

**Mearns Primary School  
and Nursery Class Newsletter  
October 2017**



Dear Parent/Carer

It is great to see the pupils settling quickly into their classes and routines. Members of the Management Team and support staff have been in the playground each morning to welcome our returning pupils as well as supporting our new pupils who have been getting used to the routines and new environment of school. We are especially proud of our Primary 1 pupils who have taken to these new routines with ease. May I respectfully ask for all parents and carers' support in helping our pupils in their increasing independence by standing back from the doors after you have helped your children in?

This session promises to be a busy one with school shows for every stage and a wealth of planned challenging learning activities for all.

**Meet The Staff Evening**

I am really enjoying being at Mearns Primary. Thank you to all parents who attended our "Meet the Staff" event on Thursday, 7 September and made me feel so welcome. I hope you found the evening informative. All the presentations from the event have now been put on to our website.

**Self Evaluation**

Your opinions are important to us and we endeavor to be a listening school. Here are samples of your views that we received during 'Meet The Staff Evening' and the actions we have taken from the feedback you expressed.

**You Said...**

*Halal food at lunchtime*

*More choice for hot meals*

*Planning ahead for dates*

*More outdoor learning*

*Better parking*

*No blue badge displayed*

**We have done...**

- We wrote to ERC Facilities Management to enquire about provision of halal food and the choice available and were advised by Nicky Joiner, Assistant Site Service Manager that, as an authority Facilities Management are in the early stages of rollout out a fully mirrored Halal lunch menu. They will be in discussion with Caterlink, our school caterers, regarding this.

Nicky also informed us that, with regards to the wider choice, East Renfrewshire offer the most choices of meals in Scotland and some authorities only offer one choice. With regards to P1 to 3 menus ERC initially only had a two choice menu however due to parental feedback this was changed to 3 choices and it is not envisaged that this will be extended to 4 options.

- We are about to embark on Phase 2 of development of the early years playground and outdoor space. An appeal for assistance with this project was sent to parents, but to date we have had only one response. If you would be in a position to assist, we would love to hear from you.

- I have been in communication with our Campus Police Officers regarding the ongoing issues in our car parks. I have also been out in the car park speaking to parents/carers. Our new Campus Police Officer, Angela Mitchell has been out to visit the school and has arranged for Community Wardens to patrol the car parks over the next few days. She has asked that we pass on a message to all parents:

*My name is Police Constable Angela Mitchell and I will be the new Campus police officer for Mearns Castle High School, Williamwood High school and the associated primary schools.*

*My job is to assist and ensure the safety of YOUR children during, before and after school time.*

*To this end I would remind all parents that when dropping off and picking up your child UNDER NO CIRCUMSTANCES should you be parking in disabled bays UNLESS you have a BLUE badge.*

*Furthermore your vehicle should not be causing an unnecessary obstruction. This is an offence under the Road Traffic Act 1988 and will be dealt with robustly.*

*Whilst you are waiting for you children engines MUST be turned off as this is an environmental issue.*

*These are a pupil safety issues and a police requirement. I appreciate your FULL co-operation in this matter*

*P.C Angela Mitchell  
Campus Police officer*

A meeting has taken place involving the Community Safety Interim Resources Manager and representatives of the Police and Fire Services to discuss the wider problem in East Renfrewshire, Mearns Primary being one of the schools discussed.

- A Parental Calendar will be available on the school website:

[www.ea.e-renfrew.sch.uk/mearns](http://www.ea.e-renfrew.sch.uk/mearns)

This will give an overview of planned events for the session but will possibly be subject to change.

### **Class visits**

I have also enjoyed getting into the classrooms, working with the staff and seeing the pupils actively engaged in their learning. I must say that your children are a credit to you in regards to general behavior, respect for all and friendliness. The pupils are all well turned out for school and I hope to continue to promote the wearing of shirts and ties as part of the ERC 'Dressing for Excellence' policy.

All classes have started updating their class blogs which can be accessed through the school website.

### **Annual Data Checks**

Please return all completed forms from the Annual Data Check to the school if you have not already done so. It is vital that the school has accurate contact details etc. for every child.

### **P7 Residential Visit to Lockerbie Manor**

I would like to thank all the staff who attended the P7 residential visit at Lockerbie Manor. Photos on Twitter captured the fantastic time everyone had. The children who remained in school enjoyed an equally busy week with Mrs Smail.

### **Well done to:**

Last weekend, four P6 boys from Mearns Primary, Fraser Cunningham P6.21, Harrison Jack P6.22, Callan Chong P6.22 and Calum Grant P6.24, took place in a Primary 6 Rugby tournament against seven other teams at the Glasgow Warriors stadium in Scotstoun. Fraser had injured his ankle playing rugby the week before, but was determined to support his team and play on the day.

