



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

Friday, 9th October 2020

Newsletter No. 3

Autumn has arrived on our campus and we are very much enjoying watching the colours change around us. All classes are accessing the Hill regularly and the Autumn air is magical up there; please remember your wet weather kit and warm clothing as it gets chillier.

Our **website** has had a significant amount of content added. Please take a look at <https://foxcovertprimary.wordpress.com/>

Dogs are not permitted on the campus. Please ensure your pet remains away from the school gates as some children/adults are uncomfortable walking past them.

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.

We are delighted to announce that we are in the process of registering to become a **Laudato Si Scotland School**. In his letter Laudato Si and more recently in his invitation to create a global education compact, Pope Francis asks us to love God, look after each other and protect the world. He tells us about the challenges we are facing in our world and asks us to make things better. That's why we are being invited to become a Laudato Si School: to love God, look after each other and protect the earth.

Why? Pope Francis asks us to love God, look after each other and protect the world.

What? It is a promise to care for our common home

Who? You! Me! Everyone! Pope Francis has asked the whole world to act.

Where? Anywhere and everywhere.

When? Now. Pope Francis says that this is an urgent challenge

How? As a Laudato Si School we will learn, pray, and act to "protect all life, to prepare for a better future of justice, peace, love and beauty"



St Theresa House (Red) will be leading us in this important work. We can't wait to get started!

We understand that, particularly as our pupils get older, **mobile devices are an essential means of communication**. Mobile devices must be switched off during the school day. If, for example in an emergency, a mobile device needed to be used in the playground before or after school this should be done discreetly, and photographs should not be taken. Pupils should hand their device to their Class Teacher upon arrival/ at the start of the school day. All devices will be locked away for safe keeping and will be returned to pupils at the end of the school day. Pupils will not be permitted to carry mobile devices on school trips. The security of mobile devices is the responsibility of the pupil. The school is not insured for personal belongings and mobile devices are brought into school at owner's risk.

The WALKING BUS led by Chris Young (Parent and Parent Council Office Bearer)

WB1: Broomhall-St Andrews Fox Covert Runs every Friday, weather permitting.

The route is: Broomhall Crescent, Ladywell Avenue, Featherhall Avenue, StJohns Road, Templeland Rd, Corstorphine Bank Drive, Caroline Terrace, Clerwood Park, Oakwood, Ashwood Gait, Clerwood Terrace, Clermiston Rd. taking approx 40mins start to finish, setting off from Broomhall at 8.10am.

The 'bus' is live tracked via a private WhatsApp group (only participants will see this) so bus 'passengers' can join in where they are able to from their own location- this means 'park and striders' can join us too.

A few rules apply:

- for absolute clarity, we walk! i.e. no vehicles
- I will always try to ensure a minimum walking ratio of 1 adult to 4 children.
- parents are strongly encouraged to join in to maintain ratio and road safety at all times.
- this shouldn't be viewed as a 'babysitting service'- we may be able to accommodate a few older unaccompanied children (P4 upwards) so long as the 1:4 ratio is maintained but P3-P1 children will need a parent to accompany them- we will monitor all this as the Bus develops
- social distancing on the route can be only be ensured if enough parents help out
- there is no pressure to get involved; I started this to reduce our family car journeys, but the choice will always be yours to participate or not
- this is a work in progress so some aspects may change as the route develops



If you'd like to join us on this route you are very welcome, just get in touch with me (Chris Young) through Classlist and I'll answer any questions you might have. If you'd like to set up your own walking bus route, I'd be delighted to help you set it up, just drop me a note via Classlist. Chris Young

We are delighted to be working in partnership with SPCA over the next few weeks and all classes will enjoy a virtual workshop from Scotland's **Animal Welfare Charity**.

A member of our staff team has a severe nut allergy and a number of pupils across the school are allergic to nuts. I would therefore ask that, where possible, pupils **do not bring nuts** to school.

Our **Primary 7 Hoodies** have been delivered. They look fantastic!

Parental Consultations for Primary 7 and Primary 1 will take place on the 12th and 13th of October using MS Teams. Primary 2-6 will follow on 5/6 November and I will write to the parents of these classes nearer the time to arrange appointments.

Respect Me: **Scotland's Anti Bullying Service** are offering free events for parents <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/o/respectme-scotlands-anti-bullying-service-30901669027>

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.

