

MEARNS PRIMARY SCHOOL



SEPTEMBER 2014 NEWSLETTER

Dear Parent/Carer

Congratulations to:

- Amy Cunningham P6.23 who has been awarded String Player of the Month for September.
- Angela O'Connor, Principal Teacher, on the birth of baby Joe at the weekend.

The “Andrew Ferrier” Memorial Garden

A group of pupils have been working with Miss MacLeod in replanting one of the flower beds at the Eco Garden. We are dedicating this to Andrew Ferrier and all the plants all have an “orange” theme as this was Andrew’s favourite colour. We would be grateful to have a list of volunteers to help the children with ongoing maintenance. Any interested parties please contact the school office.

PE

Curriculum for Excellence highlights that Physical Education (PE) should provide learners with a platform from which they can build physical competences, improve aspects of fitness and develop personal and interpersonal skills and attributes.

Pupils in Mearns Primary will encounter a variety of practical learning experiences through PE, including working on their own, with a partner and in small and large groups, using small and large equipment and apparatus, both outdoors and indoors.

Mearns Primary School is committed to the Scottish Government’s expectation that schools should provide at least two hours of good quality PE for every child, each week. To achieve this, pupils are timetabled for 3 periods of PE per week. In line with East Renfrewshire guidelines, this will include indoor and outdoor lessons. Pupils should come to school prepared for outdoor PE lessons with appropriate clothing to meet requirements of the Scottish climate and weather. Our uniform list includes a school tracksuit, fleece and rain jacket/cagoule. An alternative to this would be plain navy joggers and a school sweatshirt worn over PE kit. As with secondary schools, it will only be in cases of extreme weather, such as heavy rain, snow or wind, that outdoor lessons will be cancelled.



Dates and times of PE are given to pupils by Class Teachers and these dates and times are entered in Homework Diaries to inform parents. This means that parents can ensure children bring their PE kit on the correct days.

For safety reasons, pupils should not wear jewellery during PE lessons. Pupils with pierced ears must remove earrings. If ears are newly pierced, your child can bring tape to cover earrings, which they must cover themselves. We cannot supply tape for this purpose.

Telephone Numbers

A reminder that our phone number is **0141 570 7220** and our fax number is **0141 570 7221**. The office hours are 8.30am to 4.30pm Monday to Friday. Occasionally the school is not identified when we make an outgoing call. **'Blocked'** may be displayed on receiving mobiles. When calling the school, it would be helpful if you can identify your child's year group/class name or teacher.

Packed Lunches/Allergies

A number of children have allergies which can seriously affect their health. For this reason, we are a **NUT FREE** school. As many pupils have similar lunch boxes, we request that your child's lunchbox is clearly named (class details included). If they leave their lunchbox in the lunch hall, it can then be returned to them.



Labelling of Clothes

Please ensure that items of clothing are labelled with your child's name and class. Everyday a huge number of items, which have been left in the playground, are collected by the janitors. Once staff have checked these and established if the item is named or otherwise, the named items are returned to the pupil's class. Unfortunately, many of the items are not named and are then put into our lost property cupboard. This cupboard will be emptied at the end of each term and items remaining are will be placed in either of the two collection bins placed in the car park. Both bins will take clothing, old shoes etc. The original bin is used to raise money for school funds and the new bin, which just arrived last week, is to raise money for school pupils in Malawi through the Betty Cunningham Foundation.

Pupil Mail

A letter was recently issued regarding the sending home of any information which contained personal information such as Report Cards, consent forms and the Annual Data check. We would remind you that you only needed to return the slip if you **did not want** this type of information sent home with your child.

Local Improvement Plan 2014 - 2017

Please find a link to the electronic version of the Local Improvement Plan 2014 – 2017 on the East Renfrewshire Council website:

East Renfrewshire Education Department Local Improvement Plan 2014 – 2017

Macmillan Cancer Support

Mearns Primary is pleased to announce that the school community is participating in the Macmillan 'World's Biggest Coffee Morning' between 22 September and 3 October. We have several families, both adults and children, who are currently experiencing the effects of cancer and this whole-school approach is in recognition of the difficult times we are facing as a school community.

Each year the Pupil Council select a National Charity to support. This year they have elected to support Macmillan by organising tea parties for our classes.

For P5-7 we are encouraging the Pupil Council Reps to be independent and organise a Tea Party in their local community. This could be simply inviting family and friends to come for coffee, juice and cakes or if they want to 'go big!' involve a local club, Church, Mosque or other organisation. It would be great if the children could bring in photographs for us to see and share along with any monies raised to add to the school total. Our school improvement plan has identified Community links as an area for development and this initiative could go some way towards achieving this.

The P1 – P4 children will be organising a Tea Party for their class and the Pupil council representatives will take responsibility for co-ordinating the various roles and responsibilities for this venture.

Mearns Primary Staff are holding their own event on Thursday and we will let you know the total raised by all the different ventures in our next newsletter.

Events

- School will be closed on Friday, 26 September and Monday, 29 September.
- The **Parent Council AGM** will be held in school on Tuesday, 30 September at 7pm. All parents are welcome.
- Flu Immunisation Programme – Friday, 3 October. Thanks to everyone who returned consent envelopes. These have been looked at by the team organising the vaccination programme and the required number of vaccines ordered accordingly. If your child's consent form was returned after this exercise was carried out, they will not be vaccinated on the day but a follow up date will be organised – details of which we do not have at the moment. Any requests for changes to vaccination type have been given to the Health Board staff.
- School will be closed on Friday, 10 October as this is a staff In-Service Day. The following week is the October holiday and children should return to school on Monday, 20 October.

Yours sincerely

Catherine Dillon-Ruddy
Head Teacher

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