



Education Resources
Executive Director **Lindsay McRoberts**
St. Charles' Primary
Head Teacher **Maureen Reid**

Thursday 13th August 2026

Dear Parents,

Welcome back to school! I hope everyone had a wonderful summer. It is always a joy to welcome the children back to school looking happy and refreshed after the break. Many thanks to all our parents for the wonderful support with school uniform, the children are looking very smart and ready to learn. Our new Primary 1 have been superstars today with lots of happy, smiling faces as they arrived this morning and are settling in quickly.



Please see below updates and reminders for the new school term:

Staffing Updates

As you are already aware, at the end of last term I was appointed as the new Head Teacher of St. Mary's Primary in Hamilton. The next couple of weeks will be a transition period in which I will work across the two schools. In my absence, Mrs Milne our Depute Head Teacher will be your main point of contact, supported by Mrs Deery. Our new Acting Head Teacher, Mrs McLaughlin take up her position as of the 31st August. She is very much looking forward to getting started. We have met and I have told her how wonderful our children are. In addition to meeting with me, Mrs McLaughlin has met the staff and is keen to meet the children and parents. She will be popping over to the school ahead of the 31st August so keep your eyes peeled at the school gates!

We are delighted to welcome our new janitor Mr Murray to the school and wish him every happiness in his role. We also look forward to working with Miss Young and Mr Devine, our newest members of teaching staff.

****Allergy Update****

We have a number of children in the school with **severe** allergies. We are appealing for your support in not sending to school any product that contains nut (please also be mindful of chocolate spreads!). We know our children are very kind and caring but due to the range and severity of allergy, it is imperative that we discourage children from sharing snacks with peers. I would really appreciate if you can reinforce this with your child at home, as we will in school. Thank you!

School Uniform

Many thanks for your support in providing your child with a St. Charles school uniform. The children are expected to wear full school uniform daily. Our uniform consists of grey trousers or skirt, white shirt, school tie and bottle green jumper or cardigan. Pupils are asked to wear black shoes for school. If you are having difficulty providing your child with uniform, please get in touch. Support is available in a sensitive and confidential manner.



We appreciate parents providing soft indoor shoes as this not only ensures the child's comfort but also helps to keep our classroom carpets nice and clean.

Please remember to **label** your child's items of clothing with their name and class- this helps to return lost property to the rightful owner.

On occasion children are permitted to come to school in non uniform. This will be communicated with parents via the usual media. Items of clothing not suitable to be worn to school include football strips(clubs), cropped/ strappy tops and hot pant style shorts. To ensure the respect and dignity of

all our pupils and staff, we ask that every effort is made to ensure school clothing is appropriate and fit for purpose. We appreciate your support in this matter.



PE

PE timetable will be shared with pupils and parents shortly. Please note that children require a change of clothes for PE lessons (red polo shirt, black shorts and soft shoes). For health and safety reasons children will not be permitted to take part in lessons without shoes and all jewellery must be removed. If earrings cannot be removed, they must be covered with tape.

Acrylic nail extensions are not suitable for pupils in school and are a health and safety risk in the gym hall.

Pupils will not be permitted to take part in contact sports if they are wearing acrylic nail extensions.

We will once again be using our changing room facility for our older pupils for PE. P1-P3 are permitted to wear polo shirts on PE days to help make changing a bit easier for them.

Mobile Phones

Please note that mobile phones are not permitted for use during the school day. If bringing a phone to school children do so at their own risk. Any phones brought to school must be switched off during the school day. If a child owns a smart watch, you must ensure that calls/ messaging and photography/recording are not enabled during the school day. Many of these devices have 'school settings' which are recommended.

Drop Off and Pick Up arrangements

Children should continue to be dropped off/ enter at the school gates in the morning no earlier than **8.50am**. Supervision is not in place in the yard before this time.

Parents are able to enter the yard via the top gate (at the roundabout) from 2.55pm to collect their child. Parents are asked to wait towards the back of the yard to help safely dismiss pupils to parents at 3pm. Parents will then be able to leave via either of the gates after 3pm.

Please note that the car park is for use by school staff, delivery and school bus access only.

While parking for pick up and drop off times, please be courteous towards our neighbours and park in a safe and responsible manner. Please avoid parking over driveways etc.



School bus and after school care

Please email the school office to confirm end of day arrangements for your child if you will be making use of school transport or after school care services. It is very beneficial if parents can provide us with this information to help ensure correct dismissal at the end of the day. Thank you.

Medication

If your child requires medication in school then a medical form needs to be completed at the school office. Please remember that in order for school staff to administer medication the medication must be clearly labelled with your child's name from a pharmacist. *Under no circumstances should medication be stored in a child's schoolbag.*

Health Promoting School- Water

Children are encouraged to bring a filled bottle of water to school each day which they will have access to throughout the day. Where necessary, children will have the opportunity to refill water bottles.

Fruit Break

Each day at approximately 2pm children will be given the opportunity to enjoy a piece of fruit. Please support this initiative by sending in a piece of fruit for your child to enjoy.

Healthy Snack Options

As a health promoting school, we encourage children to bring healthy option snacks to school. Fizzy drinks and hard lollipops are not permitted. Fruit, baked crisps, popcorn etc are good options for snack time. Please avoid large grab/share bags of sweets and crisps for school. Thank you.

Breakfast Club

Breakfast club operates in school every day from **8.15am**. Children can attend on a drop-in basis. Children should enter via the side gate at the front of the school and make their way into the yard to enter into the dining hall. Unfortunately, parents are not permitted to enter the building for breakfast club but if you have any concerns about your child attending, please just get in touch and we can discuss arrangements.

Homework

Please note that formal homework will not be distributed until week beginning 24th August.

Annual data checks and permissions

These will be distributed in the coming week. Please check the details, complete and return these as soon as possible.

Parentsportal If you have not already registered, please

try to do so as soon as possible. If you are having any difficulty with this, please let us know and we can try to help. P1 activation letters will be processed as soon as possible.

Meet the Teacher- Wednesday 26th September 3.10pm or 3.40pm

Parents are invited to come along to their child's class to meet the teacher and hear about some of the class arrangements and planned learning for the term from the class teacher. These will be short informal sessions. In order to support parents with multiple children in the school the teachers will deliver their input twice, at 3.10pm and 3.40pm. We hope you will be able to pop in and say hello.

Welcome Service for New P1 and Parents- Sunday 20th September at 12noon St. Bride's

Our Primary 1 and parents are invited to attend a special mass of welcome.

And so begins another busy school year. I have every confidence that the children will continue to thrive and achieve within and beyond the classroom.

Please remember that if you have any comments, questions or concerns you can get in touch with us by contacting the school office and we will get back to you as soon as possible.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs Maureen Reid
Head Teacher

