

Article 29: Education must develop every child's personality, talents and abilities to the full. It must encourage the child's respect for human rights, as well as respect for their parents, their own and other cultures, and the environment.

Achievements

We celebrate our pupils' achievements regularly throughout the school year through assemblies, class events, pupil dialogue meetings and various other events. We had a very special achievement of one of our Primary 6 pupils to celebrate before the Christmas break. Ken Macintosh, MSP, visited our school in the last week of term to announce the winner of the Parliamentary Christmas Card competition. Primary 6 pupils from across East Renfrewshire Council participate in this annual event and one of our P6 pupils was the winner!! Well done to **Katie Best**. Her entry was selected out of many entries and Ken Macintosh told Katie that her card had been sent to thousands of households across Scotland – even the First Minister! You can see photos of this on our Twitter feed.

Closure due to Winter Emergency

During the winter months there may be occasions when emergencies make it necessary for pupils to be sent home prematurely. It is very rare for a school to close, however, if a decision was made for this to happen, the school would use the following communication to inform parents:



- Email
- SMS (Text Messaging)
- School website update
- Twitter

We have systems in place to contact individuals by SMS or Email. For this reason I would ask that if you haven't already done so, you provide this information to the school office. Please ensure that you keep emergency contact information up to date to ensure the safe dismissal of pupils. The local authority's website page, along with twitter/facebook accounts will also be updated on a regular basis, ensuring that you are well informed of any closure decisions. The local press and radio will also have information. The decision to close a school rests with the Director of Education and parents will be notified through the communication means listed above.

Salting of Pathways in Icy/Snowy Weather

During spells of inclement weather the janitor is only contractually obliged to clear and grit one pathway of 1 metre wide for access/egress to and from the school building. As we have many different access points to the school our janitor has kindly agreed to clear and salt a path around the building from the main entrance (Kyle Drive) to the two pupil entrances at the rear of the building and he will also clear/salt a path from the gate at the lane across the playground to the pupil entrances. If the weather is severe we will **not** open the gate at Brisbane Court as the stairs can be treacherous during these times. Unfortunately due to the unpredictability of weather we will not know whether this entrance will be open until the morning, therefore on a day that is plagued with icy/snowy conditions it would be advised for parents/children to leave extra time in the eventuality that this entrance is kept closed.



Late coming and Appointments

Prior to the Christmas break it was very noticeable that a number of children were arriving late for school. I understand that this may sometimes happen however it would appear that for a number of children this is becoming a regular occurrence. It is important that children develop positive habits around punctuality and that they arrive at school in good time for the bell ringing at 9am. It can be disruptive for the class and sometimes upsetting for children to go into the class late. Could I ask that you support your child by ensuring that they leave home in good time. We will monitor this regularly and be in-touch with individual parents/carers firstly, to ensure that you are aware that your child is regularly arriving late and also to ascertain how we can work together to manage this better.

If you are aware that your child has an appointment, we would ask that you to notify the class teacher in advance of this date (via a note in the homework diary) to avoid any confusion and the teacher will then pass this information on to the office staff.

Parent Helpers

At Braidbar Primary School we value your support and encourage parents to get involved wherever possible, this can range from volunteering to support trips, helping to run events such as Book Fairs, participating in focus groups and helping to run clubs. We are finding recently that we only have a couple of parents who can help us with trips/events during the school day. To continue providing trips during the day such as the swimming blocks for the children we really need to increase the number of parents we have who are available to help. If you would be interested in getting involved please contact the school office. For certain things we don't require you to have a PVG check so please get in touch if you think you can help! Many thanks.



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Internet Safety

A number of our pupils are members of social networking sites such as Facebook, Instagram and Twitter. Last session we had a number of friendship issues relating to posts being made at home. There is a minimum age requirement for these social network sites in that you have to be 13 years or older to sign up for an account. If your children are using any of these sites please be extra vigilant and ensure you have access to their accounts to monitor what they are accessing. Further advice can be found at the following link: <https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/parents/>

Jotters to Parents

On Friday of this week we will be sending home your child's jotters to give you the opportunity to view their learning and progress in French and Writing. Jotters come home in a plastic wallet to keep them clean and dry in school bags. Along with the jotters, there is a sheet included to encourage discussion with your child and to give them, along with you, the opportunity to comment on their learning and progress. We ask that any jotters sent home are returned promptly on the following Monday morning to ensure continuity in learning. Your comments are much appreciated.



NHS Advice

We would like to remind you of the advice given by NHS Scotland with regards to controlling the spread of the winter vomiting bug. Pupils should be kept at home until they are clear of **ANY** symptoms for 48 hours. We are also encouraging rigorous hand washing in a bid to decrease the spread of infection from e.g. coughs and colds. We really appreciate your support in this matter.

Scottish Parliamentary Elections 2016

Our school will be used as a polling station for the above elections scheduled for Thursday 5th May 2016. The school will be closed to pupils on that day.

In Braidbar Primary our aim is to ensure your children have the best possible educational experience. We want them to be safe, well and happy. If you have any concerns please do not hesitate to contact the school and we will do all we can to address them.

Kindest regards

Mrs Kathleen M^cGuire
Head Teacher

We value your views

Please let us know if you are particularly pleased about something or have any suggestions or concerns.

Name _____ Child's class _____

Please hand into the school office. Thank you.

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Meetings of Parent Consultation Groups – Session 2015-16

The parent consultation group meetings are attended by members of the Education Directorate, Senior Officers in the Education Department and Elected Members of the Education Committee.

Parent Council Chair's Forum

The Parent Council is the body that represents all parents in a school. Two members of the Parent Council can attend these meetings to represent all parents within the school.

Date/Venue/Time

Wednesday 17th February 2016 – Woodfarm High School

Wednesday 8th June 2016 – St Luke's High School

All meetings are held at 7.00pm

Equalities Forum

This meeting is for a nominated parent representative from each school and schools' equality co-ordinators.

Date/Venue/Time

Thursday 12th May 2016 – St Luke's High School 7-9pm

Contact for this group is Maureen Sneddon, Quality Improvement Officer, telephone 0141 577 3942 or email maureen.sneddon@eastrenfrewshire.gov.uk

East Renfrewshire Parent Information Line

Available: Mon to Fri 8am- 6pm

Freephone: 0845 84 100 10

East Renfrewshire's Parent Information Line is a free telephone information service concerning all matters relating to children's education. The service is available between 8am and 6pm, Monday to Friday and is also available in Urdu/Punjabi.

Parent Information Line is staffed by professionally trained personnel who are able to provide information on a wide range of educational issues, e.g.: ideas to help with homework, advice on choosing a childminder and guidelines for using the internet safely with children. Enquiries can be made in confidence (unless a child is at risk and there is a child protection issue).

For more information on East Renfrewshire's Parent Information Line, contact the web site:

www.ea.e-renfrew.sch.uk/parents

