



Noblehill Primary School

August 2019 Newsletter



Welcome Back

I would like to wish everyone a very warm welcome back to school and hope that you all had a lovely summer holiday and are fully rested and glad to be back at school now.



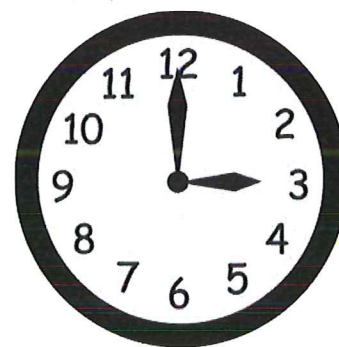
NEW PUPILS

A big hello to all of our new pupils here at Noblehill Primary and Nursery.

We wish you all well and are sure that you will all settle in very quickly to your new classes and school life. Here is a reminder of the structure of the school day:

SCHOOL DAY

Start of the day	8:45am
Break Time	10:30—10:50am
Lunch Time Pr 1 - Pr 7	12:35— 1:30pm
End of Day	3:00pm



STAFF UPDATES

We welcome four new members of staff to our school this year:

Miss Eden Daly Primary 6 Teacher

Mrs Rachel Clark / Miss Sonja Hay / Miss Claire Ritchie Learning Assistants

SPECIALIST TEACHERS

Mrs McLean is our PE Specialist and she will be in school on Thursdays.

Mrs Stephen is our Art Specialist and she will be in school on a Monday and Tuesday.

STAFF UPDATES — FOND FAREWELL



Mr David Learmont our school janitor informed us at the end of last term that he has decided to retire from his post as janitor from Friday 30th August .

Noblehill Primary has benefitted from having our amazing janitor for ten years now and he will be truly missed. Not only was he an amazing janitor in school but he also led and supported many extra curricular events within the school as a whole such as Guid Nychburriss and inter school football tournaments.... Many, many children have benefitted from Mr Learmont's support, wise words and guidance over the years. I am sure that you will all agree that he has definitely earned his retirement.

We wish him all the best in his retirement.

SCHOOL UNIFORM

It is fantastic to see all the children back and looking very smart in their school uniform. Thank you for your support in this. Should you require further items of uniform there are a few items available at the school office or you can order directly online throughout the school year, with their items being delivered to a home address.

Orders can be made at:

http://www.border-embroideries.co.uk/advanced_search.php?skl_id=16289&pager=view_all

The link is also available on our current school website.

Orders placed online, will be delivered within 20 days.

We do understand that school uniforms can be expensive and that often children will take them off and lose them. We try our best to return any found item to the rightful owner but it is not always possible if there is no name written on them; so please ensure that all school clothes have your child's name written clearly on the label or sewn in. The school cannot take any responsibility for lost clothes or any other items brought to school, by labelling them in some way this will enable us to try to return them to their rightful owner.

A green rectangular label with the text "My Name" written in yellow. The label is attached to a white string that is tied around a pencil.

Parent Council

The Parent Council AGM is on Monday 2nd September at 6:30pm—7:30pm. Please come along and hear about what is happening in the school.

All Welcome



SCHOOL LUNCHES

Primary 1, 2 and 3 children are all entitled to a free school lunch.

There are many options available from our school lunch service for the children to choose from, from a sandwich to a cooked dinner. If your child has special dietary requirements please let Mrs Nish our Catering Manager, know about them and I am sure that she will try her best to accommodate you.

Children from Primary 4 - 7 can order on three weekly cycle in class.

School lunches cost £1.90 per day.

Please note that we do not allow any fizzy drinks in school at all in line with council policy, even if your child is a packed lunch.

We very much appreciate your support in this.



FREE SCHOOL MEALS

Remember if your child is going into P4, 5, 6 or 7 they may be entitled to free school meals. Please ask at the office for an application form if you think you may be entitled.

Free School Meals can lead to a large saving each year, parents of primary school children can potentially save £361 and parents of secondary pupils can potentially save £370. You will also be helping the school if you qualify for Free School Meals as our Pupil Equity Funding from the Scottish Government provided directly to schools is linked to the numbers of pupils who are registered as entitled to free school meals.



FREE NURSERY SCHOOL MEALS

There are also a number of additional criteria which mean children at nursery can receive a Free School Meal:

- Severe Disability Allowance (parent)
- State Pension Credit
- Under a Kinship or Guardianship Order
- Looked after child since their second birthday
- Incapacity Benefit



These extra qualifying benefits are not considered if your application is for a primary or secondary pupil.

