



GARROWHILL PRIMARY MAY 2015 NEWSLETTER



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Dear Parents/Carers

CELEBRATING ACHIEVEMENT

In our parent survey which was completed in March, we asked for your views on prize giving and the school's practice of having a 'Prize Giving Ceremony' at the end of June. Two thirds of parents who responded agreed that children's achievements should be rewarded as they progress but were concerned that the current format could affect the self-esteem and motivation of many children. There is a strong feeling from staff and representatives of our parent council that current arrangements do not promote the principles of a Curriculum for Excellence and are not in keeping with the belief that every child has the right to have their achievements recognised. Children report that they enjoy being rewarded for their effort and achievement throughout the year.

With these views in mind, we have reviewed our policy on how we celebrate achievement to include regular and on-going awards for progress and effort as follows:

- Weekly pupil of the week award (certificate) to a child from every class for effort leading to improvement in a particular curricular area: i.e science
- Author of the month: to a child from each class who has made greatest improvement with creative writing
- Mathematician: a monthly award to a child from each class who is showing strengths with an aspect of maths
- Winning house: weekly award to the House who has worked to gain most points for their team

From August 2015 we will make every effort to invite parents of the monthly award winners to our Friday assembly to join in the celebration of achievement for their child.

Our end of year service in June will no longer be a prize giving ceremony but will be a celebration of our Primary 7 children's achievements in completing this 'Broad General' phase of their education. Arrangements for our P7 Leavers' Service on 23rd June are:

- All classes in school to attend Mure memorial Church at 1.15 on 23rd June
- Only Parents/Carers of P7 children to attend. (tickets to be allocated)
- P7 will give a presentation on their memories and achievements
- Every P7 pupil will be called upon to accept their individual award for completion of the primary phase of their education
- Macdonald Salver to be awarded to the P7 pupil voted for by children and staff as an outstanding role model
- Other awards to P7 pupils will include a literacy and numeracy prize, a science and technology prize, and an award for sport.

We feel taking this action responds appropriately to the concerns and views held by our staff, children and parents and goes some way to promoting a positive self-esteem in all learners. A separate letter will be issued to P7 families with ticket arrangements for the service and the buffet which will follow it.

CHILD PROTECTION: ABSENCE FROM SCHOOL



From 1st June parents and carers should follow the guidance below to report pupil absences from school:

A pupil absence reporting line has been created to provide an efficient flexible way for parents/carers to report absence. Customer and Business Support Services recognise that in some circumstances, for example, to report or discuss a sensitive issue, you may still require to speak directly with the school. The following guidance should be followed:

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.

Use the absence reporting line to report the following absences:

Sickness absence: if the absence lasts more than one day, parents and carers are required to call 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

The pupil absence service is provided by a dedicated team of experienced Education support staff. The information you provide to the team is updated in the school's system when you call, so the school is immediately aware of all absence information.

Your support of the new service is much appreciated.

School staff will text you a reminder of the number and start date of this service prior to its launch.

Diary Dates:

12th May

Visit from Zoo Lab - Primary 2

12th May

P1 Induction - Day 1

13th May

Trip to New Lanark - P4(H)

13th May

P4M - Glasgow Green - Youth Games

13th May

P1 & P7 Dental Inspections

13th May

BHS Pastoral Care Visit - P7

21st May

Talk2gather event in the City Chambers

22nd - 25th May

May Holiday Weekend

26th May

P1 Induction - Day 2

27th May

P7s Go Yellow Sponsored Walk - Bellahouston Park

29th May

Sports Day @ 9.30 am

1st June

Primary 2 - Living Eggs

5th June

P4(H) Riverside Museum/Tall Ship

9th June

P1 Induction - Day 3

9th, 10th & 11th June

P7 Induction - Bannerman High

18th June

P1 Induction - Day 4

18th June

P2/1 Kelvingrove Museum - Fossils of the Dinosaur Age

22nd June

P7 Leavers Dance 7-9pm

23rd June

P7 Service: 1.15pm

24th June

School will close at 1.00 p.m.

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 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>

PEER MEDIATION

Interviews have now taken place for our peer mediator team. Congratulations to all senior pupils who put themselves forward for this role and went through the interview process.

Mediators are trained to help other children resolve conflict in a positive way and promote skills in listening to the views of others. All peer mediators will be issued with a baseball cap to make them easily identifiable in the playground. This is an important role and complements the work children in all classes have undertaken to help them understand that solutions can be found to problems if we talk them through calmly.

SCHOOL UNIFORM

Thank you for your support in ensuring children wear our school uniform. Our children always look very smart and are proud of their school.

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. We will be retaining a stock of school ties and these can be purchased at any time.

OPEN AFTERNOONS

Please remember our second open afternoons are taking place this week 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: