



ST ANDREW'S FOX COVERT R.C. PRIMARY SCHOOL
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Newsletter No. 4

The mornings and evenings are very dark and everyone is looking forward to December and the fun this month brings! We continue to work well together across all aspects of our learning and are especially proud to be learning beyond our classrooms.

From Monday we will be outside at break and lunch '**whatever the weather**' (we will still have our lunch indoors). **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.

I have been busy meeting with colleagues who work at Waverley Court as there is a strong possibility that the **annex building** (currently used by Fox Covert Primary) will be extended. Plans are not yet firm and I will of course update you as soon as I have further detail.

Our updated school **Vision, Values and Aims** is now finalised. Thank you to all those who contributed to the draft document. It reads: *We are committed to enabling every learner at St Andrew's to gain the knowledge, skills and attributes needed for life in the 21st century. We enact this vision through our lived values nurture inspire flourish, by celebrating each achievement and through our mission to develop as a community of faith and love. Through learning both within and beyond the classroom we aim to develop:*

- *successful learners*
- *confident individuals*
- *responsible citizens*
- *effective contributors.*

Our **Tuesday Top Up** (Homework) Club is extremely well attended and all of the pupils are enjoying this extra chance to learn with the support of our teachers. We hope to continue this in intermittent blocks throughout the year. Watch this space!

Our New **Anti-Bullying Policy and Procedure** is now live on the school website. Thank you to all who contributed and fed back on the draft. Next Steps:

- Primary 6 will create a pupil version to accompany their display in the centre of the school
- Mrs Favier will attend an event to celebrate and support our work in this area in January 2020

On Tuesday, 10th of December we will welcome the start of Advent by having a P3-P7 **Advent Service** here in school (pupils only) after which, those who wish, may participate in the Sacrament of Reconciliation with Father Jeremy.

The Scottish Government recognises the vital role that out of school care plays in providing an essential and high quality service for school age children and their families, and they want to identify actions they can take to widen access to affordable, **high quality out of school care**. They are considering out of school care in its broadest sense, including breakfast clubs, after school clubs, activity clubs, holiday provision and youth work services. To find out more and share your view visit <https://consult.gov.scot/children-and-families/out-of-school-care/>

Please pray for the pupils of Primary 3 who will make the **Sacrament of Reconciliation** on Wednesday 11th December from 6pm at St Kentigern's.

Our choir is going from strength to strength and we have now finalised our Choir Christmas Performances. The choir will be performing at nursing homes and formal events in the City Centre to name a few but we would love your support at **Sainsburys Blackhall Friday 6th December 10 – 11am** and **Tesco Corstorphine Thursday 19th December 10-11am**. Please pop in to the stores and hear us if you can!

Message from Your House Captains

We have been thinking about our planet recently and know that small actions can make a big change!

At this time of year we do lots of extra arts and crafts especially with **glitter**! We, your House Captains, are reluctant to put more plastic into our world unnecessarily so this year our school will be using only plastic free, eco friendly glitter. This costs a little more than usual but we know it is worth it to save our planet. We have been round each class to speak about this important change and everyone was pleased that we are trying to be more sustainable!

Milosz, Matilda, Tara, Grace

All classes have been working hard to explore this year's Catholic Education Week Theme **PROMOTING GOSPEL VALUES**. Each class is producing a class A3 poster, which will be displayed, to show their understanding of a Beatitude as follows:

Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven (P7)
Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted (P1)
Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth (P2)
Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled (P3)
Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy (P4)
Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God (P5)
Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called the children of God (P6)
Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven (P7)

Tomorrow (Thursday) we will be **celebrating our Feast Day Mass at St Kentigern's** (10am all welcome). We would greatly appreciate support to walk to/from the church. Please come to the office at 9.15am tomorrow if you can accompany us.

Friday 29th November is our **School Feast Day!** We know this should be the best day of the year in our school and the Pupil Parliament have spent some time gathering views and planning. This year they have arranged for ice cream for everyone in our school followed by Tricky Ricky Magic Shows (P1-4 showing and P5-P7 showing). Thank you to our Parent Council for offering to fund the performances.

