



GARROWHILL PRIMARY FEBRUARY 2016 NEWSLETTER



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Dear Parents/Carers

PARENTS' EVENING

Our next parents' evening takes place on Thursday 4th February from 3.30 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. **If you have not already done so, please telephone the school office to arrange your appointment for the 4th February with your child/children's teacher(s).**

FAMILY CEILIDH

Our first family ceilidh was a great success and an event we hope to repeat next year. Many thanks to everyone who helped organise the evening and to those who attended for creating a relaxed and fun filled atmosphere.

P1-P3 DISCO

As the ceilidh had limited numbers and was not a suitable event for our younger children to attend, our fundraising committee are organising a disco for all P1-P3 children on the evening of Thursday 25th February from 6.30 - 7.30 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.

TRAVEL PLAN & PARKING

Police Scotland have conducted a second day of action to raise awareness of the need to park and drop children off at school safely and responsibly. Unfortunately we continue to witness drivers ignoring our repeated requests not to block resident driveways. The school has also received several complaints from pedestrians that drivers are using the entrance to the park as an alternative parking area with one driver claiming this was perfectly acceptable to do. I have checked this position with the inspector coordinating the police action. The roadway through the park is a maintenance access route for the parks department. It is not acceptable for parents to use this area as a car park as it endangers children and parents using the park.

SUPPORTING YOUR CHILD THROUGH HOME LEARNING

Parents of children in our P1 and P2 stages are invited to attend the first of our workshops for parents to help us continue to improve our approaches to home learning. The workshop for P1 parents will take place on Tuesday 23rd February at 6.30 pm and P2 parents are invited to attend on Tuesday 23rd at 7.30 pm. A separate invitation with RSVP is attached to this letter. If you are free, please attend as the information shared on the evening will help all of us to understand the role of home learning, the principles of curriculum design and the role of assessment.

Diary Dates

2nd February: P6 and P7 after school rugby starts

4th February: Parents' Evening 3.30-9pm

4th February: P4/3 Library

10th February: P7 girls netball at Bannerman High after school

11th February: Cross country training with Mrs Dalrymple

15th and 16th February: School closed for mid term break.

17th February: In-service day, school closed to children

23rd February: Home Learning Workshop P1 & P2

25th February: P1-3 Disco 6.30-7.30pm

26th February: Cross Country Championships

29th February: Road safety workshops for P7s

1st March: P6 classes visiting Vikingar exhibition in Largs

2nd March: P4/3 visiting Kelvingrove Museum

3rd March: P4/3 visiting Library

3rd March: P2 classes visiting Summerlee Museum

8th March: P4a Kelvingrove

9th March: P3s Stirling Castle

PI AUGUST INTAKE MEETING

Enrolment for those children starting school in August 2016 is now complete. Parents of children living in our catchment area will soon receive confirmation of their place in school for August and are invited to attend an early information evening on 10th 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 15th March. 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.

NAMED PERSON SERVICE

The Children's Act Scotland 2014 makes a requirement for all children to have a Named Person as part of the approach to *Getting It Right For Every Child*.

The Named Person Service will 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. 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.

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.

CHILDLINE WORKSHOPS

The ChildLine Schools Service has recently visited all children in Primary 6 & 7 to provide them with key messages about keeping safe and it can be beneficial for these messages to be reinforced at home. The NSPCC has developed some guides for all parents of primary school aged children to speak to your child about keeping safe - called the Underwear Rule.

You can find guides to the Underwear Rule to help you have simple conversations about keeping safe from abuse at www.nspcc.org.uk/underwear.

You can speak to an advisor for further advice or request a hard-copy guide for parents and carers by phoning the NSPCC Helpline on 0808 800 5000. You can also visit www.nspcc.org.uk/parents for other advice on keeping your child safe.

FEBRUARY BREAK

The next school holiday dates are 15th and 16th February. Wednesday 17th February is a staff in-service day and school is closed to children.

EASTER WEEKEND

School Closed Friday 25th March and Monday 28th March

SPRING BREAK

School closes on Friday 1st April at 2.30pm and re-opens on Monday 18th April.

Yours sincerely,



Linda Logue
Head Teacher

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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: