



Noblehill Primary School

September 2019 Newsletter



Staffing Update

We are pleased to announce that we have appointed Craig Henderson (no relation to me) as our newly appointed Building Facilities Assistant ('Jannie'). As he was here already as our relief janitor, we have been lucky enough to be able to simply continue his contract with us.



I am sure that he will have many happy years here and that everyone will continue to make him feel welcomed.

Paperless Newsletter

We aim to reduce our photocopying costs (which are significant) and go paperless for the distribution of our newsletters in future. As such this will hopefully be the last printed version and instead you will receive them by email. We will be sending the newsletters to the emails which you have provided us via the census information. If we do not have your updated email address could you please provide the office with this.

For our next newsletter only we will also send you a text message to let you know that we have sent it, just in case it goes into your junk folder by mistake.



Please let the office know if you do not have access to an email address and would prefer a paper copy to be sent home.

Non School Uniform Day

We are having a non uniform day on the last day of term (October 11th) as such we are asking for a voluntary donation of £1 for not wearing school uniform. All money collected will be for the general school fund which is used to support the school to purchase e.g. additional playground toys, additional class resources, school trips and theatre companies etc.





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Maths Week Scotland Funding

We are very fortunate to have received £250 to support our development of Maths Resources within the school. The money will be put to very good use in updating our current equipment and will be used for both learning in the classroom and outdoors.



Resources Appeal

The school are currently working towards delivering a much wider range of STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering & Maths) activities but in order for us to do this successfully, we are asking that if anyone has old tools, nuts and bolts, pots and pans, wood, tubing, palettes etc, could you please drop them off at the school office and they will be put to good use.



Our Amazing School Grounds

Last month we informed you that during the school summer holidays our school grounds received a visit from by judges from Keep Scotland Beautiful who were viewing them as part of the bid by Dumfries to retain its title of Beautiful Scotland Best Large Town. I am pleased to now inform you that the Beautiful Scotland national award ceremony took place on Thursday evening at Easterbrook Hall. 350 delegates from towns and cities throughout Scotland attended. Dumfries was awarded a gold medal as it had gained a total of 91 points out of a possible 100. A gold medal is awarded to anyone who obtains 85 points or over. Dumfries later received the trophy for best town and was one of only 5 entrants who scored over 90. The judges commented on the environmental work being done in our school grounds and said that " The work at Noblehill Primary was most impressive, as was the school's successful participation in Gardening Scotland."



A huge well done to everyone who has worked diligently across the years to create such a magnificent space for our children to enjoy.

Again we would like to ask that if anyone has some spare time to support our gardening club in any way then we would love to hear from you.



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NOBLEHILL PRIMARY REACHES FAIRACHIEVER STATUS

Over the last 2 years, Noblehill Primary has been working to become a Fairtrade School. The annually-elected Fairtrade Group carried out different activities to take the school from FairAware status through to FairActive status and finally gained the FairAchiever award at the start of this new school year.

Teacher/Fairtrade Group Co-ordinator Mrs Fiona Boyom states that everyone has worked hard to ensure that the whole school community knows what the Fairtrade logo stands for and how the work of the Fairtrade Foundation benefits farmers in developing countries. Fairtrade links in well to inter-disciplinary learning and global citizenship. The Fairtrade work done counted towards the school gaining its 4th Green Eco Flag last year and continues to work in tandem with on-going eco work and our focus on being a Rights Respecting School. We have also established links with the Dumfries Fairtrade Group and local Traidcraft representative.

The Fairtrade Group meets regularly and carries out different activities over the year. The main focus is during Fairtrade Fortnight, where every class in school is given a specific Fairtrade topic to research and focus on. Pupils enjoy this chance to share learning and take part in fun competitions too.

As a school we have designed posters and T shirts to advertise Fairtrade, sold Kilombero rice from Malawi as part of the '90Kg Send A Child To School Project', visited Tesco to find out what Fairtrade products they sell, collected and sorted Fairtrade packaging, made Fairtrade fruit kebabs, played boardgames, sold Traidcraft snacks and goods at our annual Christmas Fair and Spring Barbecue and held a competition to see which class could collect the most Fairtrade logos from packaging. With the profit made from our sales, the school bought a Fairtrade football and invited another local school along for a friendly Fairtrade Match. Fairtrade bananas were provided for refreshment by neighbouring Aldi supermarket and pupils designed Fairtrade snack-bags for the guests. News and information is displayed on the Fairtrade Noticeboard in school and through the school's newsletter and website. The school also has a Fairtrade Policy and uses/promotes Fairtrade products whenever possible.

A new Fairtrade Group has just been elected for this year and the pupils are excited to continue the good work in new challenges ahead. We are very proud to be a FairAchiever School!

(The Fairtrade Group and Teacher Mrs Boyom are pictured with Mrs Rosie Rutherford from the Dumfries Fairtrade Group and mascot 'Doonie the Beltie'.)



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Halloween

The Parent Council are organising a Halloween School Disco for the evening of 29th October.

More information will follow in due course but it's definitely a date for the diary.



Dyslexia Masterclass for Parents

Dyslexia - what to look for, how it may affect your child

- ◆ Homework - practical strategies and resources to use with your child at home
- ◆ Building self confidence
- ◆ Study skills - tips and tricks
- ◆ Beyond school - positive destinations

Thursday 29 October, 7pm – 9pm

St George's Church, 50 George Street, Dumfries DG1 1EJ

Book a free place at <http://bit.ly/2L9gMKz>

With thanks to the Scottish Government for funding for this event

Charity No: SC 000951

National Helpline: 0344 800 84 84

helpline@dyslexiascotland.org.uk

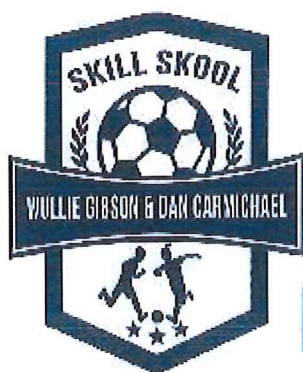




We are delighted to share that we are part of Aldi's Kit For Schools promotion and are looking forward to being in with a chance of winning £20,000 to help kick-start a health legacy for our school.

Every school who enters and completes their poster with 300 Team GB stickers will also receive an exclusive school sports kit!

Aldi are giving customers a sticker whenever they spend £30 in store and we are now collecting them to add to our Noblehill poster(s). When you collect any Kit For Schools stickers please send them into school and fingers crossed for the £20,000!



We are a football academy who aim to produce and progress local talent of all ages and abilities. Our coaches have years of professional playing experience. Wullie Gibson is also a qualified UEFA B licence coach.

In YOUR school

Skill Skool are looking to offer schools the fantastic opportunity of working in partnership with us to help you provide additional curricular health and wellbeing opportunities.

We offer both coaching sessions and classroom based learning using Positive Coaching Scotland strategies; PCS aims to teach youngsters the importance of respect, leadership, positive behaviour, discipline, relationship building, communication, and health and wellbeing.

Block (1 hour sessions)	Focus	Cost
4 weeks	practical	£60
6 weeks	4 weeks practical 2 weeks classroom	£90
6 weeks	practical	£90
	Lunchtime Club	£15 per session

10% off subsequent block bookings



skill.skool@hotmail.com

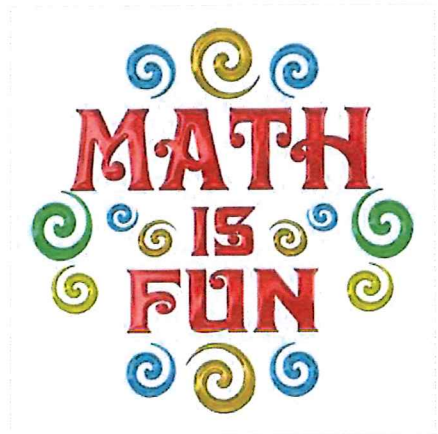


MATHS WEEK SCOTLAND FAMILY LEARNING EVENT

Maths Week Scotland will take place on 30 September – 6 October 2019 with a range of celebrations across Scotland. In Dumfries and Galloway Maths Week Scotland will be hosting a special family learning maths show on **Tuesday 1st October in the Bridge, Dumfries.**

This will take place between 4pm-5pm and will be suitable for primary age children and their parents/carers.

The Family Learning Event, from Bubbly Maths, will inspire pupils and their parents/carers that maths can be fun, engaging and applied to a huge range of areas! <https://www.bubblymaths.co.uk>



Head to www.mathsweek.scot to find out how else you can get involved with Maths Week Scotland

Wet break Times—Games Appeal



We are looking for games which are complete and in good condition which children can play with during wet break times. If you have any old or spare games which your children no longer want, please feel free to send them to the school office where we can disseminate them around the school. Thank you.

Keeping Safe in the Playground



We would like to request that children are not allowed to cycle or scoot before or after school when in the school playground please. During these times the playground is extremely busy and we are having a few accidents reported to us regarding accidents particularly with the young pupils.



We would really appreciate your support in keeping the school playground an safe place for everyone.

P5/4 Harvest Donations

P5/4 are working with the charity Dumfries Food Train to find out how the organization helps people in our local community. One of the ways in which they help older people is by making grocery deliveries each week which provides friendly social contact as well as supporting older people to eat well. P5/4 invite you to make a small grocery donation which they will pack and this will be collected by Jen from the Food Train. We would be very grateful for donations between Monday 30th September and Wednesday 9th October.



P5/4 are also looking forward to sharing Harvest Assembly with the whole school on Wednesday 9th October and with families on Thursday 10th October at 2.15.

AUTUMN 2018 WALK TO SCHOOL WEEK – MONDAY 7th – Friday 11th October



The “Autumn Walk to School Week” is almost upon us. It will begin on **Monday 7th October** and run through to **Friday 11th October** inclusive.

The underlying intention of the initiative, as the title suggests, is to encourage school pupils to walk, or cycle and scoot to and from school, where it is safe to do so. Dumfries and Galloway Council is supporting and promoting this activity throughout the region by inviting all schools to take part in the “Walk to School Week” event and your school has expressed an interest in taking part. All that we ask is that you consider allowing your child to walk or actively travel to and from school, either accompanied or unaccompanied (some or all of the way) during the week 7th-11th October. Given the benefits of such initiatives, it would obviously be desirable for you to also consider allowing your child to walk, cycle or scoot on a regular basis, again where it is safe to do so.



RIGHTS RESPECTING SCHOOL

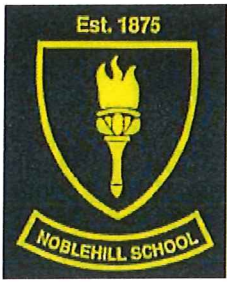
In line with our School Improvement Plan, we have established a Rights Respecting Schools working group. The group consists of Mrs Kearney, Mr Healy, Miss Bell, Mrs Stephen, Mrs Findon, Miss Peat and Mrs Borland. A Steering group has also been created with pupil voice coming from the upper school.



In order to continue our journey towards achieving our Silver Accreditation with the Rights Respecting Schools, we need to gather some data to evaluate where we are as a school and to help us to create progressive next steps. We have created questionnaires for our pupils, staff and parent/ carers to help us to get a broad overview from all stakeholders. Please find attached your questionnaire which should be returned to school by Friday 4th October. Thank you in advance!

DIARY DATES

7–11 October	Walk to School Week
10 October	P5/4 Assembly for Parents 2.15pm
11 October	Non-Uniform Day
14–25 October	School Holidays
29 October	Halloween Disco P1-3 6.00–6.45pm P4-7 7.00–8.00pm
4 November	Parent Council Meeting 6.30pm
20 November	Parents Evening
25 & 26 November	School Photos—Individual and Family



Noblehill Primary School
Rights Respecting School Survey



Parents/Carers

Term 1 2019/2020

Tick the box to show how far you agree	Strongly Agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	I'm not sure
I am aware of Noblehill Primary school is working on Unicef UK's Rights Respecting Schools Award (RRSA)					
I am aware of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of a Child.					
At home, I discuss current affairs with my child.					
I discuss the rights of children and young people at home.					
In general, I am treated with respect by other adults in the school.					
In general, I am treated with respect by pupils in the school					

Thank You for taking the time to complete this survey.

If you have any further comments on how the school could help you explore the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child, please use the space below.