



ST ANDREW'S FOX COVERT R.C. PRIMARY SCHOOL  
Clerwood Terrace  
Edinburgh  
EH12 8PG

0131 339 2383  
admin@foxcovert-rc.edin.sch.uk

Head Teacher: Mrs Rebecca Favier, BEd (*hons*), MEd.

14<sup>th</sup> August 2020

## **Newsletter No. 1**

A warm welcome to the first edition of our newsletter for this session! The children are enjoying working and playing together in their new classes and already we have lots of news to share with you.

Our **website** has had a significant amount of content. We are working on our new school handbook and will upload it shortly.

If your child requires **medication** in school, whether prescribed or non-prescribed, please contact the school office. Non prescribed hand cream may be stored in pupil bags; please remind your child that in school they may use only a pea sized amount and must never share cream.

### **Staffing Update**

St Andrew's Fox Covert R.C. Primary has a fantastic team and we greet staff returning this session as well as extending a special welcome to our new faces.

**Head Teacher:** Mrs Rebecca Favier

**Business Manager:** Ms Sarah Dickson

**Primary 1:** Mrs Mhairi Brannan (*Principal Teacher*) and Miss Fiona Burrows (Thursday afternoon and Fridays)

**Primary 2:** Miss Molly Gordon and Miss Fiona Burrows (Wednesday and Thursday afternoons)

**Primary 3:** Miss Aoibheann Kelly (*acting Numeracy Development Officer*)

**Primary 4:** Miss Louise Monaghan

**Primary 5:** Mr Oscar Chamberlain

**Primary 6:** Mrs Rachael Quinn (*acting literacy Development Officer*)

**Primary 7:** Miss Emma Glen

**Support for Learning Teacher:** Miss Fiona Burrows

**PE Specialist:** Mrs Gill Matthews

**Visiting Teacher:** Mrs Helen Weir

**Visiting Teacher:** Ms Julie Richard

**School Administrator:** Miss Mandy Tweedale

**Pupil Support Assistant:** Miss Erin Thomson

**Pupil Support Assistant:** Mrs Michelle Finlayson

**Pupil Support Assistant:** Mr Paul McPherson

**Pupil Support Assistant:** Mrs Nasim Akhtar

**Pupil Support Assistant:** Mrs Linda Boyle

**Pupil Support Assistant:** Mrs Stephanie Bates

**Service Support Officer:** Mr Kenny Orr

You can contact any member of the staff team via the school office [Admin@foxcovert-rc.edin.sch.uk](mailto:Admin@foxcovert-rc.edin.sch.uk)

Please note that Mrs Brannan will be working Monday-Thursday from the beginning of September.

### Reducing the Cost of the School Day

In Edinburgh, the child poverty rate matches the national average and affects 1 in 5 pupils. At St Andrew's we are committed to raising awareness and understanding of child poverty and reducing its impact on educational outcomes.

We:

- support families through our uniform pop up uniform stalls (no charge)
- offer additional uniform as required
- offer PE kits as required
- provide opportunities for our pupils to attend the Kidzcare Breakfast Club
- supply all materials and stationery needed; pupils may bring pencil-cases but these remain in the school bags
- offer free snacks as required
- are a toy/ games free school so no child feels pressure to bring the latest gadget to school
- accept optional donations only for dress down days and collections
- refer families to the local foodbanks
- arrange supportive payment plans, often stretching over 18 months to support families to pay for residential excursions
- offer families free holidays via our friends at St Vincent de Paul
- offer Christmas hampers and gifts via our friends at St Vincent de Paul
- if a charge must be made for an educational excursion, these are optional to ensure pressure is not put on family finances
- signpost families to other agencies as appropriate
- demonstrate our commitment to reducing poverty related stigma by raising awareness amongst our community

Please get in touch with me via the school office if you require support. All conversations will be held in confidence.

**PE kits** are not required at this time but outdoor trainers will be required for P4-P7 pupils. St Andrew is proudly a **Learning Beyond the Classroom** recognised school. Your child will be regularly exploring, playing and learning in **the great outdoors**, please ensure they bring wet weather gear each day.

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 contact the school office by phone or email and Miss Tweedale will be happy to help you and ensure your information is shared appropriately. [admin@foxcovert-rc.edin.sch.uk](mailto:admin@foxcovert-rc.edin.sch.uk) or telephone 0131 339 2383.

**Primary 7 Hoodies** forms must be returned by Friday, 21<sup>st</sup> August. **Striped school ties** are now on order and I will write to all families as soon as they are in. Thank you for your patience.

The start and end of the school day are busy times on the streets surrounding the campus. 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.

Everyone loves a birthday and we like to hear about how you and your family celebrate. Unfortunately we are unable to **accept any cakes or treats** (whether homemade or shop bought) to give out to pupils.

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.

There is much evidence to suggest that **drinking plenty water** throughout the day helps you think! The children are welcome to bring in water (not juice) to school each day to drink in the classroom. Bottles must be taken home at the end of each day and must be clearly labelled. Please note that if an unlabelled bottle comes in, a staff member will take a sharpie to it so it can be identified! Please note that our COVID risk assessments make it difficult to refill water bottles; please ensure your child has enough water for the school day. If they run out of water we will of course ensure they can refill their bottles.

**Scooter and bike parking:** we are exploring options for getting a new bike store near the top gate. For now, our PSA team will support your child to bring their bike into school and we will store it safely. Thank you for scooting and cycling (and walking) to school whenever possible.

**Milk payments** for period 1 are due today!

Please ensure you return your **green KICANNUAL excursion form** (coming home via the school bag on Monday) as soon as possible as without it your child cannot enjoy learning on the Hill or be able to attend Mass as a class.

Our pupils will be outside in the playground **whatever the weather** (after eating snack and lunch in their classrooms). A warm, waterproof coat and sturdy footwear are needed every day.

Thank you for not bringing in toys (including cards and books) or stationery from home. We have plenty of resources in school and this is supporting our **infection control** risk assessments.

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.

We are currently exploring possible options for a **virtual meet the teacher event**. Watch this space!

As you know, our playground has currently been divided to support social distancing across our campus. Please rest assured that all classes will **access the Astro, trim trail, slides** and other areas of the lower playground with their teacher throughout the week.

**Mass: Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary** Archbishop Cushley is celebrating this Sunday's Mass live on Facebook at 9am [www.facebook.com/EdinburghRCdiocese](https://www.facebook.com/EdinburghRCdiocese) The Archbishop will still say a word of welcome to school pupils so please tune in.

With Covid-19, it is even more important than ever to get the **flu vaccine**. NHS Scotland strongly recommends children get their flu vaccine this year. More details to follow.

Primary 2-Primary 6 **class representatives** will remain in office until Christmas. House Captains and Primary 1 class representatives will be elected shortly.

Primary 7 are very much looking forward to the opportunity to be **virtual buddies** to their new Primary 1 peers. Watch out for their special input in the next newsletter.

Every year we work with all of our stakeholders to evaluate our work and produce a report about the **standards and quality** of St Andrew's Fox Covert Primary School (more on this in newsletter 2). We then use this information to create an annual school improvement plan (SIP). This year our SIP will need to look a little different as we seek to reconnect after the disruptions of COVID. As usual, our plans will be driven forward by our learners and our **School Renewal Plan** will be based on the following four interconnected themes. Watch this space!



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



ST ANDREW'S FOX COVERT RC PRIMARY: A COMMUNITY OF LOVE  
nurture, inspire, flourish