Please put all dinner money in a sealed envelop with your child's name and class clearly written on it.

CLOTHING GRANTS

The award of clothing grants is to assist with the cost of school clothing for families who are on a qualifying benefit or on a low income.



The current award is £134 per child.

You may be eligible for a school clothing grant if you have a child that attends a school in Dumfries and Galloway and you receive any of the following benefits:

- Income Support
- Jobseeker's Allowance (Income based)
- Employment and Support Allowance (Income based)
- Child Tax Credit on its own, with an annual taxable income of less than £16,105 (subject to change)
- Child Tax Credit and Working Tax Credit with an annual taxable income of less than £6,900 (subject to change)
- Support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- Universal Credit with a monthly earned income of not more than £610

BEST START GRANT SCHOOL AGE PAYMENT

This payment is to provide families in Scotland, who are on a low income, with £250 to help with the costs of a child starting school. People can apply around the time a child normally starts Primary 1 and if they get certain benefits or tax credits. For this year that means if their child is born on or between 1 March 2014 to 28 Feb 2015.

Applications can be made from 3 June 2019 until 29 February 2020 either online at www.mygov.scot/best-start-grant or by contacting our Freephone helpline on:

0800 182 2222.

The helpline is open Monday to Friday from 8am to 6pm

School Review of Parental Reports

Many thanks to all of the parents who responded to this self-evaluation review last term.

I have summarised the results below for you to peruse:

Areas for Reflection	Agreed	Disagreed / unsure
Parent Evenings are Informative	94%	4%
Opportunities to come into class are informative	84%	16%
My child is able to explain where they are within CfE levels for all curricular areas	37%	62%
I am aware of my child's CfE level for all curricular areas	76%	15%
I am aware of how well my child is progressing through CfE levels	71%	28%
The written progress report in October is informative and effective	74%	26%
The May written report is informative and effective	77%	23%
The written reports provide detail regarding any additional support received	68%	31%
The timing of the May report enables areas for concern to be addressed effectively by both the teachers and parents	48%	54%
Teacher phone calls and diary notes are a useful communication tool	89%	6%

This review clearly shows that most parents overall are satisfied with the school's approach to information sharing however there are definitely areas for consideration and development. As a staff we have agreed to:

- ⇒ Involve our pupils more in developing their understanding of CfE and progression through the levels
- ⇒ We recognise that parents value ongoing regular purposeful opportunities to discuss pupil progress. We will continue to provide you with regular updates regarding your child's learning and progress through previously identified good practice such as parent evenings, requested planned individual meetings, phone calls, assemblies, Meet the Teacher sessions as well as through our written report. This year we will be providing you with one annual detailed written report which will now be undertaken in March to enable staff and parents to support each other to address any concerns or issues. We hope that through providing a variety of reporting approaches we can ensure that all parents have regular up to date information regarding your child's progress and next steps in learning.
- ⇒ Dumfries and Galloway Education Authority have advised that the current tracking and monitoring system which many schools use for the basis of writing their school reports is being phased out. As such to prevent teachers from learning multiple new systems we have agreed to be part of the rolling out of a pilot scheme which has been currently undertaken with other schools last year. This means that the format of our reports will change this year in accordance with D&G requirements. We will of course seek your opinion regarding the effectiveness of these when they are used in March and will aim to ensure that we encompass all of what you have indicated that you like about our current system into the new format.

Should you wish to meet with your child's teacher at any time please make an appointment at the school office.

School Review of Christmas Show

Many thanks to all of the parents who took the time to complete the Christmas Show review before the summer holidays.

