



GARROWHILL PRIMARY AUGUST 2017 NEWSLETTER



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Dear Parent/Carer,

WELCOME BACK EVERYONE

A very warm welcome back to the new school session. The children are looking very well and have all assured me that they are determined to be more successful than ever this year!

Our Primary 1 children are already becoming familiar with the school. Thank you very much for the support shown in having the children so well organised, wearing their school uniform and being ready for the school day.

We also welcome new staff to our school this session. Mrs Kelly joins us in P5a and Mrs Liddell in P4a. Mrs Richardson has returned to us for this year in P3b and Mrs Dean will be sharing responsibility for P5b with Mrs Bryce.

SAFETY AT DROP OFF

Well done to our P1s who are now coming to school unaccompanied and leaving mums and dads at the gates. Please make sure that the footpath on Maxwell Road and the gates are kept clear of adults at drop off time as the presence of a large number of adults can be intimidating for children walking to school and can force parents with children and prams off the footpath and on to the road. Thank you for your help with this.

PRIMARY 1 PARENTS' MEETING

Parents/carers of Primary 1 children in Miss Purves', Miss Stronach's and Miss McEwan's classes are invited to attend school on the evening of 30th August at 6.30pm for an information workshop about reading and phonics. As part of the school's raising attainment strategy we are launching new approaches to teaching phonics and improving the rate at which children acquire reading skills.

PRIMARY 2 PARENTS' MEETING

Parents/carers of children in our P2 classes are invited to attend a similar workshop on Wednesday 13th September at 6.30 pm.

Invitations and reminders of these events will be posted on our website and parents who have downloaded the school app will receive notification of the workshops.

WEBSITE, TWITTER and SCHOOL APP

Communicating with families by distributing letters via the school bag is now the least effective and most costly method for our school. To reduce the paper and ink consumption of the school and ensure you are kept up to date with relevant information, we will be using our digital methods.

Our school website is now updated weekly with information on events, holiday information and important dates as well as links to other documents you may need such as clothing grants etc. News, school events and diary dates are posted on our website and via our twitter account so please make sure you follow this.

Diary Dates

30th August - Primary 1 Reading & Phonics Workshop

5th September - Parent Council AGM

13th September - Primary 2 Reading & Phonics Workshop

13th September - Credit Union Collection

18th September - Primary 1s - Evening Times Class Photo

September Weekend
Friday 22nd & Monday 25th

5th October - Flu Vaccination

12th October - Parents' Evening

13th October - In Service Day

October Week - Mon 16th -
Friday 20th (inclusive)

We have now launched the Garrowhill Primary School App and intend to use this and our website as the main means of communicating news and events to parents/carers.

Please ensure you download this free app to your phone. Through this you will receive notifications, letters and news relevant to your child's class. You will also be able to keep up to date with many other aspects of school life at the tap of a finger.

The only paper school bag communications to be issued will be those requiring a parental signature, such as the annual data check which will be issued soon or information from Glasgow Health and external agencies.

No letters from school will be issued via the school bag following this one.

OPEN AFTERNOONS and PARENTS' EVENINGS

Last session many parents enjoyed the opportunity to come into school to look at their child's work and discuss the class plans for learning. Many felt this gave parents a better idea of the plans for learning in the class with parents and children having the chance to discuss next steps and set targets for themselves based on feedback from their teacher and families.

This session we will have open sessions for each class in term 2 between October and Christmas and in term 4 between April and June. You will be alerted to these events by text, via the school app and the school website.

Our first parents' evening will take place on Thursday October 12th from 3.30pm until 9pm. Appointments will be taken **over the phone from 26th September** and we will remind you of this by text following the holiday weekend. **Please do not try to make an appointment before this date.**

Our second parents' evening will take place on Thursday 8th March from 3.30pm until 9pm. Please put both dates in your diary.

CHILD PROTECTION: ABSENCE FROM SCHOOL

It is the responsibility of all parents to inform the school before 9am of any absence from school. Failure to alert staff or the absence line that your child cannot attend causes concern for us under our child protection procedures. We must be satisfied that every child is accounted for on every school day.



When a parent/carer fails to inform the school/absence line our staff can often spend the whole day trying to establish that the child is safe.

Please phone the dedicated absence team based at 220 High Street on **(0141) 287 0039** from 8 am on the first day of absence and every subsequent day. **A letter explaining the reason for absence should be provided to the school on your child's return from absence.**

Use the absence reporting line to report the following absences:

- **Sickness absence:** If the absence lasts more than one day, parents and carers are required to call on subsequent days to provide an update.
- **Medical or dental appointments:** Parents and carers should call the team to report absences for medical or dental appointments. The school requires a letter or appointment card as evidence of the appointment to ensure permission is given to be absent from class.

