



New Term Update
Friday 26th August 2022



Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope you have had a lovely summer and that you and your loved ones have kept safe and well. We are delighted to have welcomed your child back to St Andrew's Primary School. For those children who have joined us for the first time, we are looking forward to getting to know you and your families over the coming weeks and months.

As we settle in to the new term I hope that you will find the following information helpful.

Kind regards

Joanne Hunter
(Leader of Learning)

Start and finish times for session 2022-23:

As you are aware, our school has operated staggered start and finish times since pupil return in August 2020. Whilst staggered times are no longer a Covid safety requirement - feedback from pupils, staff and parents has been very positive in relation to easing congestion at the school gates and local area. With this in mind, an updated staggered model has been introduced for pupil return in August – with classes being split between two start and finish times, instead of three. This should hopefully reduce the amount of time that parents and carers have to wait, should they have children in several classes.

Class	Start Time	Finish Time
Primary 1	8:40 am Monday-Thursday	3:10 pm Monday-Thursday
Primary 2	8:40 am Friday	11:55 am Friday
Primary 3		
Primary 4	8:45 am Monday-Thursday	3:15 pm Monday-Thursday
Primary 5	8:45 am Friday	12:00 noon Friday
Primary 6		
Primary 7		

Morning Bells:

To encourage our pupils to arrive as promptly as possible, a short reminder bell will now sound at 8:40 (for P1-3 pupils) and 8:45 (for P4-7) Hopefully this will support parents and carers who have the “joy” of encouraging more reluctant walkers first thing in the morning! 😊

Drop Off and Pick Up Routines:

It will continue to be the case that Primary 1 and Primary 2 pupils **must** be dropped off and collected from the classroom fire-door by an adult, ie: someone over the age of 16. Please ensure that your child's list of authorised adults is kept up to date throughout the year. Our school office staff are happy to support with this.

Primary 3-7 pupils are welcome to walk up the school path independently, at the start of the day, and enter their classroom by the fire-door. At the end of the day class teachers will continue to walk their class down the path for an orderly dismissal at the school gate.

Can we politely request that the toys that have been tidied away outside the P1-3 classrooms are not used before school or by siblings waiting for pick up at the end of the day. Unfortunately a number of items have already been damaged – meaning that they are unavailable for use by pupils during outdoor learning and choosing times. Thank you.

Vehicle Access:

It will continue to be the case that only pupil taxis and vehicles displaying either a blue badge or school parking permit will be given access to our school grounds. All other vehicles should park either in the Visitors' Car Park or in nearby, local parking bays.

Bikes and Scooters:

Pupils are welcome to make the most of Active Travel and use bikes or scooters to come to school. For the safety within the school grounds – pupils should dismount from these at the main gate and push them to the designated rack to be stored safely. We would encourage all of our cyclists to wear a properly fitting cycle helmet.

School Uniform:

It has been lovely to see all of our pupils looking so smart in their school uniform for the start of the new term. We would encourage pupils to wear their school uniform each day, except on PE days, when PE kit (dark leggings/joggers, plain T shirt and sweatshirt/hoodies) can be worn. **Staff would be grateful if you could ensure that all of clothing (including shoes and coats) is clearly named.**

With rising energy costs, we are mindful of the challenges in keeping washing up to date. A number of surplus uniform items are available, via our Home School Practitioner, Elaine Baur. Please feel free to contact Elaine on 07500 125 086 if you are interested in receiving any of these items. Elaine is also able to assist in accessing clothing grants and other entitlements to support families during these challenging times.

School Bags:

Pupils are welcome to bring a bag to school if they wish. However we would ask that **pupils do not bring toys or other personal items from home.** This includes fidget toys and similar items, which should remain at home **unless previously agreed** with teaching staff as part of an individual Child Learning Plan.

Medication

Please contact the school office, by either phone call or email, if your child requires medication to be administered during the school day, eg: inhalers. Our office staff will arrange for you to complete the appropriate paperwork.

Please ensure that any medication is in date and clearly labelled with your child's name and the dosage required. Please note that pupils requiring inhalers should have **2 which will be kept in school**. One inhaler will be accessible to your child at all times and another will be kept in the school office as a back-up.

Save the Date:

As part of our celebrations for Scottish Maths Week – we look forward to welcoming parents and carers into our classrooms on the **morning of Friday 30th September**. Further information will follow nearer the time.

Class newsletters and a full list of dates for the term ahead will also follow shortly.

Parish Summer Fete:

Please remember our Parish Fete which takes place at **St Matthew's RC Church, Rosewell, on Sunday 4th September at 2pm**. There is sure to be lots of fun for the whole family!

Keeping in touch:

We understand that this is a busy and exciting time for pupils and their families. Please be assured that we are focussed on getting it right for every one of our pupils, and that we will do our utmost to ensure a smooth start to the new term. We will continue to keep you updated regularly via parent text, email, Twitter and our school website.

Please contact our school office by either phone call or email, in the first instance, should you have any queries or questions. Our office staff will be happy to advise you or arrange for the appropriate member of staff to contact you. Thank you.

Have a lovely weekend!

