

seasonal activities for the children, including the pantomime performances and class parties. Secondly, it will pay for the storytelling workshops which were part of our Scottish Literacy week. Finally, it will also enable us to purchase a range of ICT equipment including digital cameras for each class and a central charging station for our tablets, laptops and kindles.

Registration

The date for school Primary 1 registration is week beginning Monday 16th until Friday 20th January 2017, any afternoon between 1.45 and 3.30pm. More details will be displayed in the local press.

Holidays & In-service Days

Christmas:	Thu 22nd Dec. returning Thu 5 th Jan. 2017
February break:	Fri 10 th Feb. returning Thu 16 th Feb. 2017
Easter:	Mon 3rd April returning Tue 18 th Feb. 2017
May Weekend	Fri 26th May returning Wed 31 st May 2017
In-service Days:	Fri 10th February 2017 and Tue 30th May 2017

The updated Parental Calendar of Events was shared with you in November and provides a full overview of activities and events over the coming weeks in the lead up to the holidays. The calendar is available on our school website. Please note that the school and nursery will close at 2.30 p.m. on Wednesday 21st December. There will be no afterschool wraparound service for nursery pupils and all parents should make arrangements to collect their children early.

Please remember that if you do have any concerns or queries, do not hesitate in contacting me at the school or come along to one of our leadership team drop ins: 9 – 9.30 a.m. every Friday.



Finally on behalf of all the staff I would like to wish you and your families a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Yours faithfully,

Rob Lawson
Acting Head Teacher



Newsletter



November/ December 2016

Dear Parents/ Carers

Giffnock Primary has been a wonderfully busy and exciting school to be part of over the last few weeks... and we are still only in the first full week of December! I hope that this newsletter shares a strong sense of these experiences; in addition, I would encourage you to keep an eye on our school website and to also follow us on Twitter which provides a fantastic, pictorial perspective of our school lives.

SportScotland Gold Award Celebratory Assembly

On Monday 5th December we celebrated our Gold Award with a whole school community assembly. Alongside all of our children, a wide range of guests attended, from the Director of Education for East Renfrewshire to our local MP. Adults from a number of the local sports clubs that our children have worked with also attended, along with a wide range of the parents and other adults who have supported the breadth of sporting opportunities that our children enjoy. The Sports Committee helped to lead the assembly, which included a question and answer session with James Eddie from the Glasgow Warriors. Congratulations to all of our school community and a huge thank you to all of the many people who have contributed their efforts to this success.

Staffing

It is with mixed emotions that we wish two members of our staff the very best of luck for their future careers and lives. Both Mr. Tony Mayer and Mrs. Heather Kubba leave Giffnock Primary this month. Mr. Mayer will be taking on his new Principal Teacher role at High Blantyre Primary, whilst Mrs. Kubba will be exploring 'pastures new' in Australia! They have both given a tremendous amount to our school community for over ten years and, whilst we will miss them, we wish them every success for the future. We will be welcoming Miss Itcovitz (Class Teacher) and Mrs. Mahmood (PSA) in the coming weeks.

Parental Engagement

We have planned a range of ways to support our parents and carers to be part of our children's learning this term, including our Nursery 'Come and Play Days', our Clicker 7 training sessions and our 'Read, Write and Count' workshops. Our children's learning will always be enhanced and developed when it links coherently between home and school, so we thank you for your support and involvement in these activities.

Road Safety Week

During the week commencing 21st November, we had a range of activities linked to the National Road Safety week. In conjunction with our local police, Pedalwise and parents/ carers, our pupils enjoyed experiences including a Cycle Bus to school, bike maintenance and information sessions and even speed-gun work on Fenwick Road. Our JRSO Pupil Group helped to lead many of the activities, including a presentation at our weekly assembly. We also celebrated a number of winners in the annual East Renfrewshire Road Safety Calendar Competition, including Giffnock Primary winning the overall prize for the most successful school. You can see the trophy in our cabinet in the school's reception!

In connection, and on behalf of all of our children and families, could I again ask everyone to take full consideration of the road and parking regulations in the school's local area. A number of issues with regard to speeding and illegal parking have been raised with our local police and we would ask everyone to respect the restrictions in place. Thank you in advance with this matter.

Scottish Literacy, Expressive Arts and St. Andrew's Day

During the week beginning 28th November, our children enjoyed a wide range of experiences, including film viewings and musical performances/ taster sessions. Former pupils from Woodfarm High School provided a wonderfully musical start to one of the days that week and the Macastory Workshops on Friday 2nd December were a great success.

Fairtrade

Congratulations to our Primary 5 children who planned, organised and led the Fairtrade Stalls over two weeks during November. They raised well over £250 for the organisation and we thank everyone for their generous contributions.

Technologies

I am delighted to share that we are in the process of activating the school's WiFi system. We will be acquiring another thirty laptops over the coming weeks to add to the tablets and kindles we already have. As we turn into the New Year, I am very excited about the ways we will be able to use these developments to further enhance our children's learning experiences.

Our Google Expeditions morning this week was also a great success. Our P3-7 children enjoyed using this virtual technology led by a visiting technician from Google, to explore imagery from the Borneo Rainforests to underwater worlds.

Christmas Fair

On Saturday 3rd December we began all things festive with our Christmas Fair. From home baking to seasonal gifts, and corn snakes to pottery making, the afternoon was a huge success. Thank you to everyone who contributed gifts for the 'Red Stall' and a special thanks to our Parent Council/ Fundraising Committee who led the planning for the event. I would also like to congratulate our Primary 6 children who developed, produced and sold a range of products at the Fair, and who also helped to run a number of the 'games' stalls. Well done to all involved!

Nativity

Our Primary 1 and 2 Nativity preparations are well under way and we are excited about sharing them with you on the 13th (2pm start) and 14th (9.30am start) of December. The relevant information for the performances has already been shared with you. The children have even helped with the tickets and programmes! Our Nursery children have also begun preparing for their Christmas Play, to be shared with parents/ carers on Monday 19th December (11.15am and 2.15pm start). We look forward to bringing the seasonal spirit!

Parent Council Funding

The Parent Council has been working closely with the school to consider the best ways to use some of the money that has been raised. The recent sponsored 'Run Scotland' event raised over £4000 and this money will be used to enhance a few key aspects of school life. Firstly, it will pay for a range of