The **Quaich Project's** vision is to reimagine West Princes Street Gardens as a space for all to celebrate and enjoy in new ways – with improved accessibility, dynamic architectural designs and innovative facilities for every member of the community. As part of the consultation a group of pupils from **P4-P7 attended a consultation session** at Drumbrae Library Hub this week. We found out more about the plan, viewed the latest designs, asked some tricky questions and shared our view. We will also be completing an online survey in class. You can find out more at <https://www.thequaichproject.org/>



Pupils attending the Quaich Project Consultation Session at Drumbrae Library Hub

Dress Down for **Canine Concern Scotland** on Friday 22nd September raised £135.07! Well done everyone and thank you for your donations. Molly our therapy dog came in to school on Friday and visited all of our classes. This money will help her charity continue its important work.

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.

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.**

Five of our Primary 7 pupils attended a **high profile celebration of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) at the Scottish Parliament** last week. The event stretched into the evening and included a meeting with MSPs from all five parties in the Scottish Parliament. A Parliamentary reception followed where our pupils delivered a presentation, led small discussions with MSPs and guests then gave a speech to a large audience. The invitation to St Andrew's to represent the views of primary aged children across Scotland reflects our hard work and commitment to upholding and promoting the rights of our learners; I could not be prouder. Congratulations to Jakub, Tara, Grace, Olivia and Denzel. *Once formal photographs of the event have been released I will of course share these.*



The start and end of the school day are busy times on the streets surrounding the school. We have had some reports of poor parking/ congestion (and the associated frustration this brings) at the Rannoch Road/Alan Breck Gardens junction. 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.

Fox Covert Early Years Centre has started a Community Food Bank. We need your donations! Both dry/long life goods and fresh produce are needed. Thank you for your generosity- this is so supportive to many in our community especially at this time of year. Simply hand in your donations to the Centre or our school office.

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

Christmas Reminders

Thursday 5 th December:	P1/2 Nativity at 9.15am in the school hall (This is a ticketed event; details to follow this week).
Wednesday 11 th December:	Christmas Lunch/ Christmas Jumper Day
Wednesday 11 th December:	Christmas concert (for friends of the school and elderly in our community) is at 1.15pm in the school hall
Monday, 16 th December:	P4-P7 Christmas Party <i>Pupils may come to school in their party clothes. Please ensure that your child has suitable outerwear for over their party clothes/ shoes so they can be warm and dry outside at break and lunch.</i>
Tuesday, 17 th December:	Christmas Panto, shared with our friends from Fox Covert Primary School. <i>Pupils should wear school uniform on this day.</i>
Wednesday, 18 th December:	P1-P3 Christmas Party Pupils may come to school in their party clothes. <i>Please ensure that your child has suitable outerwear for over their party clothes/ shoes so they can be warm and dry outside at break and lunch. Alternatively, P1-P3 pupils may choose to bring their party clothes with them and can change at 1pm.</i>
Friday, 20 th December:	Christmas Service (led by the upper school) 10.45am in the school hall. All welcome but space may be limited.

Provisional Dates

18-29 November	Catholic Education Weeks
Thursday, 28 th November 10am	Feast Day Mass (St Kentigern's)
Friday, 29 th November	School Feast Day (ice cream and Magic Show!)
Thursday, 5 th December	Primary 1 and 2 Nativity (ticketed event)
Wednesday, 11 th December 1.15pm	Community Carols (all welcome)
Thursday, 12 th December	School Closed to Pupils (General Election)
Friday 20 th December 10.45am	Christmas Service Term Ends
Thursday, 9 th January	Pupils Return
Wednesday, 15 th January	Parent Council Meeting
10-14 th February	February Holiday

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

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	

NURTURE INSPIRE FLOURISH

This newsletter has been proof read and edited by Tara P7