

# Neilston Learning Campus

## NEWSLETTER

for Neilston Primary & Madras Family Centre



'Everyone Attaining, Everyone Achieving, Through Excellent Experiences'



INVESTORS  
IN PEOPLE

Gold



# JANUARY 2017

## Head Teacher's Message

On behalf of all of the staff and children across the campus, I would like to wish all of you a very happy and fruitful New Year and wish you and your families all the very best for 2017. A very special welcome to all our new start children in the Family Centre.

I would also like to take this opportunity to welcome you to our NEW style Newsletter. In recognition of the school and centre coming together as a learning campus we have decided to publish one collaborative newsletter across the campus. This will help us build a better understanding of what is happening across the campus and identify opportunities for us to work together to enhance the experiences for our learners, staff and parents.

Mr Gerard Curley  
Head Teacher

**HAPPY  
NEW  
YEAR**

## Parent Pay - Update

We are pleased to announce that we are now accepting payments online for items such as dinner money, school trips and uniform. This was established just prior to the Christmas holiday. Please make sure that you sign-up to this payment system which is called ParentPay, you will be able to pay online using your credit or debit card. ParentPay will be our preferred method of making payments to school.

### What are the benefits to parents and pupils?

- ParentPay is easy-to-use and will offer you the freedom to make online payments whenever and wherever you like, 24/7
- The technology used is of the highest internet security available ensuring that your money will reach school safely – offering you peace of mind
- Payments can be made by credit/debit card or also through PayPoint
- full payment histories and statements are available to you securely online at anytime

[CONTINUED ON PAGE 2]



## ParentPay (continued)

[CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1]

- Your children will not have to worry about losing money at school
- Parents can choose to be alerted when their balances are low via email and/or SMS text

### What are the benefits to our school?

The more parents that use ParentPay, the greater the benefit is to our school.

You can help us reduce workloads for all staff, creating more time to lend to educational support and the smooth running of the school.

Using ParentPay also ensures that all financial transactions are safe and secure - helping us to remove costs associated with us having to manage cash securely on the school premises.

**If you want to find out more about ParentPay go to:**

[www.parentpay.com/Parents](http://www.parentpay.com/Parents)

**PARENTPAY will go live for the Family Centre in Jan / Feb 2017 – more information will be shared about this soon. Parent Pay is live in school now.**



## Settling Sheets

For all children who are new to Madras Family Centre settling sheets will be sent home shortly. These sheets are completed within the first 4-6 weeks of your child starting at Madras Family Centre by your child's keyworker. These will give you further information on your child, how they have settled and their interests and development within the short time they have attended the Centre. We very much value both you and your child's views and ask for your support in completing these and returning them to nursery. These will be added in to Learning Journals.

## Stay & Play

In the summer term of last year we piloted our Stay and Play sessions. These sessions invited parents into the Centre to engage in purposeful play with their own child. Parental feedback from these sessions was very positive and this term we intend to continue into our second cycle of these sessions. Further information will be available soon.

## Learning Journal

Throughout your child's time at Madras Family Centre they will have their own Learning Journal. This journal will be individual to each child and will be completed by them in partnership with staff. The journal will reflect your child's interests and stage of learning. Children will lead their own learning in this journal and actively plan for their next steps. Learning journals will be sent home each term and we hope you enjoy talking through your child's learning journey with them. Parents will be invited to give their feedback and comments also.

## RAG BAG

Remember the campus has a recycling facility for your old clothes. There is a collection bin at the bottom of the school carpark. This assists with the campus Green Flag and also supports our fundraising to benefit all of our children.

For more information on what you can recycle visit:

[www.rag-bag.co.uk](http://www.rag-bag.co.uk)

## Celebrating Success

At Madras Family Centre we value each child as an individual and we aim to support and develop children in partnership with families. Please let us know when your child has an achievement or success out-with nursery so that we can celebrate with them. We are very proud of our children and all of their successes, and have Flying High to Reach the Sky displays in each playroom. Children are encouraged to contribute to these displays by choosing and decorating their own butterfly success sheet. Please allow your child to bring in photos or certificates for our displays, and let staff know if your child has any achievement or success throughout the year. Please look in our playrooms for these displays.