PE kits are not required at this time but outdoor trainers will be required for P4-P7 pupils. St Andrew's 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. If you would like support to obtain wellies or waterproofs please contact the school office.

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 (rather than using Twitter or MS365) and Miss Tweedale will be happy to help you and ensure your information is shared appropriately admin@foxcovert-rc.edin.sch.uk or telephone 0131 339 2383.

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.

Home Learning at St Andrew's

Well done to those of you who have managed to log onto MS365 and access weekly home learning. We know this new way of working brings about some technology challenges and takes time to get used to (for all of us) but once you are up and running things become fairly straight forward. Please contact us if you need to and we will support you to get access.

You can find out everything you need to know about how home learning works at St Andrew's by visiting our website and clicking on Home Learning however I note key information below.

How does Home Learning look at St Andrew's?

On Mondays, each class publishes **Home Learning** tasks to their class MS365 page. All tasks are due for the Monday of the following week (other than reading books- see below); we know how busy family life can be and this gives families the flexibility to structure home learning in a way that works for individual circumstances!

Due to our COVID-19 infection control procedures all reading books must be returned on a Friday (when requested by the class teacher) to ensure these can be isolated safely for 72 hours over the weekend. We are unable to take any homework 'in' for marking/feedback rather the class teacher, from time to time, may set specific 'assignments' where we are able to offer unique, private feedback to your child. If there is no assignment set, please assume that the home learning task is for discussion and completion at home.

Most of our home learning tasks are 'pencil and paper free' however if you would like us to send home some scrap paper and a mini stationery set just let us know via the school office.

Each week you can choose to complete Mild, Medium or Hot tasks with your child. Again, this approach offers flexibility to meet the competing demands of family life! We would advise all families to engage in the **Mild Tasks** as we believe doing so will have a positive and lasting impact upon your child. If however you would like to opt out of home learning, please let the school know.

Mild Tasks

Will usually include the following items:

- explore the **Wednesday Word** (this is a worksheet that you can discuss and print out if you wish to)
- discuss the **Weekly Intended Learning** (the intended learning for your child's class will be published weekly on MS365)
- engage in **reading** (pages/ chapters will be set in class each week)

Medium Tasks

Will usually include the following items:

- all **Mild Tasks**
- learn and remember **spelling** words
- complete **maths** challenge

After Christmas, Primary 7 learners may benefit from additional tasks to support their transition to high school.

Hot Tasks

- all **Mild Tasks**
- all **Medium Tasks**
- **Head Teacher Challenge** (will be set by Mrs Favier and although a fun task, will really stretch our learners to think creatively!)

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 (particularly at the Falkland Gardens/ Clermiston Road grassy area) as this is damaging the local environment. Parking on the double yellow lines is of course prohibited and cars should not park on the dropped kerbs. Please ask yourself '**Will a small child be able to see the traffic and cross safely if I park here?**' If you do happen to witness dangerous driving or parking, please contact Police Scotland on 101 or if urgent 999.

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.

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.

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.

The **October Holiday** is from 19-26 October; pupils should return to school on Tuesday 27th October 2020.

With so many restrictions due to COVID-19, it only seems right that when we have the opportunity for a little fun we should take it! On Friday 30th October pupils may, if they wish, **come to school in a costume**. This should be 'stress free dressing up' and, should your child wish to participate, we ask that you check their costume is suitable for school. Please ensure warm clothing and footwear is still worn to school for use at playtime. We would also ask that no props or items that might be taken off and shared are brought in- this will assist us in maintaining rigorous infection control.

If you need to talk to us about any matter- big or small- please email the school admin account admin@foxcovert-rc.edin.sch.uk or call us on 339 2383. Please do not send emails directly to individual staff or message them via twitter or MS365. Thank you very much for supporting us in this small way; it ensures you get a prompt response and that we can offer an excellent level of service.

Rebecca Favier
Head Teacher

Virtual Parent Council Meeting Dates For Your Diary (Teams links to follow)	
AGM 23 rd of September	24 th of March
25 th of November	26 th of May
20 th of January	22 nd of June

This newsletter has been proof read and edited by Victor Primary 7

ST ANDREW'S FOX COVERT RC PRIMARY: A COMMUNITY OF LOVE



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