Please phone the school directly to report the following absences:

To make sure you receive the right support you require, parents and carers should still contact the school directly to report absences of a sensitive or personal nature, for example:

- **Bereavement**
- **Serious illness**, for example, an absence which is going to last more than one week
- **Injury**, for example, broken limb
- **Contagious diseases or illness**

SCHOOL MEALS AND CLOTHING GRANTS

Many families may qualify for free school meals and clothing grants and are not yet taking advantage of this option. Application forms can be downloaded from Glasgow's website or, if you prefer, ask at our office. To download from the Authority website please follow this link:

<http://www.glasgow.gov.uk/index.aspx?articleid=8693> However, if you were awarded a free school meal last session and your circumstances have not changed, you will automatically be entitled to a free school meal and will not have to complete an application form.

TIMETABLES

Our class timetables for PE, music and ICT can be found within the school app. All parents should have received a text alert with PE days for each class.

If any timetabling change is necessary due to visiting specialists, the school office will send a text alert to parents.

INFORMATION UPDATE

It is vital that you help keep our records up to date by informing us **immediately** of any change in address and/or emergency contact details.

Data checks will be issued shortly to all children and we ask that these are returned to the office as soon as possible.

CREDIT UNION

Our credit union will resume on Wednesday 13th September. If you currently have an account please make sure your child brings their deposit in on Wednesdays from that date. If you would like to open an account, details can be found on our website.

ART EXHIBITION

During the parents' evening in October children's art work will be on display in our school gym hall. This month and next children will work to create a piece of art which will be framed for this event. Parents can view the work on 12th October and purchase the framed print if they wish on the evening for a cost of £7.00.

The school is not making a profit from the sale of the children's art work. We are exhibiting to give you the chance to purchase a meaningful keepsake or gift for Christmas. **Please do not feel under any obligation to buy.**

PROCEDURES FOR COLLECTION OF MONEY FOR SCHOOL TRIPS, RAFFLES ETC

All monies being sent into school must be brought in a sealed envelope with the following information written on the front:

1. Your child's name and class
2. The amount of money
3. What the money is for



We regret that we will only be able to accept money handed into school in the above format. This will be an enormous help to us and we are very grateful for your efforts.

WATER BOTTLES

All children require their own **named** water bottle. There are water fountains throughout the school and children are encouraged to re-fill during breaks and lunch time or when they move around the school for other lessons.

JEWELLERY

Children are not permitted to wear any jewellery during P.E. lessons in the interests of health and safety. Children with pierced ears must remove ear rings for lessons. Thank you for your support with this matter.

CHANGE OF SHOES

All children require to change into a pair of (named please) **indoor shoes** inside the classrooms.

SCHOOL ASSEMBLIES AND CHURCH SERVICES

Both Primary 3s and P4/3 classes will present our Harvest Service on 11th October for the whole school in church. As space is restricted for inviting parents to this service, the children in these classes will do a special dress rehearsal presentation for their parents in church on the afternoon of 10th October at 1.45pm. We will send reminder notifications nearer to the date but thought you would like it for your diary.

Primary 1 will present the Nativity this year for **P1-3 classes and their parents** at 11am on December 19th in church.

Primary 6 pupils will present a nativity for P4/3-P7 classes and their parents on 19th December at 1.30pm

As P5 and P7 will present church services for Easter and leavers respectively, children in P2 and P4 will invite their parents into school later in the year for special presentations in our hall. This way all classes have the chance to present knowledge and skills to an audience at least once each session.

FLU VACCINATION

Over the last two years our school has participated very successfully in Glasgow's Flu Vaccination Programme. Consent form packs will be issued very soon to all families in order that children can be given the nasal spray vaccine again this year. Please return your form in the envelopes provided as soon as possible after receiving them.

Vaccines will be given to all children with consent in place on **THURSDAY 5TH OCTOBER 2017**

HOME LEARNING

All children in P2-7 will be issued with their learning logs and new journals to help record home learning on 4th September. Completed journals should be returned the following Thursday, 14th September. Parents of P1 children will be issued with guidance on home learning at their meet the teacher meetings and through the phonics and numeracy workshops we will be organising.

GROWTH MIND-SET AND REWARDS

Our main priority is to nurture a growth mind-set in all of our children and encourage them to believe they can grow their intelligence with hard work and effort. We want the motivation to come from within the child themselves as external motivators such as material rewards are short lived. With this in mind we will not be operating a pupil of the week reward system this year. Children's effort and success will be recognised in comments from the class teacher and with house points.

ADMINISTRATION OF MEDICINES

Key personnel in school are able to supervise or assist with the administration of prescribed medicines should children need them. Parents must visit school to complete appropriate consent paper work for prescribed medicines to be given to children. Staff will not administer or supervise administration of any over the counter medicines.

Children in P2-7 are encouraged to carry their own inhalers. Our office will soon be sending asthma plan update information home for parents to complete. For children in P1, staff will assist with the use of inhalers and record this in our medical file.

Yours sincerely,



LINDA LOGUE
HEAD TEACHER