Please find a summary of responses below:



Venue (Possible options)

	Yes	No/ NA
I/we feel that the Baptist Church Hall was a good venue to have the Christmas concert/show.	93%	7%
I/we feel that Noblehill School Hall was a good venue to have the Christmas concert/show.	28%	72%

Organisation (Possible options)

	Yes	No/ NA
I/we would prefer a concert/show involving the whole school	67%	33%
I/we would prefer a concert/show that was split into Levels eg Early Level (Nursery & P1) First Level (P2-4) and Second Level (P5-7)	37%	63%
I/we would prefer that we have a concert/show involving all classes but with a main focus on a Level eg Early Level have a Nativity and First and Second Level perform carols.	35%	65%
I/we would prefer that one Level do a Christmas show/concert and that the other Levels do another performance at a different time of year.	12%	88%

In conjunction with parental comments/suggestions and responses from school staff, it was decided that for session 2019/20 that:

- ⇒ Nursery and the Primary 1s will have their own Christmas Show taking place in school on the afternoon of Tuesday 17th Dec, with the school getting to see them perform that morning.
- ⇒ We will begin a 3 year rolling programme with a different level taking the lead each year. This year it will be First Level (P2-4) and the rest of the school will be singing carols, reciting poems etc.
- ⇒ Although many people felt that the atmosphere at the Baptist Church was very good and tickets were not restricted to 2 per family, as we will be having fewer pupils involved in the performance, it will be able to take place in our school on Monday 16th Dec with an afternoon and an evening performance where we aim to be able to accommodate everyone.
- ⇒ Where we had to pay to hire the venue at the Baptist Church, any profits made from tickets sales will go back into our school fund for the benefit of our children and a donation will go to charity.

SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT PLAN 2019-20



Many thanks to all of the staff, parents and children who responded to our school audits at the end of last term.

I have collated all of the responses received and from these results, along with the internal school evaluations undertaken, we have identified the main areas for development for this year. These are:

Priority 1

Continue to focus on increasing attainment levels for literacy and numeracy across the whole school.

Priority 2

Increase learner participation in learning.

Develop the use of self evaluation and interpretation of data to inform decision making.



Within these priorities the development areas will focus around:

- ◆ Ensuring high quality learning and teaching in accordance with the Dumfries and Galloway Learning and Teaching Policy across all stages
- ◆ Develop the use of Learning Intentions, Success Criteria, Learning Targets and Higher Order thinking Skills to extend pupil's awareness of learning and success
- ◆ Meeting Learner Needs, staff to develop their knowledge and understanding of learning needs both individually and holistically and how best to meet them.
- ◆ Review and update our current curriculum programmes and tracking systems to ensure that progressive learning pathways are in place, reflect national assessment benchmarks and are monitored to support high quality skills development and progressive learning for all curricular areas ensuring that STEAM subjects (Science, Technology, Engineering, Art and Maths) are developed accordingly.
- ◆ Rights Respecting School—develop our knowledge and understanding of this approach across the school to promote pupil involvement, self worth and respect for all. Create school behaviour / relationship policy.

Cluster Focus

- ◆ Moderation of Curriculum for Excellence Assessments to support the allocation of CfE levels

The full School Improvement plan created is available. Should you wish to receive a copy please contact the school office.

Family Helpers - Reply Slip



We are always keen to have another pair of hands in school. If you would like to assist in school in any way please let us know by completing and returning this slip.

I would like to help in classes :

(please circle the day and time you would be able to help)

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
am/ pm/	am/ pm/	am/ pm/	am/ pm/	am/ pm/
Whole Day	Whole Day	Whole Day	Whole Day	Whole Day
Specific Class Preferred:	Specific Class Preferred:	Specific Class Preferred:	Specific Class Preferred:	Specific Class Preferred:

I would like to help in the school generally

(please circle the day, time and activity you would be able to help with).

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
am/ pm/	am/ pm/	am/ pm/	am/ pm/	am/ pm/
Whole Day	Whole Day	Whole Day	Whole Day	Whole Day
Laminating	Laminating	Laminating	Laminating	Laminating
Photocopying	Photocopying	Photocopying	Photocopying	Photocopying
Caper Time	Caper Time	Caper Time	Caper Time	Caper Time
Trips	Trips	Trips #Nobleskillz	Trips	Trips

CAPER Time is supporting reading with individuals or small groups.

#Nobleskillz happens on a Wednesday afternoon and although general help is always appreciated we would particularly welcome support with our cooking, modelling and gardening sessions.

I understand that a PVG [Police Check] check may be made.

Signed Dated

Print Name Contact Number



Our Amazing School Grounds



During the school holidays our school grounds received a visit from by judges from Keep Scotland Beautiful who were viewing the school grounds and garden as part of the bid by Dumfries to retain its title of Beautiful Scotland Best Large Town. The results of the judging will not be known until 12th of September when the award ceremony takes place at Easterbrook Hall. This year Dumfries is hosting the awards ceremony for the

whole of Scotland. Thank you to Findlay, Skye and Dylan who came in to school during the holidays to show the judges round and to Christine Weir for her help with weeding etc. before the judges visit and of course as a school we give a special thanks to Mrs Munro as well as to our #Nobleskillz Gardening Groups who work tirelessly in all weathers to ensure that the



school environment is the best that it can be for everyone.

We would like to know if anyone has some spare time either at lunch time or after school to take a gardening club. The children are keen to develop our grounds and to keep them weed free however it is becoming increasingly more difficult to fit everything into the school day.

If you could spare us an hour of your time either during our lunch time or after school on a regular or short term basis, we would really appreciate hearing from you.

Meet The Teacher—Tuesday 24th September



Please come along between 2:15—3pm to see your child's classroom and meet their teacher. Please note that this is not an opportunity to discuss individual children. Throughout the year, if you wish to make an appointment to speak to your child's class teacher, please do not hesitate to contact the school office to arrange a suitable time.

Diary Dates

Parent Council AGM	Monday 2nd September 6:30-7:30pm
Class Meet The Teacher Session	Tuesday 24 th September 2.15-3pm
End of Term 1	Friday 11th October
Term 2 starts	Monday 28th October
Parents' Evening	Wednesday 20 th November
End of Term 2	Friday 20th December
Term 3 starts	Wednesday 8th January
Inset Day	Monday 6th January
Inset Day	Tuesday 7th January
Holidays—School closed	Monday 17th - Wednesday 19th February
Inset Day—Children not at school	Thursday 20th February
Inset Day- Children not at school	Friday 21st February
Primary 6 & 7 Trip to Dukeshouse	3rd—6th March
School Reports	Friday 20th March
End of Term 3	Friday 3rd April
Term 4 starts	Monday 20th April
Parents' Evening	Wednesday 13th May
Inset	Friday 29th May
End of term 4	Thursday 2nd July

UNITED KINGDOM TAEKWON-DO COUNCIL

TAEKWON-DO

FITNESS & SELF DEFENCE CLASSES FOR CHILDREN (5 YEARS+), YOUTHS & ADULTS
 Working in Partnership with Dumfries and Galloway Active Schools



TAEKWON-DO - the worlds most popular martial art taught by the UK's leading Taekwon-Do organisation. Ideal for all ages (9 years +).

ACTIVE TIGERS for boys and girls aged 5-8 years is the fun and safe Martial Arts training programme that will help improve their fitness, self confidence, self discipline, coordination, flexibility, and teach them effective self defence skills.

Annan
 Newington Sports Centre
 Wednesday 7.00-8.00pm
 Wednesday 8.00-9.00pm (Advanced)

Lochmaben
 Lochmaben Centre
 Saturday 11.30am-12.30pm

Castle Douglas
 Community Centre
 Thursday 5.00-6.00pm

Lockerbie
 Dryfesdale Hall
 Tuesday 5.00-6.00pm

Dumfries
 David Keswick Centre
 Thursday 7.00-8.00pm
 Saturday 10.00-11.00am

Gretna Green
 Stormont Hall
 Wednesday 5.00-6.00pm

Book your free trial lesson online now at
WWW.UKTC.CO.UK
 or phone 01786 845060



LITTLE TIGER CUBS CLASSES FOR 3-5 YEAR OLDS OVERLEAF

FREE SUIT FREE TRIAL LESSON

Working in Partnership with Dumfries and Galloway Active Schools



supported by **activeschools** DUMFRIES AND GALLOWAY



THE FUN MARTIAL ARTS TRAINING SYSTEM FOR CHILDREN 3-5 YEARS OLD

- ✦ Learn Through Play
- ✦ Have Fun
- ✦ Develop Flexibility
- ✦ Improve Balance & Co-ordination
- ✦ Learn Respect
- ✦ Increase Self Confidence
- ✦ Learn Basic Self Defence

Dumfries David Keswick Centre **Saturday 9.00 - 9.45am**
Gretna Stormont Hall **Wednesday 4.00 - 4.45pm**



To book your free trial lesson visit our website at:
www.uktc.co.uk or phone **01786 845060**
 Limited places available



TAEKWON-DO CLASSES FOR ALL AGES (5 YEARS+) OVERLEAF

FREE SUIT FREE TRIAL LESSON