



St Andrew's Primary School

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Acting Leader of Learning

Mrs Joanne Hunter

Midlothian



## Weekly Update

Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> October 2020

Dear Parents and Carers

Thank you for your continued support as we work through another busy week in school and nursery. Despite some very mixed weather recently, pupils and staff are still managing to make the most of our outdoor spaces. Thank you for your cooperation in sending children in appropriate outdoor clothing. This has enabled classes to continue to spend more time learning outdoors – not just in PE, but in other areas of the curriculum too. We have had treasure hunts, litter picks and den building to name just a few activities! Keep an eye on our Twitter account to see what we have been up to!

As always, we have some updates and information that we hope you will find useful.

### **Health and Safety:**

We received a visit from two of Midlothian's Health and Safety team, yesterday, as part of an authority-wide inspection programme. As you would expect, there was a strong emphasis on observing recommended COVID-19 guidance. I am pleased to say that the team were very positive in their feedback about arrangements at St Andrew's, and were reassured by the robust risk assessments and infection control procedures that we have in place. I would like to thank our pupils, staff, parents and carers for their on-going support in ensuring the safety of all of our St Andrew's school community.

### **Wet Weather:**

As we head in to the Autumn months, it is likely that we will be experiencing many more wet and windy mornings. Please note that current restrictions mean that we are unable to gather the children in the school hall, as we would have done previously on wet mornings. Where possible, we ask that children avoid arriving early for start of the day. A reminder of the staggered start times is included in this letter. Unfortunately we are unable to provide in-class supervision before these times. Remember, if you have more than one child at St Andrew's we are happy for all to arrive at the time designated for the **latest child**, eg: Siblings in P3 and P1 can both arrive at the P1 time of 8:50. The P3 child will not be marked late, even though their start time is 8:40. Your cooperation in this matter is much appreciated as it reduces the number parents and pupils congregating in the school grounds, and helps keep everyone warm and dry. Thank you.

	Arrival time Mon-Thu	Dismissal time Mon-Thu	Dismissal time Friday	Entry Point
P3	8:40	3:10	11:55	P3 fire door
P4	8:40	3:10	11:55	P4 fire door
P5	8:40	3:10	11:55	P5 fire door
P2	8:45	3:15	12:00	P2 fire door
P7	8:45	3:15	12:00	P7 fire door
P1	8:50	3:20	12:05	P1 fire door
P6	8:50	3:20	12:05	P6 fire door
Nursery	8:30	3:30	12:30	Nursery fire door

### **First Holy Communion:**

We are delighted that seven of our P5 pupils are finally to receive the sacrament of Holy Communion, at a special Mass, on Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> October. Pupils and their families had the disappointment of this celebration being cancelled, due to lock-down, earlier in the year. We send our good wishes and prayers to all, this coming Saturday, and give our thanks to Miss Stewart for her guidance and support in ensuring that everyone is fully prepared.

### **Sacrament of Reconciliation:**

Our P3 pupils are soon to begin preparations for making their First Confession. It is hoped that this can take place during the season of Advent, as is usual. Further information regarding dates and other arrangements will follow next week.

### **Parent/Carer Consultations:**

Parent/Carer Consultations are provisionally due to take place, following the October break, on Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> and Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> November. Current restrictions mean that consultations are likely to take place via phone call. A letter will be issued to parents and carers, next week, explaining arrangements and timings in more detail.

### **A Polite Request:**

As a courtesy to all in our school community, we would ask that all visitors are mindful of using appropriate language whilst in and around our school grounds. Thank you.

### **Communication:**

As always, we are keen to keep in regular contact with you, regarding the progress and well-being of your child. Please feel free to contact the school office, either by phone or email, if there is something that you would like to discuss, and a member of staff will be in touch at the earliest opportunity.

Kind regards

Joanne Hunter (Acting Leader of Learning)