## Family Centre - Bookbug Day

On Monday, 20<sup>th</sup> February we will be once again offering our family Bookbug sessions. These will be held during both AM and PM sessions within our Community Room and will be hosted by our Depute Heads of Centre alongside Mrs Robertson and Mrs Collins. Please put your name down on our list in the entrance hallway. Parents/carers, grandparents and siblings are all welcome to come along and join in. We also expect a special guest to make an appearance on that day!



## Family Centre – Outdoor Play

We will be taking children outdoors on a daily basis. Please ensure children have appropriate clothing to go outdoors i.e. suitable footwear and jackets/waterproof trousers. We do have a selection of waterproof clothing which you can put on your child if you forget on their outdoor day. We will always ensure that the weather does not make it unsafe for children to be outside but we will go outside in the rain, wind, snow and sun if there is not an immediate health and safety risk. All outdoor experiences are risk assessed

**Children should always change their shoes into a soft pair of indoor shoes, (preferably without laces, no slippers or crocs) when they arrive at nursery unless staff advise them to keep outdoor clothing on.**

**Please ensure your child has a pair of wellies at nursery for everyday use.**

## Developing Our Grounds

We are still in the process of developing our outdoor grounds in order to provide children with a variety of outdoor learning experiences. If you or any member of your family can help, or have any free time or skills then please let our staff know. We thank you in advance for your help.

**This grounds development programme is taking place across the campus so you can help with the school and the Family Centre.**

## Rights Respecting School

This month's focus for our Rights Respecting School Committee is:

### Article 1

**“Everyone under the age of 18 has the rights of the convention”.**



## Woodland Explorers

Our very popular Woodland Explorers rota is detailed below until we stop for Spring Break. We will continue to develop our own woodland area at the front of the Family Centre grounds. Children will be given opportunities and experiences to be; creative, explorative, inquisitive, work as a team, and take part in risky play. Children will be provided with appropriate waterproof clothing, though we do ask that you provide wellies, hats and gloves, as they will be outside in lots of different weather. You may also provide your own waterproof clothing if you prefer, though beware children will return muddy!!

This term we are encouraging parental engagement in our outdoor adventures. A rota will be placed on the notice board at the entrance hallway if you would like to take part. Please speak to Mrs Dowland if you require any further information.

## School Holidays

Please use the link below to access school holidays for session 2016 / 2017.

<http://www.eastrenfrewshire.gov.uk/article/6775/School-holiday-dates-2016-2017>

This information is available on our updates websites or by clicking the link to our new school and Centre handbooks (both available via our websites).

## Woodland Explorers Timetable

AM & PM SESSIONS	ROOM 1	ROOM 2	ROOM 3
	16 <sup>TH</sup> JANUARY 2017	23 <sup>RD</sup> JANUARY 2017	30 <sup>TH</sup> JANUARY 2017
WEEK COMMENCING	6 <sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY 2017	13 <sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY 2017	20 <sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY 2017
	27 <sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY 2017	6 <sup>TH</sup> MARCH 2017	13 <sup>TH</sup> MARCH 2017
	20 <sup>TH</sup> MARCH 2017	27 <sup>TH</sup> MARCH 2017	18 <sup>TH</sup> APRIL 2017

## Book Amnesty

Please take the time to check at home for any Reading books that require to be returned to school.

We have a high number of home readers that are missing which will be significantly costly. Before we do this, please check under the bed and anywhere else they may have ended up. If you find any please send them in for the attention of Mrs Allen.

## Nursery Fund

We ask for your support in contributing to our nursery fund. This is **£2 per week** per child and this contributes towards snack, baking and a wide range of resources and curricular experiences for all children.

## Centre Security

Please close all outdoor yellow gates once you have passed through them. Their purpose is to provide secure safety measures for all children. It is therefore imperative that all parent/careers ensure these are closed behind them. We thank you for your support with this.

The Family Centre has a secure entry system. Please press the buzzer for the office for the office and wait for a member of staff to answer. Please do not press playroom buzzers as staff cannot leave these to answer the door. When leaving the building please DO NOT open the door for other parent/carers. Although it may appear rude to close the door it supports our security measures by ensuring a member of staff is aware of those entering the building. For children who use our late wraparound service please press the buzzer for Room 3 after 4pm.

