



ST ANDREW'S FOX COVERT R.C. PRIMARY SCHOOL
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Newsletter No. 5

Welcome to newsletter 5. It is that time of year when the sound of fiddles and pipes drift into my office from the gym hall as the children start learning **Scottish Country Dances**. We have a very detailed programme on offer that ensures progression across the school. Please ask your child to share some steps with you in the coming weeks.

Congratulations to our Primary 5 pupils who celebrated the **Sacrament of Holy Communion** on Saturday. It was a wonderful event and a real ray of joy and hope in these challenging times.

Last session Primary 6 (now Primary 7) worked together to design **inspiring learning spaces** for both upper school classrooms. They selected new desks, chairs, stools, work benches, sofas and beanbags. New blinds were also ordered (coming soon). Along with the brand new promethean boards that have been installed, the Primary 6 and Primary 7 learning spaces have been transformed. The pupils are delighted and, after working together to design and agree a new layout, are settling into the new space well.

We raised an amazing £48 for **Poppy Scotland**! Thank you so much. Our Primary 7 pupils represented our school and laid a poppy wreath at the War Memorial.

Today Tanmay, Sanjula and Pia presented to the school at assembly all about the festival of Diwali. It was truly inspirational to hear their presentations and on behalf of the whole school, I thank them for sharing their beliefs and faith traditions with us.

You will remember that last year we published new versions of the school's Anti Bullying Policy. We will be strengthening this further by including **Tackling Racist Incidents and Creating an Anti-Racist Culture**. More details to follow.

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! Christmas Parties will most likely take place in classrooms this year. More details about Christmas Panto, parties and Nativity services to follow.

Mrs Budge (Fox Covert Primary Head Teacher) and I are keen to review the current **arrangements for break and lunch time** regarding the playground spaces. The building work in the upper playground is due to be completed in early December and this will give us a great opportunity to revisit the current systems in place. Please be assured that we will risk assess closely any changes to ensure infection control measures are in place; safety will remain the top priority. As you will appreciate, with one-way systems, staggered breaks and lunches, supervision, catering requirements and toilet access to be considered, this is a most complex task. I will of course update you as soon as possible.

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.

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.

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.

Our House Captains have contacted Bruce Adamson, the Children's and Young Person's Commissioner for Scotland to share their concerns about the **climate change agenda** perhaps being lost in the current context. Simultaneously, I was approached by a Primary 6 pupil who asked to run an awareness raising campaign across the school. These pupils will now meet to discuss their ideas and concerns with Bruce in mid December and I have no doubt you will be hearing from them in the new year!

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.

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.

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.

I am delighted to share with you the results of our pupil led **staff wellbeing questionnaire**. The questions were designed by our senior pupils and I am sure you will agree with me that, in asking questions such as these, our learners have shown warm regard and care for our staff team.

- 100% of staff agreed or strongly agreed that they were happy working at St Andrew's
- 100% of staff agreed or strongly agreed that they are good at their job
- 100% of staff agreed or strongly agreed that they felt safe at work
- 100% of staff agreed or strongly agreed that they felt included at St Andrew's and felt valued
- 100% of staff agreed or strongly agreed that they were a good social distancer and hand washer
- 6% of staff said they did not agree with the following statement *I feel confident that I know what racism, prejudice, intolerance and xenophobia mean and I know how to address these*; 94% of staff said they agreed or strongly agreed

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". As part of their learning, each class will write a prayer to reflect this year's theme. We will join Father Jeremy for Mass on Monday (Father will live stream this from the Church and pupils will watch from their classrooms) to mark the start of this special time.

Our **School Feast Day** is on Monday, 30th November. There is plenty planned including Mass, extra playtime, fun learning activities and ice cream provided by the Parent Council. We can't wait!

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 Pia P7

