

GARROWHILL PRIMARY NOVEMBER 2015 NEWSLETTER

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Dear Parents/Carers

STAFFING UPDATE

Congratulations to Mr Young who has been appointed Depute Head Teacher. Mr Young had been with us on a temporary secondment following the retirement of Mrs Smith in June 2014. During the promoted post surplus staffing exercise in December 2014 Mrs Laura Beastall was transferred to the school to fill Mrs Smith's vacant post. However, Mrs Beastall is on maternity leave and will join the school in August 2016. Mr Young fills the vacancy left by Miss Harris.

Mrs Vickers is now acting DHT covering Mrs Beastall's post and Mr Halewood is acting Principal teacher covering Mrs Vickers PT post.

Mrs Anne Gillespie, class teacher, joins the staff team on Monday 26th October and takes over the teaching of P3b on Thursday and Friday as well as delivery of our ICT programme to several classes across the school. I am sure you join me in welcoming Mrs Gillespie to the school.

NEW CAR PARK & GROUNDS

Thank you for your cooperation with the management of our new car park and drop off arrangements. Parents using the drop off point have found it has worked very well and children are able to access the playground safely. Our neighbours have also reported a big improvement with on street parking and hopefully we will have no more incidents of resident driveways being blocked.

To sustain this successful start, please remember that no cars should stop for longer than is necessary to let children leave the vehicle safely and no one should park on the drop off zone.

The car park is for staff and visitor use only. Parents dropping off or collecting from school should not park in the car park as we do not have enough bays to allow for this.

If you have an appointment in school throughout the day and there is a free bay in the car park then please use it. Parents bringing children to and from nursery are being asked not to use the car park at the peak times of 8.45-9.15pm and 2.45-3.15pm.

All parents should continue to remind children that once dropped off at school they must not leave the school grounds. There are staff in the grounds to assist if they need help with anything.

OPEN AFTERNOONS

Open afternoons are proving a successful way of giving parents an opportunity to review children's work, see the work and plans of the class and have a conversation about their learning. At our next open afternoons parents will have the chance to add an evaluative comment to children's work and encourage our children to set themselves a target to focus on. For parents who are working, children's learning journals will be sent home following the open afternoon for this to be completed.

The next of our open afternoons take place on the week beginning 30th November as follows:

Monday 30th November: P7B Miss Byrne, P4/3 Mr Halewood, P1a Mrs. Chatham and P2A Mrs Martin
Tuesday 1st December: P7A Miss Boyle, P4 Mrs McGrady, P1b Miss Russell and P2B Mrs Elliot
Wednesday 2nd December: P6A Mrs Bouch, P5A Mrs Bryce, and P2/1 Miss Purves
Thursday 3rd December: P6B Miss Carr, P5B Ms Stewart, P3B Ms Law and P3A Mrs Forrester

Diary Dates

27th October: morning jog club starts P5-7

29th October: P4/3 visit to Baillieston Library

5th November: P7 group to Hockey festival

11th November: P1 & P7 dental inspections

16th November: Sportshall Challenge

19th November: Flu Vaccine Day

24th November: P7 to Jump To It Basketball Festival in Emirates

30th November: Open Week

26th November: P4/3 visiting Baillieston library

2nd December:
Carol Concert in school
9.30am

4th December: Hopscotch Theatre Company visiting school.

CHRISTMAS CAROL SERVICE

Last year we held our very first Christmas Carol Service during which we decorated our fantastic tree. This took place in the hall of our old school where there was no room to invite any guests. This year we will be able to invite some parents to join us for this very special date in our school calendar.

Our Carol Service will take place on Wednesday 2nd December at 9.30am in our assembly hall. We are only able to accommodate 80 guests at this event. Tickets will be issued on a first come first served basis to parents/carers. The fairest way to do this is by telephone as request slips/order forms can be lost or delayed in transit.

Parents who wish a ticket for the Carol Service should call the school on the **10th November** to request one. Do not call before this date as tickets will not be ready.

Please understand that we cannot exceed an allocation of 80 due to the capacity of our hall.

