



GARROWHILL PRIMARY APRIL 2015 NEWSLETTER

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www.garrowhill-pri.glasgow.sch.uk

Dear Parents/Carers,

Welcome back to our final school term of this session! This is a very busy term with lots of events in the diary including our Primary 7s visits to High School and our induction meetings for our new Primary 1 intake so please keep an eye on our website and follow on twitter for further updates.

Classification for new session

We have now finalised our classification for next year. We will have 15 classes in the school and children will be organised into classes as follows:

P1a	P3a	P5b
P1b	P3b	P6a
P2/1	P4/3	P6b
P2a	P4	P7a
P2b	P5a	P7b

Over the next few weeks I will be working with staff to finalise which classes children will transfer to in August and will write to you in May to let you know who your child's teacher for the new school session will be. This will give us time to make sure we support all children with the transition to a new stage.

Traffic Management

The issue of irresponsible car parking is an on-going one for the school and our neighbours. Please consider where you stop your car if driving to school. It is not necessary to park right at the school gates. Parking in an adjacent street and walking to school should be considered. Above all, please do not park across resident driveways.

Prior to the school holiday Police Scotland received several complaints from neighbours reporting abusive and aggressive behaviour. The police have asked me to advise all parents that they consider the time for educating drivers on parking behaviour is now over and they will take action to enforce their right to impose a **£50 fine on any driver blocking resident access to their drives.**

School trips and consent forms

If your child is taking part in an outing with the class, please help our office and teaching staff by making sure all relevant consent forms and payments are returned to school on time. If you are having any difficulty regarding organisation for trips please let us know in advance of the day and we can offer guidance.

Diary Dates:

28th April

Bee Keeper Visit - Primary 2

29th April

Hoots Owls - Primary 2

4th May

May Day Holiday

5th May

Butterflies from Insect Lore - P2

7th May

In-Service Day

12th May

Visit from Zoo Lab - Primary 2

12th May

P1 Induction - Day 1

13th May

P4 (H) Trip to New Lanark

13th May

P1 & P7 Dental Inspections

13th May

BHS Pastoral Care Visit - Primary 7

21st May

Talk2gather event in the City Chambers

22nd - 25th May

May Holiday Weekend

26th May

P1 Induction - Day 2

29th May

Sports Day @ 9.30 am

9th June

P1 Induction - Day 3

18th June

P1 Induction - Day 4

22nd June

P7 Leavers Dance

23rd June

Service in Mure Memorial Church

23rd June

Primary 7 - Buffet 3pm - 4pm

24th June

School will close at 1.00 p.m.

How Good Is Our School?

In March we asked for your views about our school to help us improve how we work. Below is an analysis of the responses from parents. 190 families responded to our survey.

March 2015	Strongly Agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Don't Know
1. The school helps my child to be more confident	91	105	3		3
2. My child enjoys learning at school	106	92	1	1	
3. My child's learning is progressing well	102	99	3	1	
4. My child is encouraged and stretched to work to the best of their ability	99	102	3		3
5. The school keeps me well informed about my child's progress	82	106	12		1
6. My child feels safe at school	117	80	2		1
7. My child is treated fairly at school	95	89		1	11
8. I feel staff really know my child as an individual and support them well	83	83	3	1	17
9. My child benefits from school clubs and also activities outside the classroom.	73	87	23	1	10
10. The school asks for my views	55	112	16	1	6
11. The school takes my views into account	53	103	10	1	30
12. The school is well led	82	97	2		12
13. Overall I am happy with the school	83	90	1		
14. Children in our school are well behaved	56	122	3		12
15. Our school has a good reputation	109	83			1

School Uniform

Thank you for your support in ensuring children wear our school uniform. They look very smart and proud!

Uniform orders are being processed now so please make sure your order has been returned.

Due to restrictions with storage space, we will not be maintaining stocks of uniform in the school. Items of uniform can be ordered through the year at any time but please be aware it will take 14 days for your order to be delivered.

Here Comes the Sun



Hopefully our good weather will last more than a few days!

Children's skin needs protection from the sun when they are playing at break times. During any spells of warm weather please put sun cream on your child in the morning and if possible give them a hat to wear when outdoors.

All children should have a water bottle which they can refill in school throughout the day.

Parents also have the option of allowing children to wear the summer uniform of red gingham dress for our girls or short grey trousers for boys.

Your child's name must be on all item of clothing to prevent loss or confusion.

Using Your Views to Help Improve Our School

It is reassuring that the majority of parents are happy with the work of the school. However, it is clear that we need to continue to work on systems to ensure all children have access to after school clubs should they wish it.

Another key priority for action is to gather parental views more regularly and in a more focused way as there are a number of families who are unsure if we do this at all, and do not know what action we take when views are sought.

What is also clear from these responses is that reporting children's progress and celebrating their achievement appropriately are in need of review. Many parents expressed the view that while they agree effort should be rewarded, the end of year prize giving ceremony rewards the same children year on year and leaves many feeling deflated as they have worked hard to improve with no recognition. Our staff are in agreement that the current end of year prize giving service is not in keeping with the

principles of Curriculum for Excellence and our children comment that they like being rewarded when they achieve. Two parent reporting sessions each year also leaves some parents feeling they do not have an accurate picture of progress.

With this in mind we are looking for parents who would be willing to be part of a focus group to help review our reporting policy. As a staff we have already started to revise how we celebrate achievement and will be reviewing our end of year arrangements. I hope to meet with members of our parent council this month to discuss this further and will update you on plans for our June service in a separate letter.

If you are interested in helping with the review of policy on reporting progress, please contact the school office on the number above.

The children feel that behaviour in the school can improve further and to take this forward we will be establishing peer mediation as part of our Promoting Positive Behaviour Policy. We are also improving how we ask for the views and opinions of learners with regard their learning and the work of the school in general.

The view on our vision statement is that it should reflect our work on being nurturing alongside the understanding that we learn and grow together as a whole school community. Staff and children will now put together a concise statement to reflect these wishes.

SCHOOL CAMPUS DEVELOPMENT

The cafeteria has now been demolished and demolition of the main school building started today with Miss Purves' old P1 classroom disappearing before our eyes. The removal of the old cafeteria should allow work on our main entrance pathway to get underway and work to begin on the new car park and turning circle.

PARENT WORKSHOPS

Thank you to all parents who attended our P1-3 workshops on reading improvement. We have now started implementing our new approaches in reading development and will be closely monitoring the progress of our children. We will be inviting parents of P4, 5 and 6 pupils to similar information events towards the end of May so look out for the invitation in the school bag.

CHILD PROTECTION: ABSENCE FROM SCHOOL

If your child is unable to attend school, please telephone **before 9am**. If a child is absent from school and we have not received a telephone call from you, it is extremely important that we establish that your child is safely in your care. If we do not hear from you before 9.15am, we will text you asking you to call us and inform us your child is safe. Please respond to this text to prevent school staff spending the day trying to establish that your child is safe.



NEW P1 and S1 INDUCTION DAYS

This year we will have four induction sessions for our new P1 intake. The first of these takes place on Tuesday 12th May at 1.30pm in the school hall. Children will have the chance to meet our staff and visit classes while parents become familiar with school procedures in literacy and have the chance to order uniform.

Our Primary 7 pupils who are transferring to Bannerman High will complete their inductions days in Bannerman on 9th, 10th and 11th June.

Detailed information on both events will be sent to families separately.

AFTER SCHOOL CLUBS

After school clubs this term will include play club, gymnastics, football, table tennis, tennis, street dance and mixed dance. Allocation of places will go to pupils who are currently on the waiting lists from term three. Any remaining places will be then be offered out to other pupils across the school.

PEER MEDIATION

Interviews for peer mediators will take place on Tuesday 5th May. Pupils in primary six and seven were invited to apply for this role after completing the necessary training in term three. Our successful candidates are now busy preparing for interview.

CASHLESS CAFETERIA

Our cafeteria is now operating fairly smoothly thanks to the efforts of the catering team and our children who have been very responsible in managing the 'top up' of their cards. The new menus have been issued and I would urge you to check the menu for the week to ensure there is something your child will eat as staff do not have the capacity to deviate from this on a day to day basis.

Please remember, if your card is in arrears, any money owed must be paid in cash to the office. You cannot cover arrears by topping up the card.

Many families may qualify for free school meals and clothing grants and are not yet taking advantage of this option. Application forms need to be re-submitted annually and 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>

ELECTION DAY MAY 7TH

Our school is closed to children on May 7th as this is a city wide in-service day due to the election. The school will be used as a polling station on the day with voting taking place in the assembly hall.

OPEN AFTERNOONS

We would like to invite parents/carers into school for a second open afternoon where you can review your child's progress with them in class, discuss learning targets and see the plans for this term. We look forward to seeing you on the following days:

Monday 11 th May at 2.15pm:	Mrs Vickers P5, Miss Byrne P7, Miss Russell P1
Thursday 14 th May at 2.15pm:	Mrs Bouch P6/5, Mr Halewood, Mrs Chatham P2/1
Monday 18 th May at 2.15pm:	Miss Carr P6, Mrs McGrady P4, Miss Purves P1
Wednesday 20 th May at 2.15pm:	Miss Boyle P7/6, Mrs Forrester P3, Mrs Martin P2
Thursday 21 st May at 2.15pm:	Miss McFadyen P3, Mrs Elliot P2.

If you feel you can help with any items on this newsletter, would like to volunteer as parent helper or have any other suggestions or views you feel would help the school improve further then please use the space below to let us know or call our school office.

Name: _____

Child's: _____

Comment: