



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

The clocks have changed the nights are now dark; Autumn is very much upon us! 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.

The Primary 7 pupils will visit the War Memorial on Wednesday, 11th November to lay a wreath on behalf of the school community. We will also be sharing the **Story of the Poppy** in all classes.

A huge congratulations to Dale in Primary 4 for winning the **Autumn Photograph Competition**. Further congratulations to Pia (P7), Liam (P6), Kuan (P5), Alexander (P4), Oliver (P3), Lois (P2) and Sean (P1) who were the runners up.

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.

The Primary 1 and Primary 2 pupils have started to prepare for this year's **Infant Nativity**. Of course things will look (and sound) a little different this year but we are determined to offer a rich, enjoyable and memorable opportunity for our youngest learners. The Primary 4 pupils will lead the **P3-P7 Service of the Nativity**- again we will need to be creative about how we manage this! More details to follow.

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 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.

Pupils in P1, P2, P4, P6 and P7 will be enjoying **Rugby Sessions** towards the end of November and into December. Dates as follows:

P1	TUE 17, 24 NOV 1, 8, 15 DEC
P4	TUE 17, 24 NOV 1, 8, 15 DEC
P2	WED 18, 25 NOV 2, 9, 16 DEC
P6	MON 16, 23, 30 NOV 7, 14 DEC
P7	MON 16, 23, 30 NOV 7, 14 DEC

School Travel Plan

We are currently updating our school travel plan. School travel plans are simply a list of actions that our school agrees and then commits to run as part of a whole school approach. **School travel plans are not designed with the intention of forcing every pupil to walk, cycle or scoot every day**; we fully appreciate that staff and families may need to use a car to come to school. Instead, our school travel plan aims to reduce the barriers to active travel for as many staff, pupils and parents as possible taking account of the current challenging context.

What a school travel plan is:

- an opportunity to bring together teachers, parents, students, and communities
- way to encourage and support to facilitate the whole school's commitment to active travel
- a way to gather data and show outcomes
- a commitment to encouraging active travel and to supporting a healthy, happy school environment
- an example of our school values (nurture, inspire, flourish) in action

What a school travel plan isn't:

- along, exhaustive document
- something that takes a long time to develop
- a one-off document that doesn't change
- an attempt to force every pupil to walk, cycle or scoot

So far our pupils have offered the following suggestions for discussion:

- improve the bike/ scooter parking in the upper playground and offer locks to those who need them
- expand the P6 and P7 Bikeability courses (formerly known as cycling proficiency) to include P5 pupils
- see how well the new parent led walking bus works; can this be expanded?
- consider if 'park and stride' options would be possible in our school context
- encourage staff to travel to work on foot or bike where possible

Our next virtual meeting is on Tuesday, 3rd November at 9:30am. Please let the school office know if you would like to join us.

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.

After our very successful P1 and P7 **Parental Consultations** before the holiday, P2-P6 consultations will take place virtually on 5/6 November. Please ensure you have completed your response form (emailed to you) by noon today.

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.

We are preparing for Catholic Education Week 2020! This year's theme is "Jesus Christ, the Way, the Truth and the Life". **Catholic Education Week** takes place each year from the Feast of St Margaret of Scotland (16th November) until the Feast of St Andrew (30th November) so that schools can have plenty of time and flexibility to explore the theme. We will be doing lots of work in our classes- check out our twitter feed to see our progress.

Our School Renewal Plan (formerly known as a School Improvement Plan) is available on the **website**. Please take a look at <https://foxcovertprimary.wordpress.com/> . I have attached the pupil version for you to talk to your child about.

After pitching their suggestion to me, two of our Primary 6 learners are leading the upper school to design a **fifth learning character**. This new character will be used in P5-P7 only to support our pupils develop the skills they need for transitioning to high school. The ideas are flowing and Ro and Innis look forward to presenting the new character shortly.



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.

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

This newsletter has been proof read and edited by Mary, Primary 6