We appreciate that it can become quite congested at the beginning and end of sessions as parent/carers drop off and collect children. Where possible we request that older siblings wait outside. Please be patient with staff as they follow the policy and procedures for the Family Centre to ensure the safe entry and collection of children. If you require to speak with a member of staff then please make your request known at the office and we will facilitate this. Alternatively telephone us during the session to arrange to speak with a member of staff as necessary. We will provide planned opportunities for you to meet with staff to learn more about your child's progress



## 2yr Old Provision

If your child is currently within the Family Centre utilising a 2 year old placement it is important that you still apply for their 3 year old placement. An application form can be accessed online at <http://www.eastrenfrewshire.gov.uk/elc> or by telephoning 0141 577 3265.

**The closing date for your child's application form is 28<sup>th</sup> February 2017**

## Sign In / Out

Please make sure you sign in and sign out your child at drop off and pick up. Staff do keep individual records for fire evacuation purposes but we also require the sign in sheets to cross reference this information. Please inform a member of staff if someone else is collecting your child. If it is an unknown adult whom you are giving permission to collect your child and they are NOT on your enrolment form then they will be asked for the password which you provided.

**Please inform the office of any changes in contact details so this can be changed on our system.**

## Family Centre - Session Times

### CORE HOURS

AM Sessions (start)	8:50am	PM Sessions (start)	12:50pm
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### ADDITIONAL / HOLIDAY and EXTENDED

AM Sessions (start)	9:00am	PM Sessions (start)	1:00pm
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### PICK UP TIMES

AM Sessions	11:50am	PM Sessions	3:50pm
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**Children must be collected by AM – 12pm and PM – 4pm. Please ensure children are collected on time to avoid moving in to wraparound sessions which must be paid for. We do record and monitor late coming and pick up and will discuss this with you if we are concerned about the impact on your child.**





## Communication

Please remember to utilise our websites:

<https://blogs.glowscotland.org.uk/er/Neilston/>

<https://blogs.glowscotland.org.uk/er/Madras/>

These are updated regularly and can be a useful tool for you to find out important information, policies and dates for your diary. You will also find copies of our Newsletters and Parent Council minutes. We have also expanded the use of our text messaging service (see groupcall article).

As we develop our use of Twitter ( see article on page 4) we hope that you find it both useful and engaging. Our Twitter page is intended to compliment all of the above.

If you wish to discuss any part of your child's learning, progress or any other aspect of their school life you can do so, making an appointment with a member of the Senior Management team, via the school / Centre office.

## GroupCALL

Continuing with the theme of communication, we have recently introduced an enhanced text messaging service called GroupCALL. I would urge all of you to sign up to this service by downloading the relevant app to your smartphone. Simply search for 'Groupcall' in the app store (you should look for the app with this symbol) "Xpressions" app.



## Primary One Registration

If you have a child turning 5 between 1<sup>st</sup> March 2017 and 28<sup>th</sup> February 2018, they will be eligible to attend school in August 2017. To do so they must be registered between Monday 16<sup>th</sup> January and Friday 20<sup>th</sup> January 2017 between 1:45pm and 3:30pm.

For further information please contact the school administration / admissions team on 0141 570 7240.

A number of documents are required to be brought along as part of the application process, and it is important these are produced so that the application process runs as smoothly as possible.

For a list of necessary documents please click the link below.

<http://www.eastrenfrewshire.gov.uk/article/8591/Primary-school-registration-week-announced>

Successful applications for P1 registration will be notified by East Renfrewshire Council from April onwards.

## School Start Times

Please remember it is your responsibility to ensure that your child arrives on time each day to begin class with their peers.

School starts at 9:00am and we have established a soft start for P1 – P2 children from 8:50am. It is expected that all children arrive in plenty of time for the 9:00am bell which signals the start of the school day.

Arrival after this time will be recorded in your child's attendance record.

Attendance at school is vital to ensure your child reached their full potential.

