



GARROWHILL PRIMARY JANUARY 2018 NEWSLETTER



E-mail contact: headteacher@garrowhill-pri.glasgow.sch.uk

Website www.garrowhill-pri.glasgow.sch.uk

Follow us on Twitter: [@garrowhillps](https://twitter.com/garrowhillps)

Dear Parents/Carers,



Welcome back! Our very best wishes to everyone for the year ahead. We hope 2018 is a happy and prosperous one for you.

PARENT PAY

From January 22nd our school will be taking part in a city pilot of Parent Pay. Parent Pay is an online payment system for schools. It allows parents to pay quickly and securely for school meals, trips and activities, uniforms, and many other activities throughout the school year. Instead of dealing in cash, parents/carers simply top-up their Parent Pay account online by debit or credit card, or in cash through PayPoint stores.

Payment by standing order and faster payments will be available soon. Your Parent Pay balance can be used immediately to pay for any of your children's items at any school using Parent Pay.

To assist families in becoming familiar with this new system and setting up accounts, an information evening has been organised for Wednesday 17th January at 6.30pm in school. Please attend if possible as from the 22nd cash payments will not be accepted at the school office.

BURNS NIGHT FAMILY CEILIDH

Our staff, parent council and a group of pupils are working hard to organise our Burns Celebration Ceilidh on Thursday 25th January 7-9pm.

This is our third year hosting a ceilidh and last year's evening was a great success and much enjoyed by those who attended.

The Burns Ceilidh is only for children in P4-7 with their parents and families. Please note younger children will not be able to attend this event.

Our P6 and P7 pupils are also organising poetry recital and singing from our choir.

The ticket price will include the Ceilidh Band, Craigenroan and a small haggis supper and refreshments. As this is a ceilidh where we will be taking to the dance floor and our hall accommodates a limited number of people, the event is not suitable for our younger children but is a terrific opportunity for parents to enjoy a night of dancing and fun with our older children. A separate letter will be issued this week to P4-7 children with details of the ticket cost and order forms.

We hope you can keep the evening free and support this new school event.

Diary Dates

16th January: P1 and P7 dental checks

24th January: P7 and P6 parent workshop for SeeSaw app

25th January: P4-P7 Family Ceilidh 7pm - 9pm

12th & 13th February mid-term break

14th Feb: in-service day with school closed for pupils

STAFFING UPDATE

As you know, Mrs Vickers retires on 19th January and we all wish her the very best of luck for the future!! Mrs Chatham was successful at interview in December and will take over as our substantive Principal Teacher from 22nd January. Mrs Chatham is currently our acting PT, a post funded by the governments' Pupil Equity Fund. The vacancy left by Mrs Chatham's promotion has also now been interviewed for. Many congratulations to Miss Byrne who was successful in interviewing for our acting PT post. Miss Byrne will take up her new role from 22nd January also.

Our school is still understaffed in the office and not operating with a full complement of support and teaching staff due to absence. As a result, the school office needs to close over lunch time 12.15-1pm as all staff are working with children.

Should you need to speak to a member of staff about your child's progress and welfare, please call ahead to make an appointment. Arriving at school without an appointment is not advised and may cause disappointment. We make every effort to respond to calls and meeting requests within 24 hours. Thank you.

SCHOOL UNIFORM

Thank you for your on-going support in ensuring children dress appropriately for school. Please remember if ordering new items of clothing that our jumper/sweatshirt is burgundy and not grey. Items of uniform with the school logo can be ordered at any time via the link on the school website.

PRIMARY 1 ENROLMENT

The P1 enrolment process took place on November 2017. However if you are aware of any child due to start school in August 2018 who has still to register for school, the on-line application system is still open this month to take late enrolments.

OPEN AFTERNOONS

Between now and the mid-term break in February your child's class teacher will be inviting you into school to review your child's work as part of an open afternoon for the class. These short sessions are intended to give you an opportunity to sit with your child and discuss the progress they are making, it is not a parent/teacher meeting.

Invitations will be sent out via the school app for each class with all sessions taking place at 2.15 pm. We appreciate that not all parents can attend school during the day due to work commitments and will therefore send children's work home for any family who cannot visit during the class open time.

HOME LEARNING

Home Learning will be issued from Monday 8th in all classes. The core tasks described in your child's log are those which need repeated practice at home. Please feel free to use the learning journal as much and as often as you and your child need to in order to practice spelling and number facts as well as reinforcing writing skills.

Thank you for the support given to children to help them access Sumdog. It is important that children are given 10 minutes each day on Sumdog to help improve their number/reading skills. This on-line task is funded by the Local Authority and based on research by Glasgow University into the impact of Sumdog on attainment. Please support your child to participate whenever possible.

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. If you received a grant last year and your circumstances have not changed you will be auto-entitled and are not required to complete an application.

To download from the Authority website please follow this link:

<http://www.glasgow.gov.uk/CHttpHandler.ashx?id=11896&p=0>

CHILD PROTECTION: ABSENCE FROM SCHOOL

If your child is not able to attend school for any reason, you must alert the absence line before 9am.



When a child fails to arrive at school and a parent has not made us aware that this will happen, school staff must make sure that the child is safe. Unfortunately we still have a large number of parents who do not alert us to absence and do not respond to our calls and texts.

Please help us avoid unnecessary worry by calling the absence line on time. If you have a difficulty getting through to the absence line then call our office and we can record the call from there.

Please phone the dedicated absence team based at 220 High Street on 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.**

FEBRUARY BREAK

The next school holiday dates are, Monday 12th and Tuesday 13th February. Wednesday 14th February is a staff in-service day and school is closed to children.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Linda Logue".

Linda Logue
Head Teacher