



JANUARY 2019 NEWSLETTER

Welcome to our first newsletter of 2019. How time flies!! An extremely busy start to the New Year with the pantomime, class assemblies, stage mass and our whole school celebration for our national Bard. You may notice some refurbishments around the school in the coming weeks. We hope to freshen up the communal spaces with new flooring and a fresh coat of paint. In addition, I am looking to replace some windows in the main building around P1. Please bear with us whilst we undertake these tasks in an attempt to enhance the learning spaces for our pupils and staff. The P7 forum will shortly have the pupil designed 'learning pods' installed. I hope to invite you in to have a look at this development in due course. The ERC standardised testing programme commences in the coming weeks. The children of P3, P5 and P7 will complete an assessment in both literacy and english / numeracy and maths as part of their usual class timetables to ensure minimum disruption to their weekly programmes. The data gathered informs the class teachers of areas for focus in the coming months as well as areas where we can challenge our pupils further. The children should not be put under any undue pressure regarding these routine assessments and I thank you in anticipation of your support in this regard. Further information will follow in the school reports and on the school website.

Adverse Weather



In the event of severe weather conditions, Head Teachers are guided by the Education Department's Standard Circular 10b. Following an assessment of the situation, in consultation with relevant staff in the Education Department, a decision will be made on whether or not to close the school. If an emergency closure of the school is to be carried out, the following procedures will take place:

- We will contact the transport providers to ensure that the school buses and taxis will be available. If they are not, pupils will need to wait in school to be collected by parents.
- We will send a text to the main contact on your child's record.
- We will put information on the school's website about the arrangements for the closure. There will also be up to date information on ERC's Twitter page. It is really important that in any severe weather, parents and carers make every effort to regularly monitor the ERC and school websites. These websites will be regularly updated with any important information.
- At this point we will start to evacuate the school.
- Parents who arrive at the school will be greeted at the main entrance by a member of staff who will then arrange for the child/children to join them and be taken home.
- If we have not heard from parents/carers of remaining children, we will attempt to contact other emergency contacts on their record.

In very extreme circumstances, some pupils may not be able to get home and may have to remain in school beyond the school day. This situation will be discussed with parents and, with support of senior school staff and the Education Department; pupils will be accommodated in school until arrangements are put in place for their safe transport home.

When the school has been safely closed, we will liaise with the Education Department on subsequent arrangements. At the earliest opportunity, we will then carry out an assessment of the conditions for re-opening the school. Arrangements for re-opening the school will be communicated to parents via the school's website and other local media.

Should the school require to be closed for more than one day, information will be posted on the school's website and local media to allow pupils to continue their learning.

Hopefully we will not need to put these arrangements in place. However, we trust you will find the information helpful and I ask that you ensure your child/children know what arrangements you have made in the event of school closure. For any updates on school closures in severe weather please check East Renfrewshire Council Twitter at <https://twitter.com/EastRenCouncil?lang=en-gb>

The janitorial staff are extremely conscientious in their attempts to keep our access routes as clear as possible from snow and ice. Last week, despite using 10 bags of the salt, there were still some icy patches so please be mindful to stay on the cleared paths to the main entrances.

School Improvement Plan: Homework

homework

As part of our self-evaluation process each year, we speak to the staff, pupils and parents regarding the areas we should include for improvement each session. One topic which was highlighted was in relation to homework activities. Our staff have worked with the pupils and are in the process of reviewing practice in each department. The [homework policy](#) will still apply but the format has been given a bit of a facelift to address some of the issues which were highlighted. In particular the feedback specified flexibility and a more active approach. I will be interested in your feedback in due course and appreciate your support whilst we fine tune our new programmes.

Please take some time to look at the pupil display at the main building front entrance. Our pupils used "How good is OUR school?" to self-evaluate, identify our strengths and development needs. Their comments are insightful and illustrate how well they know their school and that their voice is listened to in terms of developments.

ROAD SAFETY



Unfortunately we are still having parking issues every morning in both car parks. The Junior Road Safety Officers (JRSO) plan a campaign to alert our drivers to courteous and safe behaviour within our school parking zones. New banners to highlight the correct parking zones are being costed. Pupils will be visible in the morning especially, to highlight best driving practice. Please be supportive of our attempts to minimise selfish parking and get the children to school without any serious incidents.

OLM's JRSO's have been working across the year to develop strategies to lower the congestion in our school car parks, particularly at the school main entrance. Below is a survey which we have created to determine where this congestion is occurring and why. Any help with this would be much appreciated.

