

Holidays & In-service Days

September Weekend:	Fri 23 & Mon 26 September 2016
October Week:	Mon 17 to Fri 21 October 2016
Christmas:	Thu 22 December to Wed 4 January 2017
February break:	Mon 13 to Wed 15 February 2017
Good Friday & Easter Monday	Fri 14 & Mon 17 April 2017
Easter:	Mon 3 April to Mon 17 April 2017
May Weekend (1):	Mon 1 May 2017
May Weekend (2):	Fri. 26 & Mon 29 May 2017
Summer Holiday:	School closes Tue 27 June 2017
In-service Days:	Fri 14 October 2016, Fri 10 February 2017 and Tue 30 May 2017

At Giffnock, we aim to make your child's experiences especially positive and productive within an environment where they feel safe, happy and achieving. If you have any concerns, queries or other issues please do not hesitate to contact me at the school or come along to one of our management drop-ins on Friday mornings.

I look forward to a wonderful year ahead,

Yours faithfully,



Rob Lawson
Acting Head Teacher



Newsletter



August 2016

Dear Parents/Carers

A very warm welcome back to all of our school community as we begin a brand new session together. I hope that all families had a great summer. I am delighted to see that our children are settling in very well and have made a positive start to this new school year.

I will share our news with you on a monthly basis, keeping you informed of the many and varied activities and events that are happening in our school. Where possible, we will send most correspondence to you electronically so please keep us updated with your most current email address.

New Families

A special welcome to all new families who have joined us; families of our new Nursery children, our Primary 1's and children across the stages.

Staffing

I am pleased to welcome back to Giffnock both Miss Megan Docherty and Mrs. Lindsay Backer as part of our teaching staff, alongside two newly qualified and very committed teachers - Miss Diane Emo and Mrs. Ewelina Short. We are also delighted to have Mrs. Jane Morley back with us as our Office Manager. Sadly, I am also sharing that Mrs. Emma McLaughlin left us over the summer to further pursue her own business. She has given many years of hard work and dedication to our school and we wish her every success and happiness in the future.



Uniform: Dressing for Excellence

Thank you very much for your commitment to our 'Dressing for Excellence' policy, with all pupils looking very smart as they went to their new classes. Despite the traditional, brilliant sunshine on the first few days back at school, many of our Primary 1's remained resolutely tied to their new blazers! How well they are turned out this session.

Lost Property

This is located in the janitor's office. May I also remind you to ensure all items of equipment and clothing are clearly labelled.



Entry to school

If the weather is particularly inclement at the start of the school day a bell will ring at 8.45am and our children may enter the school via the ramp entrance at the front of the building. Parents should be aware that teachers may not be in class at this time as they are likely to be preparing for the day ahead and there will be minimal adult supervision in corridors during this short period. Our management team will supervise pupils in the brown hall until the start of the school day.

As a health promoting school we encourage our pupils to be active outdoors at break times. It is therefore important that pupils come to school with appropriate outdoor jackets and footwear to cope with the Scottish climate!

Collecting children and our school gates

For those adults collecting children from the rear playground, please wait for the 2.55pm bell before entering the area in order to allow our children to utilise the resources and playground safely and securely. On entering the front playground, please close the metal gates so that we maintain a clear boundary from Academy Road.



Sports/ P.E.

Physical Education is a vital and compulsory part of our curriculum and children at Giffnock enjoy more than the statutory two hours each week. It is important that children come to school with a P.E. Kit. This should consist of shorts, t-shirt and gym shoes/ trainers. Additionally, a shower proof jacket and trousers/ track-suit bottoms are extremely useful for when the colder weather arrives. Please note that no jewellery (for safety reasons) should be worn during P.E. lessons.

Supporting our children's learning

At Giffnock, we aim to support the children in experiencing a wide range of learning experiences and extra-curricular activities. If any parents/ carers think that they can support with this, please contact the school office to leave details.

Parking

The new parking arrangements and signs on Academy Road have created changes to the safe and legal parking areas around our school. The local authority and police have asked me to remind all of the school community to park safely and in accordance with these arrangements, in particular at the start and end of the school day. Thank-you in advance for your consideration and support with this.

Absence from school

Should your child be absent from school, please contact the office on 0141 570 7180 so that we can establish that your child is safely home with you.

'Meet the Teacher': Nursery – P7

There will be an opportunity to visit your child's class and meet their teacher during our 'Meet the Teacher' evening. This event will take place on Wednesday 31st August between 6 – 7p.m. It is an important chance to build relationships and understanding and we very much hope to welcome you in.



P1 Literacy and Numeracy Workshops

For our P1 parents and carers, there will be an opportunity to visit classes to share in some of the learning strategies and activities with your child. The Literacy workshop will be held on the afternoon of Tuesday 6th September, with the Numeracy workshop on the afternoon of Thursday 15th September. More information will be provided shortly.



October Parents' Evenings:

Please note that these have been scheduled for the evenings of Wednesday 5th and Thursday 6th October. We will continue to use our online booking system.

Assemblies

Throughout the year each class performs an assembly for parents and families to join us in celebrating learning. Term 1 assembly dates are being emailed to you, with the others to follow in due course. Please note that all class assemblies start at 10am.

Our **Parent Council** Annual General Meeting will take place on Monday 5th September at 7pm in Giffnock Primary School. As well as getting involved with the council itself, this is a great opportunity to find out more about school life and to meet with the parents and carers of other children in your child's class/ stage. All members of our school community are welcome. Throughout the year you will find updates on our website and via Parent Council newsletters.

Communication

Over the coming days we will be further updating information on our school website, including a Parental Annual Calendar of Events. Our website acts as an important place for a wide range of up-to-date information pertaining to school life and we would encourage you to follow it.

During this session, classes will blog about their learning; class blogs are due to be posted on the school website at the end of September and they will include a range of evaluations and assessments of the children's learning and achievements.

Following on from the success of our Nursery Twitter feed, we will also be developing a P1-7 Twitter feed this session, which we hope will provide our school community with a very visual and accessible means of sharing the children's experiences. Links will be made available on the school's website.

The management team has an informal drop in for parents every Friday morning between 9-9.30am where no appointment is necessary, should you have any queries or concerns about your child.

Great news... already!

During our first week of term we have already had great news regarding our Eco Committee and Rights Respecting Schools Pupil Group. Our Eco Committee was assessed during the summer term of 2015-16 and was successful in retaining our Green Flag Status. Following on from all of the hard work put together by our Rights Respecting Schools team of children and staff during last session, the school has also been officially awarded our Level 1 accreditation!

In addition to these achievements, I am also delighted to announce that our school has been awarded our Family Friendly Bronze Award. This award aims to recognize the range of ways in which schools collaborate well with families.

More information on all three of these successes will be made available through our website; thanks to everyone involved for all of your ongoing efforts!