along) are much appreciated.

Your Parent Council pulled out all the stops and an amazing 200+ folk enjoyed and **Spooky Walk** up the Hill last week. I am sure you will join with me in thanking them for organising this outstanding event. Please visit <https://foxcovertprimary.wordpress.com/parent-council/> to find out about their upcoming events (Ceilidh on the 30th).

Dress Down for the **Society of St Vincent De Paul** on Friday 27th September raised £133.83! Well done everyone and thank you for your donations.

We know that 1 in 5 children in our city live in poverty and we are working hard to **poverty proof** our school and **reduce the cost of the school day**. Please remember that we can offer second hand uniform and referrals to the local foodbank should you require. We know how important and valuable **educational excursions** are to our pupils; indeed your children are telling us they would like regular opportunities to learn outside of the classroom. Unfortunately, excursions and events usually incur additional costs which can place financial pressure onto families. Going forward therefore families will be asked for a voluntary contribution for all excursions (other than residential) and events to ensure we are **poverty proofing our school**. We know that families who can pay do pay! Additionally, if you would like to make a higher contribution knowing this would support another pupil, you will be able to do this via the main office.

You can find out all sorts of information about our work along with your child's weekly learning and home learning on our **website**. Please visit regularly.

Our Vice Captains have created a beautiful presentation to tell pupils why we **buy and wear poppies** each year. They will be selling poppies daily over the next two weeks. We suggest a £1 donation however we leave this to the discretion of families.

We are delighted to welcome Stewart Atkinson to our staff team. Stewart is an experienced Outdoor Education Instructor (currently based at Lagganlia) and brings with him a wealth of knowledge and a passion for developing curriculum through **learning beyond the classroom**.

Message from Your House Captains

Hello.

We, your House Captains, are nearly finished developing the draft constitution for our Pupil Parliament. We need to write down our final ideas and share it with the rest of the school.

We want to rename our 4 'houses' after modern day Saints that we believe demonstrate our school values- **inspire nurture flourish**. We will be presenting 8 Saints to the school and everyone will vote for the final four! Very exciting.

Checkout our section of the website

<https://foxcovertprimary.wordpress.com/pupil-parliament/>
to keep up to date with our hard work.

Milosz Grace Tara Matilda

Please do not **pass on messages or information to teachers or Pupil Support Assistants at the beginning and end of the school** day in the playground. Although this seems like a sensible, quick way to share information, the teachers have a number of duties at these times and are responsible for the safety of pupils and the security of the school. There have been occasions where messages were not passed on/overlooked and this has caused unnecessary upset. Please pop round to the school office where Miss Tweedale will be happy to help you and ensure your information is shared appropriately. Alternatively, email the school office admin@foxcovert-rc.edin.sch.uk or telephone 0131 339 2383.

If your **child feels unwell** within the school day they will always be seen by a qualified first aider. Often they will be offered a water or some fresh air and then closely monitored in class to ensure they are well enough for school. At other times, we will contact you because we believe your child is not fit for school and you will be asked to collect them. As we are not medical professionals we are unable to undertake any sort of medical assessments; this includes taking your child's temperature. We will ask you to collect them and seek medical advice.

All medication, whether prescribed or non prescribed, must be given/collected via the school office at the start and end of each day. All medication (creams, ointments, anti-biotics, short term medication etc.) requires a form to be completed. **PLEASE DO NOT SEND IN ANY MEDICATION INTO SCHOOL VIA YOUR CHILD.**

I am delighted to confirm that 5 of our Primary 7 pupils have been invited to attend a **high profile celebration of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) at the Scottish Parliament**. They will be participating with our partners from the Children and Young Person's Commissioner Scotland (CYPCS). The event will stretch into the evening and will include a meeting with the leaders of all five parties in the Scottish Parliament and Parliamentary reception where our pupils will set up a stall/ deliver a presentation to other MSPs and guests. I will tweet the media links once they become available.

