



August Newsletter 2023



Welcome back to all of our fantastic pupils at Mount Carmel Primary School. It has been lovely to see all of our children back and looking so well. They look so mature in their full school uniform and it has been lovely to see so many pupils wearing shirts and ties too. We ask you to continue to support children to wear full school uniform daily.

We welcome Miss Grimley to our Mount Carmel family and wish her an excellent year ahead. We also bid farewell to Mrs Rodgers. Mrs Rodgers has been a central part of our family for over 20 years and is with great sadness that she will leave us in October. We wish her well as she embarks on her new adventure. Miss Donnelly our Vocal Instructor is also taking early retirement and will be leaving us during September. Miss Donnelly has been an amazing supporter of our school and has developed the skills of all the pupils she has worked with. We are truly grateful for all this and will miss hearing her beautiful voice each Friday.

Primary 1

Our Primary 1 children have had a lovely start to the term. It was lovely to see parents/carers with their children and they had the opportunity to take some photographs at our beautiful display. Thank you, again, to Lesley McLaughlin for creating this.





Uniform

Please remember that full school uniform should be worn daily. Leggings and tracksuit bottoms are not part of our uniform, this should be skirts, shorts or trousers please. Remember to make sure that all items of uniform have been labelled including jackets. Unfortunately, it is very difficult to return lost items if these have not been labelled. Please remember that we also have many additional items in our uniform exchange. These are free and available all days that the school building is open.

Pupil Absence

If a child is going to be absent from school please contact the school by 9:15am providing details of the reason for absence. It is the parents/carers responsibility to make the school aware of this. Previously school staff would contact parents/carers if they did not contact the school. This can be a very time consuming activity for our clerical staff. Again, this is a parental responsibility and I urge you to speak with the office or leave a message.

Collection of Children

A reminder that our school day finishes at 3pm. We receive a number of phone calls daily requesting to collect children earlier than this via the front door. We have limited clerical staff and this places a huge pressure on them to organise this, often with very short notice. This should be used on rare occasions if children are required to be collected early for an appointment. Thank you for your support with this matter.

PE

Please see the information below detailing when each class will take part in PE activities. Children get changed in school for PE, do not send children to school in their PE clothes. PE kit can include a blue polo shirt or blue t-shirt, black shorts/leggings/tracksuit bottoms and suitable trainers. It is easier if these items are left in school in a bag on their peg. Please remember that no jewellery should be worn on PE days, including earrings. If your child is not taking part in PE due to medical reasons please contact the school. It is expected that all children will take part in PE tasks, if a child has forgotten items we shall aim to provide suitable items for them to borrow for that day.

- P1 - Monday and Thursday
- P2 - Tuesday and Wednesday
- P3 - Tuesday and Thursday
- P4 - Thursday and Friday
- P5 - Monday and Wednesday
- P6 – Wednesday and Friday
- P7 - Tuesday and Wednesday

Meet the Teacher Sessions

We are pleased to announce that 'Meet the Teacher Sessions' have been organised to take place this term. This is an opportunity for the class teacher to talk to you about different items taking place in the class. This will include information about Homework, Literacy, Numeracy, Health and Wellbeing, Learning Journals, Whole School Approach to Nurture, RE and pupil expectations. Please be aware that this is not a parent/carer appointment to discuss a child's progress, this is an opportunity to meet the teacher and receive some school information. The children will not be in the class during this activity.

Monday 4th September – Primary 6 at 2pm

Tuesday 5th September – Primary 5 at 2pm

Wednesday 6th September – Primary 2 at 2pm

Thursday 7th September – Primary 7 at 2pm

Monday 11th September – Primary 3 at 2pm

Wednesday 13th September – Primary 4 at 2pm

Thursday 14th September – Primary 1 at 2pm

[Please complete the linked form if you plan to attend one of these sessions.](#)

Parent Council

We are keen to continue with our Parent Council this year as this has been a huge support in our school development. Unfortunately our numbers have reduced over the years, I urge all of you to consider joining the Parent Council. Please email mcparentcouncil@gmail.com to join this. It would be excellent if we could have at least two parents for each class, many more would be welcome too. I will be in touch with a date for the first meeting in the coming weeks.