Their team, Whitecraigs Rugby Club, won the tournament by winning their final game on the main Warriors' pitch, which took place at half time during the Warriors match. They were absolutely elated to win all their games and especially the final in front of 7,000 spectators.

#### **Thank you to:**

- **East Renfrewshire Good Causes**

We have recently received a donation of resources from East Renfrewshire Good Causes. The Charity has supported various initiatives in school over recent years. Russell MacMillan, founder of the charity, emailed to say that it was "an absolute pleasure to support your fantastic staff who are a credit to themselves, the school and our community!"

- One of our parents, Mrs Nasreen Bashir, mum of Natasha, Sara and Zain Bashir who kindly donated stationary stock for use in the school.
- Your support for our Dress as You Please Day. We are still collecting money, but to date we have received over £700. Thank you!

#### **Outdoor Learning**

We are looking to collect den building resources to supplement resources already purchased. If you have any spare tent pegs, picnic rugs, tarpaulins, rope or string that you could donate to the school then please hand in to the school office.

In a recent letter, we asked for parent volunteers to join a planning team which will develop our early years and nursery playgrounds. If you have skills or ideas to share then we would welcome your support. In particular tradesmen, joiners, builders, landscape gardeners or anyone with skills in these areas would be welcomed. Please let the school office know if you would like to be part of this exciting venture.

#### **A Double Celebration for Mearns Global Citizens**

This week the whole school gathered together for an assembly to celebrate being reaccredited with two prestigious awards, a Level 2 Rights Respecting School Award by Unicef UK and a FairAchiever Award from the Fairtrade Foundation. Unicef is the world's leading organisation working for children and their rights. The Rights Respecting Schools Award is granted to schools that show commitment to promoting and realising children's rights and encouraging adults, children and young people to respect the rights of others in school. The Level 2 Award is the highest accolade given by Unicef UK and shows a deep and thorough commitment to children's rights at all levels of school life. A Fair Achiever Award is awarded to schools that have fully embedded Fairtrade into their daily life and work to raise awareness of Fairtrade in their local community. We are very proud of these two awards which demonstrate our commitment to global citizenship.

#### **Attendance**

I would like to remind parents that holidays taken during school term time are marked as unauthorised and this reflects on the school's target of 97%, which is set by the Authority. We appreciate your support. Our current attendance figure is 97.9%.

#### **Values**

This week we welcomed pupils and staff from St Claire's Primary to share with them the work which is being done with regard to "Values" within the school. A letter will be sent out shortly in connection with our current review on this subject.

#### **Nursery News**

##### **Welly Bear Hunt**

A huge thank you for all the donations made during our Welly Bear Hunt Day. We raised £100 which will go towards the development of our early years' grounds.

### **Gardeners**

Thank you to those parents/ carers who signed up for some gardening work within the nursery grounds. Please pop along with your spades, gloves and enthusiasm at any time!

### **Lending Library**

We will continue with our Lending Library this month. Please ensure to bring your book back each Monday, including the completed evaluation sheet. New books will return home every Tuesday.

### **Stay and Play Sessions**

We are looking forward to welcoming our parents/ carers in to the nursery on Monday 9, 10, 11 and 12 October for our Play and Stay sessions. We will be in touch soon to confirm your preferred date.

### **Halloween**

Get your costumes ready for our Halloween celebration of all things spooky and spectacular! This will take part on Friday, 27 October.

### **Diwali**

We are looking forward to hearing all about Diwali, and learning some traditional dancing from one of our parents this month. Thank you for your support. We welcome all interested parents/ carers and family members who wish to share some of their knowledge and skills with the children.

### **Tea Towel Fundraising**

Thank you to Aminah Morgan who is helping to coordinate our next fundraising activity – Christmas Tea Towels. Order forms should be with you this week. Please pay through ParentPay but remember to return your order form before Monday, 9 October so we can place the order immediately.

### **Learning Focus**

We are continuing to enjoy exploring and choosing stories to read or listen to, and counting, recognising and sequencing numbers. We are also identifying and naming 2D shapes found in our environment.

### **Dates for your Diary – School and Nursery**

Mon 9 October	Author Visit to P6/P7
Tues 10 October	Flu vaccinations – school
Wed 11 October	Head Teacher “Drop In” at 9am P6 Pupils to Barassie Beach
Friday 13 October	In Service Day
Monday 16 - Friday 20 October	October Break
Monday 23 October	Pupils return 9am (school) Nursery pupils return 8.50am/12.50pm
Fri 27 October	Nursery vision screening
Thur 2 November	P4.14 & P4.20 to visit The Tall Ship

### **Head Teacher Drop-In**

To promote communication further, I will be holding a series of informal “Drop In” sessions on Wednesday mornings between 9am and 9:30am, beginning on Wednesday, 11 October. These sessions will give parents the opportunity to speak with me on a one to one basis.

I look forward to meeting you all over the course of the year and please do not hesitate to contact the school with any enquires you may have.