CINDERELLA ROCKERFELLA

To celebrate our first year in our new school Mrs Dalrymple, Mrs Chatham, Mrs Bouch and a cast from P5, 6 and 7 are working on our own Christmas Panto "Cinderella Rockerfella".

We are planning three performances of the show, one matinee and two evening. Performance dates are:

Wednesday 16th December 1.30pm and 7pm

Thursday 17th December 7pm

Tickets will go on sale on 23rd November at a cost of £3 per ticket. A separate letter and ticket order form will be issued on that date but please put the performance dates in your diary.

HOME LEARNING

As you know, this session we are trying to improve our policy on home learning (homework) by embedding some elements of choice in tasks while retaining a focus on core disciplines of reading, writing and counting. A parent focus group has now been established to monitor and review progress with the implementation of changes. The group have now met twice and feedback received so far suggests that a fortnightly routine may also suit families of P1-3 children. Many parents feel a Monday to Thursday 'turnaround' is very tight especially for working families. Having a weekend allows children more flexibility.

In response to this feedback, from Monday 2nd November we will issue home learning tasks and book bags to P1-3 on the Monday for return the following Thursday i.e issued on Monday 2nd to be returned on Thursday 12th.

The core tasks in home learning logs focus on the work of the class over those weeks. Please pace your child, doing a little, good quality work each day if possible.

The focus group will be meeting again towards the end of November. If you would like to join us please contact the office or complete the slip at the end of this letter.

SCHOOL FUND SPONSORED RUN

Each school session staff and children organise an event to raise funds for our school fund. Last session we held a sponsored bounce when we moved into our new building. This helped fund furniture for the library areas, improvements to reading, ICT, outdoor seating and play equipment.

This year our school fund committee, staff and school parliament have agreed that in celebration of the completion of our new grounds we should hold a sponsored run.

This event will take place on **Thursday 12th November**. Children will be asking you to sponsor them to run/walk laps around the outdoor classroom. On the day every class will take part in a warm up activity with Mrs Dalrymple, complete their run and then have time on an inflatable assault course. The target number of laps for each age group will be agreed at this week's House meetings with sponsor forms being sent home on **Monday 2nd November**.

We hope you can support your child with some sponsorship for this event. Our school fund provides many additional resources which help enhance children's experiences in school.

HALLOWEEN

Our parents have organised a disco for children in P4-7 at 7pm on Thursday 29th October. Tickets will be given to all children this week in class. If your child wishes to attend the disco they should bring this ticket and the £2 entry fee with them on the night. A member of the fund raising committee will take the payment and register your child's attendance on arrival at school on Thursday evening. Parents should return to school at 8.30pm to collect children from the school hall. Please feel free to use the car park if there are empty bays. If the car park is full please park in a responsible way in the streets around the school.

On Friday 30th October all children are welcome to wear fancy dress to school.

Children in P1-3 will take part in their annual parade in the morning with their class teachers and enjoy some Halloween fun in class in the afternoon.

CHRISTMAS CARD PROJECT

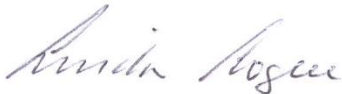
The Garrowhill Fundraising Committee are again organising the Christmas Card Project. This was very successful last year when all children designed a Christmas Card which was then printed for parents who placed an order. The designs and order forms are in children's bags today. If you wish to place an order please return the design and order form by Wednesday. Full payment must accompany the order. Please make cheque payable to 'Garrowhill Sch Parents Teachers Assoc'.

MORNING RUNNING CLUB

Now that we have our grounds finished we have the opportunity to begin doing some regular morning exercise. To start this off we are offering children in P5-7 classes the option of a morning jog on the pathway around the outdoor classroom on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday mornings 8.30-8.45am commencing on Tuesday 27th October.

Children wishing to take part should meet Mrs Logue at the cycle rack area adjacent to the car park. Children should wear trainers and joggers and can change into their uniform at 8.45 after their run.

Yours sincerely,



Linda Logue
Head Teacher

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

Name: _____ Child's Name: _____

Class: _____ Date: _____

Comment: