



# GARROWHILL PRIMARY

## FEBRUARY 2017 NEWSLETTER



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Dear Parents/Carers

### PARENTS' EVENING

Our next Parents' Evening takes place on Wednesday 8th February from 3.30 pm until 9.00 pm. This is an opportunity for parents/carers to meet with teachers for a one to one update on progress since the last meeting in October. Thank you to all parents who have made appointments. If for any reason you have not made an appointment we will contact you following the mid-term break to agree a time when you can meet with your child's teacher.

### STAFF NEWS

It is with regret that we say goodbye to Miss Hendry on 9<sup>th</sup> February. Miss Hendry has been a support for learning worker with the school for many years now and has had to take the decision to move onto a different career path. She does assure us she will keep in touch though. I am sure you join me in wishing her the very best of luck in her new job.

It has recently been confirmed that Mrs Moorhead will be joining the Support for Learning team in the school on a permanent basis and will take over Miss Hendry's duties. We are very much looking forward to welcoming her to this role and will let you know as soon as a start date is confirmed.

### EQUITY FUNDING

You will by now have heard press reports about the Scottish Government's additional funding to schools as part of their commitment to closing the attainment gap. This funding which will be given directly to schools must be used to target the gaps that poverty can create and ensure equity for all of our learners. We are in the process of outlining our plans for the authority on how we plan to do this at Garrowhill. A small focus group of parents has been established and will meet for the first time at 6.30pm on Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> February. Thank you to those who are able to attend.

### SUPPORTING YOUR CHILD THROUGH HOME LEARNING

As part of on-going work in self-evaluation and at the request of some of our parents, we will be seeking your views on home learning during this week's Parents' Evening meetings. We are very committed as a school to ensuring we take action on interventions for children that actually do make a difference to their attainment and achievement. In the Primary sector, research has indicated that homework may not make a significant difference to children's attainment and we are keen to look at alternatives that do help children progress and develop systems that support families. Our implementation of Sumdog is a good example of an alternative way of working that is impacting positively on most children. Please make sure you pick up the short survey and complete it before you leave the building on Wednesday. Thank you.

### Diary Dates

Tues 7<sup>th</sup>:

Raising Attainment Focus Group meeting at 6.30pm

Wed 8<sup>th</sup> Feb:

Parents' Evening

10<sup>th</sup>, 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> Feb:

Holiday

15<sup>th</sup> Feb:

In-service day, school closed for children

20<sup>th</sup> Feb:

Height and weight checks for P1 pupils

24<sup>th</sup> Feb:

P7 athletics team at regional finals  
P5 and P6 teams at Cross Country

27<sup>th</sup> Feb:

P6s and P5/4 classes at Mitchel Theatre

2<sup>nd</sup> March:

P5 and P5/4 at Motherwell Heritage Centre

3<sup>rd</sup> March:

P1 classes at Mitchell library

6<sup>th</sup> March:

P4 classes at Mitchell Library

8<sup>th</sup> March:

P3 classes visiting Stirling Castle

9<sup>th</sup> March:

P2 classes at Summerlee Museum

16<sup>th</sup> March:

P4 classes visiting Bannockburn  
P6a visiting GMRC for Rainforest topic  
P6b are going on 20<sup>th</sup> April

22<sup>nd</sup> March:

P3/2 visiting Stirling Castle

Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> March

Easter Services presented by P5

Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup>:

P6 and P7 leave for Lochgoilhead

### **SPRING DISCO**

Our Parent Council are organising a Spring Disco for children on 23<sup>rd</sup> March. The discos for children in P1-3 will take place in the hall from 5.30 pm until 6.30 pm and P4-7 will have their disco from 7-8.15 pm

Tickets will be issued to children before the event and the £1 cost should be paid on arrival on the night. Parents will be alerted by text when tickets are being issued to children.

### **PI AUGUST INTAKE MEETING**

Enrolment for those children starting school in August 2017 is now complete. Parents of children living in our catchment area will have received confirmation of their place in school for August and are invited to attend an early information evening on 8<sup>th</sup> March at 6.30pm. Children should not attend this meeting. For families who have submitted a placing request to the school, decisions will not be made on those applications until after 15<sup>th</sup> March deadline. As soon as those places have been confirmed an invitation will be sent to parents/carers to attend a similar information evening.

Induction meetings for children starting school in August will take place in May and June and dates will be confirmed in writing to all families of August entrants.

