



A few things to share on the run up to the Christmas break:

Seasonal Information

We will be holding our P1-3 Christmas Concert in school again this year. Primaries 1 and 2 will entertain the audience with a couple of Christmas songs followed by all of our P3 children presenting their nativity play, *The Noisy Nativity*. We will then be able to have some of the nativity songs at our Church Service nearer Christmas. The dates for the P1-3 Christmas Concert are Thursday 5 December and Friday 6 December at 2pm.

There will be an early lunch for all children on Wednesday 4 December, Thursday 5 December and Friday 6 December so that we have time to set up the hall for the dress rehearsal (Wednesday) and the concert on Thursday and Friday. Lunchtime will be from 12.15 pm – 1.15 pm.

Apps Central

We are pleased that so many parents have signed up to the School App. We use this to send our Newsletters and other communications. If you have not yet signed up for the App and would like to access it, please contact the school office for details and a form.

ParentPay

ParentPay is our preferred method of payment for school lunches and trips. There is a facility within ParentPay for parents to set up an alert to remind them to top up their child's account when the balance falls below a certain amount. To do this:-

- Go to the ParentPay website (you cannot do this via the ParentPay App) <https://www.parentpay.com/>
- Select Communications;
- Alert Settings;
- Select the type of alert (low balance and/or new item) and select how you want to receive your alerts (there is no charge if you select email alerts);
- Click Save at the bottom of screen.

We would be grateful if parents could set this alert, as this would greatly help to reduce our administration time in following up outstanding dinner monies.

Parking

We would like to remind parents to park considerately in the streets around the school and not park over or partially across local residents' driveways. May we also remind you not to park or drop off within the yellow lines. The Police in joint operation with Stirling Council parking wardens will be attending and issuing tickets to any offenders.

Naming Uniform and Lost Property

Please can we once again ask parents to ensure that all children's belongings are clearly named/labelled. We have a large amount of lost property going unclaimed, which increases on a daily basis. Please do come in to have a look at lost property and claim anything belonging to your child. Unclaimed items at the end of term will be transferred to our Renew and Reuse uniform collection.

Weather Conditions and School Closures

Just a reminder of our procedure for school closures here at Riverside:

Unless there is a Stirling Council decision to close all schools, we strive to keep the school open. It is reassuring that a number of staff from other schools, who cannot reach their own schools, are designated to join us to cover

for our own staff. Our staff come from a wide geographical area and can struggle with transport delays and weather/travel conditions.

Please be aware that if we have to close the school, information will be available from

- Stirling Council website at www.stirling.gov.uk
- Central FM Radio (103.1)

At a school level we try to keep you up to date through

- School website at www.riversideprimaryschool.co.uk
- Apps Central School App
- Twitter @rpsinstirling.

If the closure is Council wide text messages may be used, however there is a possibility due to the high volume of texts being sent across the council that there may be a delay in parents receiving the message. Therefore please do check the other communication sources mentioned above.

Enrolment for session 2020-2021

We will be enrolling for Nursery Class and P1, (both mainstream and Gaelic) for Session 2020-2021 on Wednesday 8 January 2020 and Thursday 9 January 2020. We need to know the number of children joining us as soon as possible so that staffing levels for next year can be calculated. Please help us by spreading the word so that our numbers are accurate at this early stage.

You can come along on: Wednesday 8 January 2020 from 8.45 am - 11.15 am or Thursday 9 January 2020 from 1.30 pm - 3.00 pm. When enrolling, you should bring the following items:

For P1 ~ both Mainstream and Gaelic

- Child's birth certificate **AND** Child Benefit Entitlement Letter

Only original documents will be accepted - production of these documents is mandatory

They should be accompanied by **TWO** of the following

- Current Council Tax Bill
- DWP letter confirming benefits
- Letter of tenancy
- Letter from solicitor confirming house purchase
- Two utility bills (no more than 3 months old)
- Bank Statement
- Local Authority Rent Book
- Working Families Tax Credit Award Letter

For Nursery Class

- Child's birth certificate
- Proof of address (as above)

Charities

This session the charities we will be supporting are Start Up Stirling, Diabetes UK, Cystic Fibrosis Trust and Sport Relief. We will not be collecting in school for Children in Need this year.

The Stirling Observer Give A Gift appeal

The Stirling Observer have asked us to let families know about this year's Give A Gift appeal:

Give a Gift has been running for many years and they are asking you to buy just one extra gift with your festive shopping, and hand it into school. Please do not wrap your gifts, as the charities will be selecting what they need from the donations, to match with specific children. This year's good causes to benefit will include Stirling

Women's Aid, HomeStart Stirling, PLUS, Stirling Young Carers, Stirling Council social services and more. **Please hand in any items you wish to donate by Monday 2 December at the latest.** Thank you for your support.

This year our staff team will be supporting the Give a Gift Appeal in lieu of our staff Secret Santa.

School Clubs

We are fortunate to have a strong partnership with Active Stirling who offer a range of sporting opportunities during the school day for children from nursery to P7 throughout the school session. In addition to this, I am very grateful to members of school staff who offer clubs to the children in the Winter and Spring terms. These clubs are a goodwill gesture on behalf of staff in their own time to further enhance the wider opportunities which we can offer children. If numbers are oversubscribed for the clubs then places are balloted and the unsuccessful applicants are offered a place in the next round of clubs. I wish to thank parents/carers for supporting their children's resilience to cope when they do not get their first choice.

