

# GARROWHILL PRIMARY

## AUGUST 2018 NEWSLETTER

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Dear Parent/Carer,

### WELCOME BACK

A very warm welcome back to the new school session. All classes, including our P1s, have settled very well and are determined to make this another successful year for 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.

### SCHOOL UNIFORM

The school has always benefited from parental support in encouraging children to wear our uniform and we appreciate the on-going effort from parents to ensure this continues.

Please remember that our school uniform is white shirt and school tie with grey trousers/skirts, burgundy cardigans/jumpers and dark shoes. Badged items can be ordered using the details for Logoxpres on our website.

Plain white t-shirts/polo shirts do not form part of the uniform but can be worn for PE if you wish. All children must have a pair of indoor shoes to change into for the classroom.

All children are expected to change into a t-shirt and shorts for PE. PE kit bags have been provided to allow children to keep their kit in one place and transport clothes safely between class and the changing area. We are encouraging good hygiene practices, especially in older pupils, and ask that parents ensure a change of clothes for PE is provided.

### JEWELLERY

Children are discouraged from wearing jewellery to school as it often causes anxiety when items are lost or damaged.

With regard to PE, the [Physical Education Code of Practice](#) (2.7 General Precautions) states the following:

*'Personal effects (e.g. jewellery, body piercings, items of religious significance, watches, hair slides and belts constitute a hazard and may cause injury if worn whilst participating in Physical Education and must be removed.'*

All items of jewellery, including body piercings must therefore be removed for PE.

It is not appropriate for children to miss several weeks of lessons due to ear piercings. Earrings must be removed and there are identified staff that can assist in replacing them after the lesson.

### 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.

### Diary Dates

**Wed 5<sup>th</sup> September**  
Credit Union Collection

**Mon 17<sup>th</sup> September**  
Primary 1 - Evening Times Photo

**September Weekend**  
Fri 21<sup>st</sup> - Mon 24<sup>th</sup> Sept

**Wed 10<sup>th</sup> October** - Parents  
Evening 3.30 pm - 9.00 pm

**Wed 10<sup>th</sup> Oct** - Harvest Service  
dress rehearsal in Mure Memorial  
Church for all Primary 3  
parents/carers @ 1.45 pm

**Thurs 11<sup>th</sup> Oct** - Harvest Service  
in Mure Memorial Church  
presented by P3 (sorry we cannot  
accommodate parents/carers).

**Fri 12<sup>th</sup> October**  
In-service Day

**October Week**  
Mon 15<sup>th</sup> - Fri 19<sup>th</sup> (inclusive)

**Thurs 15<sup>th</sup> November**  
Flu Immunisation

**Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> December**  
Christmas Nativity will take place  
in Mure Memorial Church  
P1 - P3 @ 11am  
P4/3 - P7 @ 1.30 pm

**Christmas/New Year**  
School closes Thurs 20<sup>th</sup> Dec @  
2.30pm. School re-opens Mon 7<sup>th</sup>  
Jan 2019

**Thurs 7<sup>th</sup> March** - 2<sup>nd</sup> Parents  
evening 3.30 pm - 9.00 pm

**Thurs 28<sup>th</sup> March** - Easter  
Service in Mure Memorial Church  
P1-P3 @ 11am  
P4/3 - P7 @ 1.30 pm

## **STAFFING UPDATE**

We are delighted to have Mrs Richardson with us again this year. She will work Wednesdays and Thursdays on a permanent basis with us. This week Mrs Richardson is covering the absence of Mrs Liddell. Mrs Liddell hopes to be well enough to return to work next week.

A very warm welcome to Mrs MacLeod who has joined us permanently with responsibility for P4/3 this session. Mrs Gillen, support for learning, will be joining us on 3<sup>rd</sup> September. Mrs Gillen replaces Mrs Booth who retired in June

We are still awaiting the appointment of our full time admin post. This has been advertised and we are hopeful that the post will be filled before the October school week.

## **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 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.

**The Garrowhill Primary School App** has been in use for one year now. This and our website are 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 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 Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> October from 3.30pm until 9pm.

Appointments will be taken **over the phone from 25<sup>th</sup> 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 7<sup>th</sup> 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 absence line 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. Please call the school every subsequent day (771 1235) . **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/carers are required to call the school 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.

**If any timetabling change is necessary due to visiting specialists, an app alert will issued.**

**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 have been issued 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 5<sup>th</sup> 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.

**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.

**SCHOOL ASSEMBLIES AND CHURCH SERVICES**

Primary 3 pupils will present our Harvest Service on 11<sup>th</sup> 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 10<sup>th</sup> 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 19<sup>th</sup> 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 IMMUNISATION PROGRAMME 2018**

Over the last two years our school has participated very successfully in Glasgow's Flu Immunisation Programme. Consent form packs have been issued to all families in order that children can be given the nasal spray vaccine again this year. Please return your form in the envelope provided by Friday 31<sup>st</sup> August. Vaccines will be given to all children with consent in place on **THURSDAY 15<sup>th</sup> NOVEMBER 2018**

### **HOME LEARNING**

All children have been issued with their learning logs and new journals to help record home learning. Completed journals should be returned the following Thursday, 6<sup>th</sup> September

### **ADMINISTRATION OF MEDICINES**

Key personnel in school are able to supervise or assist with the administration of prescribed medicines or long term conditions such as epilepsy or diabetes. 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 or short term, 3 doses per day prescribed medicines such as antibiotics.

Where a GP has prescribed a four dose per day antibiotic, please arrange an appointment to discuss a temporary care plan.

Children in P2-7 are encouraged to carry their own inhalers. Parents must ensure a current asthma plan has been lodged with the office.

### **PARKING**

The school car park is intended for the use of school and nursery staff. It is not big enough to accommodate parent parking at drop off times. Please park your car responsibly and safely on the surrounding streets. Police Scotland are preparing a report for the Council following on-going complaints from residents who are blocked in their homes at 3pm. One solution may be to introduce exclusion zones to drivers at school drop off times. This could be avoided if all drivers considered the needs of our neighbours.

The school car park has two blue badge user bays and these must be kept free for staff and visitors who hold a blue badge.

### **SCHOOL HOLIDAYS**

A full list of school holidays can be found on the GCC website, our school website and the school app. Please note for the September weekend school is closed on Friday 21<sup>st</sup> and Monday 24<sup>th</sup>.

School is closed in October from Friday 12<sup>th</sup>, which is an in-service day, until Friday 19<sup>th</sup> inclusively.

Yours sincerely,



LINDA LOGUE  
HEAD TEACHER