### **SCHOOL UNIFORM**

Logo Xpres are now our uniform suppliers and a link to the on-line ordering facility is available via our school website. Alternatively, parents can still order by giving their completed form to our office.

### **NAMED PERSON SERVICE**

The Named Person Service aims to ensure all parents know who in our school has the responsibility for maintaining a pastoral overview for your child and ensuring that needs are communicated effectively with relevant personnel to provide support when needed.

The management team of Garrowhill Primary have taken the decision to have shared responsibility for this service given the size of the school roll with responsibility shared as follows:

**Mr Alan Young, DHT, will be the named person for all children in P1-P3.**

**Mrs Linda Logue, HT, will be the named person for all children in P4-P7.**

Mr Young continues to be ASN coordinator and will liaise with parents to review all support plans. Mrs Beastall supports and assists parents and families with behaviour management in P1-3. If contacting the school with a concern or to update us on information about your child's welfare and wellbeing, please ask for the named person for your child's stage. If you have a concern about behaviour for a P1-3 child then please alert Mrs Beastall or in her absence, Mrs Vickers.

### **ATTENDANCE AT SCHOOL**

Maintaining a good attendance and timekeeping record are important ingredients for success in school. Most children in Glasgow have an attendance rate of approximately 95%. Garrowhill Primary usually achieves an average attendance rate that is slightly higher than the city average and it is important that we keep the ambition to sustain this.

Our policy is to alert parents when attendance falls below 90% as this is representative of missing a half day of school every week. A low or declining attendance rate that is not improving will have a very negative impact on a child's welfare and confidence in school. Persistent lateness also has a very detrimental effect on children as they miss the welcome and beginning of lessons, causing increased levels of anxiety.

Please ensure that school staff are alerted to any health issues that may be contributing to decreased attendance rates or poor time keeping for your child and ensure you follow the correct absence reporting procedures when your child is ill.

It is the responsibility of all parents to contact the absence line before 9am to report absences. Ensuring the school is aware of the absence prevents staff from worrying about missing children and

having to try for several hours on some occasions to contact parents to ensure children are safe. Your help in implementing this reporting procedure will be much appreciated.

### **ABSENCE REPORTING PROCEDURE:**

Please phone the dedicated absence team based at 220 High Street on **287 0039** from 8.00 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.

### **FAMILY CEILIDH**

Many parents have expressed their enjoyment of our Burn's night Ceilidh on 25<sup>th</sup> January. Thank you to everyone who helped with the preparations and in making the evening run so well. We have already booked Craigenroan, the ceilidh band, for next year's event.

### **PARENT HELPERS AND EXCURSIONS**

We are very grateful to the parents who volunteer to help us with excursions and sporting events. Without their help our classes would not be able to attend the planned class excursions and athletics events that we have very successfully taken part in.

This month our P7 athletics team will be taking part in the West of Scotland finals of the indoor athletics and our P5 and P6 cross country teams will be competing in the annual event at Netherpollok.

Primary 6s, 5/4, 4s and P1 classes are visiting the Mitchell Theatre at the end of the month/beginning of March as part of the Wee Write programme of events. In March our P2 classes are visiting Summerlee. P3 and P3/2 classes are taking a trip to Stirling Castle and P4s are visiting Bannockburn. Alongside these events we have parents who help us every week with library visits and scheduled swimming classes for P6 pupils.

Thank you very much for your continued support.

### **FEBRUARY BREAK**

The next school holiday dates are 10<sup>th</sup>, 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> February. Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> February is a staff in-service day and school is closed to children.

### **EASTER SERVICES - TUESDAY 28<sup>TH</sup> MARCH.**

Parents and family members of P1 - 3 pupils are welcome to join us in Mure Memorial Church on Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> March at 11 am.

Parents and family members of P4 - 7 children are invited to attend church at 1.30 pm.

### **SPRING BREAK**

School closes on Friday 31<sup>st</sup> March at 2.30pm and re-opens on Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> April. Monday 17<sup>th</sup> April is Easter Monday.



Yours sincerely,

Linda Logue  
Head Teacher

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**February Newsletter 01/02/17**

Your comments and suggestions do help us improve how we support your child and improve our school. Please use the space below if you have any comments and suggestions.

Please use this slip to offer help or provide feedback to the school.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Child's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Class: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Comment: