



Kirkstyle's Newsletter August - September 2011

Welcome to new staff!

As you are aware we have welcomed some new team members: - Mrs. Fiona MacCallum in Rm. 11, Pr.4 has already had the chance to meet and work with their new teacher prior to the holidays.

Miss. E. Smets, a temporary member of staff, is going to be working alongside our infant classes to support the class size reduction plans and to continue to improve standards in literacy. Therefore if your child is in Primary 2 & 3 they may talk about having a different class teacher for writing & reading over this school session.

School Clothing

I would like to thank all parents for their continued support in ensuring the dress code of Kirkstyle is upheld. We certainly see pupils who look exceptionally smart, with self respect and pride in being part of our school and in so doing they convey this message to all visitors to Kirkstyle. However can I please remind you to clearly label all clothing including; jackets and sweatshirts as we often find it difficult to return lost items to their rightful owners, if there are no names on the clothing.

Any old school clothing is greatly received in school for spares in emergencies and also don't forget our Ragbag recycling project with bins inside and outside the school.

Welcome to new pupils and families

Prior to the holidays we continued with our improved transition programme - nursery pupils enjoyed Potted Sports Day in the sun as well as three visits to get them started in Kirkstyle Primary. All of our new Pr.3, Pr.3/4 and Pr.4 children enjoyed an afternoon of Cupcake Challenges to get them meeting and working in their new class groups. Everyone involved benefited from the experiences and we hope all pupils have settled into their new classes with their new teachers.



Look who's coming? - Joshua



Freya putting her scooter skills to the test.



Keep going and don't drop it Josh!



Over the past three years we have introduced the pupils to some new elements of Curriculum for Excellence these have included Food & Nutrition. The school have cooked during Health Week, had a week long visit from the Cooking Bus and have had class challenges from Planet Cook. This year we have expanded to give every pupils the opportunity to cook for a block of 90 mins. for two terms throughout the year. We don't want to charge the pupils for ingredients so we hope to use our Enterprising skills to participate in challenges to build up some funds for cooking materials.



Kilmarnock Standard

The pupils in Primary 1 had their photograph taken again to be printed in an edition of the local paper; look out for this in the paper as well as many other special events throughout the session.

Photographer

Last week the school photographer took class group photographs, in a new modern style. The pupils seemed to enjoy the experience of having their photographs taken and a lot of laughs were heard from the Hall. The pupils returned home with a proof for you to view and all orders and money must be sent to the school prior to orders being fulfilled. Last date for orders through the school is Friday 09.09.11.

Primary 1 School Lunches

We welcomed our new Primary 1 pupils and their parents to another aspect of school life at Kirkstyle, when they joined us last week to sample a school lunch. There was an excellent turnout and pupils and parents enjoyed fish and chips and macaroni as their first school meal. School menus arrived late from the printers to schools and have been issued on 02.09.11, we are sorry for the delay but hope the new menu encourages you to discuss option choices with your child.



Blake and Mum enjoy fish & chips and macaroni.



Haili's Mum & Dad had lunch together.



Ami, Carmen and Rebecca shared a table with their parents.



Is it Rebecca or her Mum who can't decide?

M & M Productions – Oliver Twist

We try to give the pupils experiences of live theatre performances to see stories come to life. The first opportunity for this will take place this week on Thursday within the school. We usually ask pupils to contribute to this performance, however due to the busy schedule of the school prior to the holidays the final Shiny Golden Time did not take place therefore we are inviting all pupils along to this performance free of charge as part of our Positive Behaviour and rewards programme.

Shiny Golden Time

Our first Shiny Golden time for the new session has been set for Pr.4, Pr.3/4 and Pr.3 on 28th October 2011 to a special showing of 'Yogi Bear' for Pr.5, Pr.5/6 Pr.6 & Pr.7 on 3rd November 2011 for 'Rango' and for Pr.1 & Pr.2 on 4th November 2011 for Kung Fu Panda 2, all held at the Odeon Kilmarnock.

Outings & Visitors

As highlighted previously Curriculum for Excellence encourages outdoor and experiential learning; this was also a positive element of Kirkstyle primary's curriculum delivery that HMIE identified. Therefore we will continue this practice throughout this session to enhance pupils' learning experiences. Already visits to Kilmarnock area, Odeon, Palace Theatre, Transport Museum, Vikingar, Glasgow Science Centre are already planned for Terms 1 & 2. With visitors ranging from Owl Magic to the local Councillors expected over the coming months.

Swimming

This year we see the start to an early swimming session for our P5 pupils. All pupils participating have been given permission slips etc. and these require to be completed before they are allowed to leave the school. The dates scheduled are 09.09.11, 23.09.11, 30.09.11, 07.10.11, 14.10.11, 28.10.11, 04.11.11, 11.11.11, 18.11.11 and 25.11.11.

Danger Detectives

The pupils of Primary 6 visited Dean Park today, to test their safety awareness skills. I think everyone concerned learned a lot from this experience and hopefully made the pupils aware of some of the dangers at home and how to react in dangerous situations.

Kilmarnock Walk

Primary 7 have begun their local studies with a walk in and around the local area, looking for areas of historical and significant interest.



Improvement Planning & Policies

It is the school's responsibility to update and improve procedures and to improve the quality of learning and teaching experiences your children participate in. This year the school is focusing on East Ayrshire priorities and our action plan following our HMle inspection last year:

- Literacy; Big Writing (3 year plan)
- I.C.T; GLOW & online activities
- Teacher Learning Communities to promote Assessment is for Learning (2 year plan)
- Sustainable Developments: Eco Schools

We also continue with items from last session plan to ensure these are maintained:

- Homework
- Handwriting & Presentation
- Positive behavior: Anti Bullying & Restorative practices
- Curriculum for Excellence developments
- *Literacy; Big Writing (3 year plan)*
- *Teacher Learning Communities to promote Assessment is for Learning (2 year plan)*

We will continue to consult and seek your approval and advice on some of these matters relating to school improvement. We hope that we can rely on your continued support and constructive feedback.

We have attached a school holiday sheet for your information and a list of arranged dates for the next two terms- we will keep you informed on each newsletter of additions to this list.

Diary Dates

05.09.11 – Danger Detectives Pr.6
05.09.11 – Transport Museum & Kelvin grove – Pr.3 & Pr.3/4
06.09.11 – Hairy Maclary performance at Palace Theatre – Pr.1
06.09.11 – Physical Literacy programme for Pr.1 for 10 weeks (Kilmarnock Football Club coaches)
07.09.11 – Hairy Maclary Drama workshop – Pr.1
08.09.11 – M & M Productions' performance – whole school
09.09.11 – Swimming Pr.5
15.09.11 – Mary's Meals official launch for East Ayrshire held in Kirkstyle Primary School
16.09.11 – HOLIDAY
19.09.11 – HOLIDAY
23.09.11 – Swimming Pr.5
29.09.11 – Harriers Run – Pr.6 & Pr.7 selected pupils (40 participants)
30.09.11 – Swimming Pr.5
06.10.11 – Vikingar visit – Pr.5 & Pr.5/6
07.10.11 – Swimming Pr.5
11.10.11 – Parents Afternoon & Evening (3.30-8.30pm)
13.10.11 – Cake Sale – Pr.3, Pr.3/4 & Pr.4
14.10.11 – Swimming Pr.5
15.10.11 – 24.10.11 HOLIDAY (Teacher In service 24.10.11)
25.10.11 – Pupils return
26.10.11 – Glasgow Science Centre (Hubble 3D & Planetarium) – Pr.5/6 & Pr.6
27.10.11 – Pupils performing at Guild of Friendship – Pr.3, Pr.3/4 & Pr.4
28.10.11 – SHINY GOLDEN TIME (Yogi Bear at Odeon) – Pr.3, Pr.3/4, Pr.4. Pr.6 & Pr.7-pupils who achieve 40 stickers
28.10.11 – Swimming Pr.5
02.11.11 – Fireworks talk – Pr.5/6 & Pr.6
03.11.11 – SHINY GOLDEN TIME (Rango at Odeon) – Pr.6, Pr.7s, Pr.5 & Pr.5/6 -pupils who achieve 40 stickers
04.11.11 – SHINY GOLDEN TIME (Kung Fu Panda 2 at Odeon) – Pr.1 & Pr.2 – pupils who achieve 40 stickers
04.11.11 – Swimming Pr.5
09.11.11 – Owl Magic – Pr.3 & Pr.3/4
11.11.11 – Swimming Pr.5
18.11.11 – Swimming Pr.5
25.11.11 – Swimming Pr.5
06.12.11 – Pantomime at palace Theatre (Cinderella) – whole school
07.12.11 – Upper school panto – whole school to view rehearsal
08.12.11 – Upper school panto – Parent performance –am
09.12.11 – Upper school panto – Parent Performance – pm
14.12.11 – Pr.1 – Pr.3 Nativity – whole school to view rehearsal
15.12.11 – Nativity – Parent performance – am
16.12.11 – Nativity – Parent Performance – pm
16.12.11 – Singing for Hansel at Morrisons– Pr.4
19.12.11 – Pr.3, Pr.3/4 & Pr.4 Party
20.12.11 – Pr.1s & Pr.2s Party
21.12.11 – Pr.5, pr.5/6 & Pr.6 Party
22.12.11 – Pr.7 Evening Party
22.12.11 – SHINY GOLDEN TIME
23.12.11 – School Closes for Christmas 2.30pm

We must offer our apologies for the number of letters that you are receiving in the coming weeks, but unfortunately at the start of term this is always required. Please bear with us and ensure that school bags are checked and letters are signed and returned promptly, where necessary.