Breakfast Club/Free Toast and Fruit/School Lunches/Snacks

As you are aware our Breakfast Club has returned as of Monday 21st August. We had a number of requests for this, unfortunately we are already at capacity with a waiting list in place.

Pupils can continue to access free toast each morning, this is available for P4-7 in the main hall and P1-3 can access a tray in the playground. This will begin on Monday 28th August. Children can continue to access a free piece of fruit daily for snack. This is available in each class.

Pupils in Primary 1-5 continue to receive free school lunches. You are able to see lunch menus on the council website as well as our school app. It would be helpful if you could

discuss lunch choices with children before they come to school so that lunches can be easily ordered in the morning.

For children in Primary 6 and 7 East Ayrshire have introduced a lunchtime School Meal Crunch Deal for just £1.08. The deal will run from August 2023 to June 2024 and will be available to young people who pay for their school meals. Going forward could you please make sure that you have money available in your child's account to pay for their school meal. A text message will be sent if no money has been in the account to remind you to pay this and to top up your balance.

A reminder that we are a nut free school, please do not send your child with items to school which may contain nuts as we have children with severe nut allergies. As a Health Promoting School please continue to consider carefully the snacks that are being sent to school. Fruit, breakfast bars, vegetables or a small packet of crisps is acceptable. Please do not send large packs of crisps or large chocolate bars to school. Sweets should be an occasional treat, not a daily snack. Please continue to send water bottles to school, these should not contain juice or flavoured water.

Our Lady of Mount Carmel

There will be a special Mass of thanks for Fr Martin on Friday 15th September at 7pm. All of the parish and school community are invited to attend this. Some of our children will represent the school for this beautiful celebration.



School App and School blog

For the latest information on our school events, newsletters as well as class updates please access our school blog and our school app. If you have yet to download our app please download the Safer School Scotland App and then scan the QR code.

Final Words

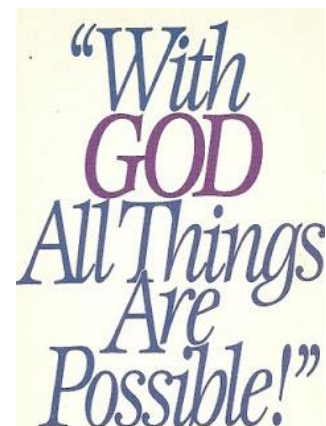
It has been lovely to have our children return this week. Please continue to keep us all in your prayers as we work together to provide the best support for all of our children and their families. Together we walk in God's path.

With greatest regards,

Andrea Fergusson

Mrs Fergusson

Head Teacher



A message from Kim Cameron – Financial Inclusion Team



Do you know?

**Those who meet certain qualifying criteria can apply for
Free School Meals and a Clothing Grant!**

Free School Meals

You may qualify even if you are working, if you have a low income and meet qualifying benefit levels.

All pupils in Primary 1 to Primary 5 and specialist provision centres will receive free school meals. **However, everyone should also apply when they meet low-income criteria, from Primary 1 to Secondary Year 6, as you may also receive holiday entitlements too.** If your child qualifies for Free School Meals then they would be entitled to receive a two course meal worth **£2.15** per day.

Clothing Grant

If you qualify for a School Clothing Grant you are entitled to an award of £120 per child attending Primary School and £150 per child attending Secondary School. This is usually only paid once a year.

If your child continues with their studies into 5/6th year, any qualifying award for Free School Meals and/or Clothing Grant will not be finalised until they return in August 2023.

Check if you qualify and to apply online at –

<https://www.east-ayrshire.gov.uk/CouncilAndGovernment/Benefits/Benefits-EducationAndSchool/Clothing-grants-and-free-school-meals/Clothing-grants-and-free-school-meals.aspx>

Contact Kimberley your Financial Inclusion Assistant for advice or support.

Kimberley Cameron

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