



ST ANDREW'S FOX COVERT R.C. PRIMARY SCHOOL
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Friday, 18th December 2020

Newsletter No.7

Welcome to Newsletter 7. Christmas is nearly here and this week has been full of cheer and celebration. Each class enjoyed a party, watched a Christmas production, visited our Santa Grotto and took part in various Christmas themed activities throughout the week. Our celebrations will continue next week and will conclude with our very special Christmas Service at 9:30am (link to follow) on Tuesday 22nd December. **Please note that the term ends at 12 noon on Tuesday, 22nd December.** The new term starts for pupils at 8:50am on Wednesday, 6th January 2021.

A number of our older pupils enjoyed a cycle to/from the Gallery of Modern Art last week to participate in some activities in the Gallery grounds. We were joined by a film crew who recorded our work which will be used to train teachers about the opportunities for learning beyond the classroom at the Gallery. Well done to all involved!



Covid-19 Arrangements over Christmas and New Year

In order to ensure we are able to support families who may test positive over Christmas and New Year, we have put in place arrangements that will allow us to work with Health Protection Lothian to identify potential close contacts in our school. In order for this to be most effective, we are asking you to support us by

- reporting any absence to us via the school admin email account admin@foxcovert-rc.edin.sch.uk (or on 339 2383 within school day/ term time hours) so we can keep our records up to date (please do not use other school email addresses as these are not monitored regularly)
- if your child is symptomatic with any of the following symptoms, please do not send them to school
 - a new continuous cough.
 - A new continuous cough is where you have a new cough that's lasted for an hour have had three or more episodes of coughing in 24 hours and are coughing more than usual.
 - and/or a fever/high temperature
 - A high temperature is feeling hot to the touch on your chest or back (you don't need to measure your temperature). You may feel warm, cold or shivery
- During the school holidays, if your child has had a positive test result for Covid-19 please call 0131 200 2000 to let us know.

As your child(ren) has remained in a 'bubble group', St Andrew's will share attendance information with the Health Protection Team so they can identify and notify close contacts in the event of a positive case. You do not need to do anything further.

Learning Beyond the Classroom at St Andrew's Fox Covert

St Andrew's is proudly a learning beyond the classroom school. We firmly believe the journey through education for any child at St Andrew's must include planned, quality learning experiences that take place out with the classroom. We have worked to embed Learning Beyond the Classroom in our delivery of the Curriculum progressively and sustainability.

At St Andrew's our vision for outdoor learning is that:

- all children participate weekly in outdoor learning experiences (throughout the year and in variable weather) which are embedded in our curriculum
- learning beyond the classroom is seen as a normal part of the St Andrew's learning and teaching experience; we provide waterproofs and wellies as appropriate
- learning beyond the classroom connects our staff and pupils with each other, with the natural world, with our built heritage and shared Catholic values

As you know we have been awarded the LOtC (Learning Outside the Classroom) mark at Bronze Level. In the new year we will be submitting our application and evidence for Gold! As you can imagine the current context makes this significantly more complex but we believe that the quality of the provision and the learner experience meets the criteria for the award.

We are looking for 3 or 4 parents to read and then feedback to us on our application before we submit it. Do you have an hour where you could meet with us via MS Teams, look at our application and feedback your thoughts? If so, please email us via the school office (if you can let us know any days or times within your week that suit better than others that would be good too!).

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.

We are currently unable to welcome **Tempest Photography** into our school due to our infection control procedures. Should this change I will of course let you know. We will seek to do our own version of these shoots (although cannot guarantee the quality of a professional!) later in the year if needed.

Our House Captains and an interested Priamry 6 pupil met (via MS Teams) with 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. The Commissioner's website has been updated as a result of our pupil comments! It was a wonderful discussion and the group are planning a very special campaign next term. Watch this space!

We raised £99.53 for CHAS by wearing our **Christmas Jumpers** to school. Thank you so much for your generous contributions.

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.

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.

The building work in the upper playground has now been completed. I am sure you will agree the extension looks fantastic and fits the space well. This completion has given Mrs Budge (Fox Covert Primary Head Teacher) and I the opportunity to review the current **arrangements for break and lunch time** regarding the playground spaces. After the Christmas break each 'bubble group' will be allocated a playground zone and these will rotate weekly. This means that, on a rota basis over a number of weeks, all learners on the campus will get to enjoy all of our outdoor spaces in turn. We can't wait to get back to the astro, slides, trim-trail and nature garden and I am certain our friends next door are excited about playing once more on the much beloved Nessie! To accommodate this, the lunch break will start/finish 5 minutes earlier. Please be assured that we will keep these arrangements under constant review; health and safety regarding infection control will remain our priority.

Congratulations to our superstars in Primary 1 and Primary 2 for their wonderful infant **Nativity**. We have been overwhelmed by your feedback- thank you for your kind comments

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.

Scooter and bike parking: we are close to finding a solution for our bike parking 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 Ermina P7