PUPIL PARLIAMENT TASK:

The benefits of being outdoors are clear. We believe that there is no poor weather, only inappropriate clothing and clearly you agree with us! Everyone that returned the Pupil Parliament survey agreed that we should be outside in the playground what ever the weather as long as pupils (and staff) are dressed appropriately.

In December we will pilot this 'outside whatever the weather' approach; whatever the weather we will be outside at breaktime and lunch time (once we've eaten of course!). **It is essential that your child brings in wet weather gear and wellies to school each day** (or leaves a set here)! **Please name all items.** As we move through the pilot period, we will explore the best way to store and dry wet weather gear and refine our systems.

If you require support to obtain waterproofs or wellies, we have a number of donated boots and jackets here. Simply contact the school office.

We had a great turn out at our **Learn Along** (29th October). The feedback was overwhelmingly positive particularly about the classroom environment and engagement. Thank you so much for coming and sharing in your child's learning journey.

CATHOLIC EDUCATION WEEKS 2019: Promoting Gospel Values. Our pupils will be studying the Beatitudes and sharing their learning across the school by creating a beautiful poster. For more information visit <https://foxcovertcprimary.wordpress.com/catholic-education-week/>

The **Primary 1 Literacy Learn Along** was extremely well attended and a huge success. The P1 Numeracy Learn Along is pencilled in for 30th of January at 9am.

PARENT WORKSHOP

I Can Do It:

Occupational Therapy Week 2019 Self Care Drop In

The "**I Can Do It**" Occupational Therapy workshop aims to give advice and ideas to help your child be more independent with their self-care. We'll offer advice on:

- Toileting
- Dressing
- Eating and Drinking
- Bathing/ showering
- Personal care- tooth brushing, hair brushing, nail cutting

THE HUB 9-10.30 (drop in anytime)
Friday, 8th November

PARENT WORKSHOP

Attunement is at the core of all positive interactions. It is being aware of, and responsive to, another. It is not always easy! This session will present a core set of principles to support and empower attuned caregiver-child relationships.

THE HUB, 9.30am-10:30am
Friday, 15th November

Join us for a fun session facilitated by Carmel Jacob-Thomson Educational Psychologist

Primary 1 and Primary 2 learners had a wonderful session meeting the Police Dogs in our playground. The dogs were amazing and found everything the children hid for them! Primary 1 also welcomed a nurse and a police officer to their classroom to find about how they support the community.

Primary 3 have started their work learning beyond the classroom each Thursday. There's a lot involved but they are full of enthusiasm!

Primary 4 are visiting the National Museum of Scotland to learn more about Ancient Greece! Time Machine at the ready!

Primary 5 started skiing lessons at Midlothian Snow Sports Centre last week. They all agreed it is hard work but worth the effort!

Primary 6 are learning in the High School Science Department for the last time this term. If you get a chance, please ask them 'who dun it?'

Primary 7 are exploring the visual elements with Mrs Weir. Their task is to capture the same theme several times but using different media for each representation. Inspiring work!

The start and end of the school day are busy times on the streets surrounding the school. May I ask that you continue to park as far away as possible and walk in to drop/collect your child; thank you to those that park responsibly. Please do not park on grass verges around the school as this is damaging the local environment. If you do happen to witness **dangerous driving or parking**, please contact Police Scotland on 101 or if urgent 999.

Please remember to telephone (0131 339 2383) or email (admin@foxcovert-rc.edin.sch.uk) the school office if your child is going to be **late/absent**. This information should be given to the school office rather than the class teacher, head teacher or a Pupil Support Assistant.

As per Edinburgh Council Policy, I am currently issuing attendance letters to support families where pupil attendance has fallen below 95%. We know that attendance at school has a direct impact on attainment and achievement. Visit <https://foxcovertrcprimary.wordpress.com/attendance/> for more information.

The calendar for class Christmas parties/ pantos and other events is nearly finalised. As soon as it is ready I will send a Parent Mail communication.