R.A.P.P - Riverside Active Parent Partnership

Our Christmas Fayre will be held in the school 'Hub'. We hope you will support this event on Wednesday 4 December from 6pm to 8pm. Special visitor in a red suit will be making an appearance in his grotto! We are very grateful to the Parent Council for their generous contribution to our Christmas events each year. Anyone who would like to get involved in R.A.P.P. please contact the school office with your contact details and we will pass it on.

Dates for your diary - always subject to change!

Wednesday 20 November	Rag Bag Collection
Friday 22 November	P5/6M, P6B & P6C Parents' Assembly
Thursday 28 November	Staff Development Day - school closed to children
Friday 29 November	Staff Development Day - school closed to children
Wednesday 4 December	Parent Council Winter Fayre
Thursday 5 December	P1 - P3 Christmas Concert 2pm
Friday 6 December	P1 - P3 Christmas Concert 2pm
Friday 13 December	School Christmas Lunch
Thursday 19 December	Christmas Church Service 10am
Friday 20 December	M and M Theatre performance (in school)
Friday 20 December	School closes 1.30 pm for Christmas break
Monday 6 January 2020	School re-opens 9.00 am for Spring term

If any matter gives you as a parent/carer cause for concern, please do not hesitate to let me, or a member of the staff team know.

Michelle MacPhee
Acting Headteacher

Forthcoming Christmas Events

Monday 2 December -

- Christmas Post starts - children are welcome to bring in cards to 'post' to other children in our school. Envelopes must be addressed with the recipient's name and class. P4 Children will have the responsibility of sorting and delivering the post throughout the school.

Thursday 5 December

- P7 Christmas Party from 7pm - 9pm in the school. P7 children have been issued with a letter with details of the party.

Thursday 5 December & Friday 6 December

- P1-P3 Christmas Concert at 2pm in the Hub. P1 - P3 families have been sent a letter with details of tickets.

Wednesday 4 December, Thursday 5 December & Friday 6 December - Early Lunch

- There will be an early lunch for all children on Wednesday 4 December, Thursday 5 December and Friday 6 December so that we can set up the hall for the concert. Lunchtime will be from 12.15 pm - 1.15 pm on those days.

Friday 13 December

- School Christmas Lunch. Children will be issued with a letter asking if they would like to order a lunch.

Friday 13 December

- Children are welcome to join staff in our Festive Dress Down Day. They may come to school wearing either a Christmas/Wintery jumper or something seasonal, eg, a hat, tinsel. Children are not required to make any donations, however, if you do wish to send a small donation with your child this will go to one of our chosen charities for the year.

Christmas Parties

On the day of their class party children are welcome to bring party clothes, in a bag, to change into at lunchtime or can go home at lunchtime to change. Please inform your child's class teacher if your child is going home at lunchtime. There is no cost for the parties as we continue to pay for these events to keep costs down for families at this time of year.

Party Dates are:

Thursday 5 December	P7 Christmas Party 7.00 pm
Monday 9 December	P6 Christmas Party - pm
Tuesday 10 December	P5 Christmas Party - pm
Wednesday 11 December	P4 Christmas Party - pm
Thursday 12 December	P3 Christmas Party - pm
Friday 13 December	Nursery Rhyme Time - times to be confirmed
Monday 16 December	P2 Christmas Party - pm
Tuesday 17 December	P1 Christmas Party - pm
Tuesday 17 December	AP Christmas Party - pm
Thursday 19 December	Nursery Parties - am & pm

Thursday 19 December

- Our Christmas Church Service will be on **Thursday 19 December at 10am** in Viewfield Church, Stirling.

Friday 20 December

- **Theatre Visit**

M and M Productions Theatre Company will visit school on Friday 20 December with their performance of The Wizard of Oz. The cost of the theatre visit will be paid from our school fund.

- **Transport and Lunch Arrangements for last day of term.**

Term ends on Friday 20 December at 12.30pm except for those children who require a school lunch (School Lunch children should be collected by 1.30 pm at the latest). School lunches will be available with a menu of: Soup/Toastie

(vegetarian filling available)/Cake or Biscuit. This will be the only choice available. Children should let the class teacher know on the morning of Friday 20 December if they will be having a school or home lunch.

We expect all children to attend on the last day of term. If your child is unable to attend please ensure that you phone the school to let us know. Thank you.

Bus Arrangements for Last Day of Term

The Public Transport Team have advised us of the bus arrangements for Friday 20 December. As the 'school bus' is a registered local service bus, the journey time cannot be altered to suit the early closure. However, the C30 service bus will leave school in Forrest Road at 13:38 and go via Abbey Road, Argyll Avenue and Forth Street to Stirling Bus Station (the bus will sit at Stance 4 in the bus station for 7 minutes), then via Murray Place, Cowane Street, Union Street, Causewayhead Road, Chattan Avenue, Lothian Crescent and finally Easter Cornton Road arriving at app. 14.17. Note that this journey will serve Causewayhead Road instead of Dunster Road.

The service terminates at Easter Cornton Road therefore Alloa Road and Manor Powis are not served by this bus. Pupils returning to Alloa Road and/or Manor Powis would have to change at Stirling Bus Station to 'First Midland Bluebird' bus service 51 at 14:00

The Bus Station Supervisor, who has been PVG checked, will meet the incoming C30 (due at 13:52) at Stance 4 and conduct any pupils who may wish to travel to Alloa Road or Manor Powis to Stance 9 to catch the appropriate bus.

Please ensure that your child is clear about his/her going home arrangements for Friday 20 December