School attendance and late coming is monitored regularly by the Senior Management Team. *If this is something you would like to discuss please contact the school office.*



## Keeping Safe

Across our campus we encourage everyone to be healthy and active as much as possible. If your child chooses to cycle or scoot to school or Centre, bikes etc can be stored securely on the school/ Centre grounds.

Please leave buggies/prams at the bottom of the ramp at either the Centre or school (depending on which building you are visiting) this enables us to comply with health and safety regulations.

Please also remember that the car parks attached to the campus (school and Centre) are designated for staff only. This includes from 8:15am in the morning for those who access the MACS service. Staff arrive between 8:00 – 8:40. Having children being dropped off in the carpark and running through the carpark is not safe. Please make use of the streets and parking around the school and Centre for this – ensuring that you comply with the parking regulations.

Please avoid parking on the zig-zags at all times.

## No Dogs

Please remember that dogs are not allowed within the perimeter of the campus grounds. This is for the safety and protection of all of our children across the campus. Dogs should not be left tied up or unattended, nor should they be carried into the school grounds.

Dog waste should be disposed of appropriately also.

## Lost Property

With potential for 400 users of this campus it is vital that belongings are clearly marked with your child's name, class/group. Every item should have their name on it. This is especially important for items of uniform which all look the same.

Items of lost property are stored for a short period of time before they are donated to charity. If your child loses anything please check with school/ Centre administration team as soon as possible so that you can reclaim your items. If items are clearly marked with names and classes, it is much easier for us to track down their owners.

## Parent Council UPDATE

Need to get an update from the Parent Council

Our next Parent Council meeting is on:

**Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> February @ 6:30pm  
In the school**

The SOS committee met on 10<sup>th</sup> January. Themes discussed were:

The future vision of how fundraising will function across the campus.

The current and future funding priorities for the group.

The P7 leavers dance and how we will develop and enhance this experience.

Future fundraising ideas and concepts.

The work of the SOS is essential in providing excellent, memorable experiences for our children. Please think about how you can help and support this group. EVERY penny raised goes towards excellent experiences for our young people.



## Headlice - Advice

During the course of the school year Headlice can become prevalent, whilst we don't have any cases of this currently – I thought this would serve as a gentle reminder.

It is extremely important that you check your child's hair regularly. You may find the link below useful:

<http://www.nhs.uk/Conditions/Head-lice/Pages/Introduction.aspx>

There are also useful video clips on YouTube that will demonstrate the best way of checking.

For support and information regarding the treating of Head Lice, you should consult with your local pharmacy.



Dates  
Events  
& More

## Tweet, Tweet Twoo!

As you may be aware, towards the end of 2016 we established a twitter account for the campus. Our twitter handle is **@neilston\_madras**. Our twitter account is a great way for our parents, carers and our wider community to be kept informed about what wonderful experiences and opportunities are happening across the campus. I encourage you to follow our twitter page, let's see if we can get up to 300 followers before the summer holidays. If you don't have twitter there is a link on the school website that will allow you to still see the posts, images and video clips from across the Campus.

## Other News

Both the school and Centre website have been updated recently. In particular updated details of the Active Schools Activities - clubs organised and ran by the school and also East Renfrewshire Culture and Leisure.

Medication Forms all medication should be handed in to the appropriate office (school or Centre) with administration of medicines form completed fully. These are available via the school / centre website or from the main office. To assist only medication that is required to be taken more than three times per day should be brought.

Christmas Presents – many of you may have had a new mobile phone for Christmas if so please remember to update the school so that we can ensure communication is accurately and quickly sent to you. With 95% of school/Centre communication coming via electronic means we would also ask that you check e-mail addresses are current.

## Dates for Your Diary

### JANUARY

Friday 27<sup>th</sup> – Burns Super

### FEBRUARY

Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> – P7 Open Afternoon

Friday 10<sup>th</sup> – School / Centre Closed (in-service)

Monday 13<sup>th</sup> Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> – Holiday

Friday 24<sup>th</sup> P3 Assembly

### MARCH

Friday 17<sup>th</sup> – P6 Open Afternoon

Friday 24<sup>th</sup> – Jotters Home (sharing our learning)

29<sup>th</sup> & 30<sup>th</sup> – Parents' Evening