Congratulations to Abi (P7) and Taylor (P6); their drawings have been selected to be used as rear and front cover for the **Scottish Property Industry Festival of Christmas (SPIFOX) Annual Programme**. Spifox was first launched in 1983 by a group of property and construction professionals. Each year they organise a Christmas Carol Concert followed by a charity lunch. Since launching and through to September 2019 it has raised, and donated, net proceeds of over **£4.85m**. This year, the ST Andrew's Fox Covert Upper School Choir will perform at the Christmas Carol Concert and a number of children will read. Abi and Taylor's artwork will be auctioned off and the proceeds will go toward SPIFOX charities.

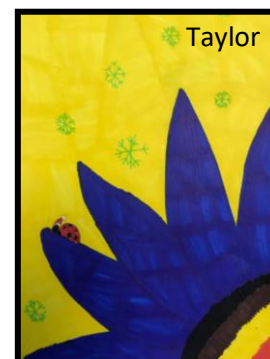


We all have a duty to protect children, whether we are professionals or private individuals.

If you think a child is being or is at risk of being abused or neglected, speak to:

- Social Care Direct by calling 0131 200 2324
- the Police by calling 101 or in an emergency 999;
- a member of staff at school;
- any Health Professional

I am keen to **speak with you** about any matter- big or small- and will always seek to offer you an appointment quickly. Please do not hesitate to contact me via the school office.



Rebecca Favier
Head Teacher

Provisional Dates

Friday 8 th November	Occupational Therapy Service Drop In Session: 9-10.30 am in the Hub
Wednesday, 13 th November	Parent Council Meeting (details to follow)
Friday, 15 th November 9.30am-10:30am	Attunement: <i>Join us for a fun session facilitated by Carmel Jacob-Thomson Educational Psychologist</i>
18-29 November	Catholic Education Weeks
Friday, 22 nd November	Dress Down Day for Canine Concern (donation requested)
Thursday, 28 th November 10am	Feast Day Mass (St Kentigern's)
Friday, 29 th November	School Fast Day
Thursday, 5 th December	Primary 1 and 2 Nativity (ticketed event)
Wednesday, 11 th December 1.15pm	Community Carols
Thursday, 12 th December	School Closed to Pupils (General Election)
Friday 20 th December 10.45am	Christmas Service (term ends 12 noon)
Thursday, 9 th January	Pupils Return

PREPARATORY RITES	St Kentigern's 9.30am	St John the Baptist's 11.30am
RECONCILIATION		
Enrolment	Sunday 15 th September	
Signing with the Cross	Sunday 3 rd November	
Illumination	Sunday 17 th November	
HOLY COMMUNION		
Presentation of the Scriptures	Sunday 19 th January	
Presentation of the Lord's Prayer	Sunday 1 st March	
Presentation of the Creed	Sunday 31 st May	

SACRAMENTS	St Kentigern's	St John the Baptist's
RECONCILIATION		
Rehearsal	Wednesday 4 th December, 6pm at St Kentigern's	
Sacrament	Wednesday 11 th December, from 6pm at St Kentigern's	
HOLY COMMUNION		
Rehearsal	Thursday 11 th June, 6pm	Thursday 18 th June, 6pm
Sacrament	Saturday 13 th June, 11am	Saturday 20 th June, 11am

COME CELEBRATE SCOTLAND'S PATRON SAINT AT
THE ST ANDREWS NIGHT

Ceilidh

SATURDAY 30TH NOVEMBER

6.00pm to 10.00pm at St Kentigern's
Hall, 26 Parkgrove Avenue, entrance
by the car park.

Presenting the KenCarian Band with Dance
Caller to help all ages through the dance steps.

BYOB, with juice, crisps and snacks on sale for
children, with Stovies available later on in the
evening.

*So jyne us far a fir filled
nicht far a' the folk!*

GET YOUR TICKETS ON CLASSLIST OR
THROUGH SCHOOL AND PARISH CONTACTS.

A St Andrews Parent Council Production | Email: standrewsparentcouncil@outlook.com

Price
£5.00 PER CHILD,
£9.00 PER ADULT
OR £23 PER FAMILY



NURTURE, INSPIRE, FLOURISH