Many thanks,

OLM's JRSO Team

[Survey](#)

Rights Respecting School

Rights Respecting Schools Ambassadors



This term, we will be continuing our progress towards our Gold Award.

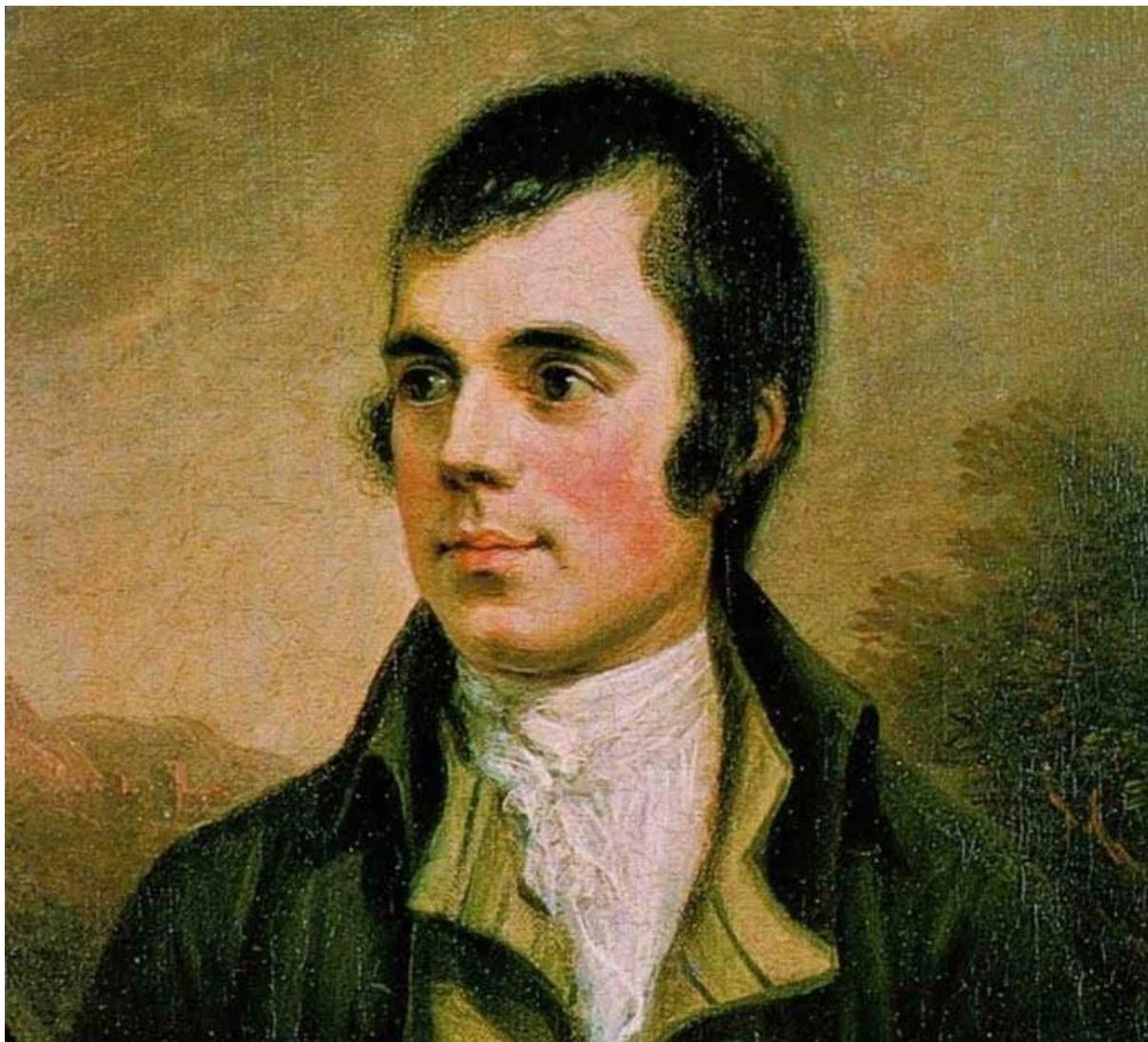
The OutRight! Campaign is continuing and we will be contacting the Secretary for the Environment to ask her what the Scottish Government is doing about air pollution.

We will be teaching pupils the ABCDE of their rights.

We will be looking at the Global Sustainable Development Goals 2030 and campaigning to reduce poverty, protect the planet and ensure people enjoy peace and prosperity.

The school values which we promote at assembly each week demonstrate our commitment to the RRS agenda. The new House banners reinforce how to model our values on the lives of the chosen House Saints : St Andrews; St Margaret; St Conval; St Mungo and St Mirin.

BURNS CELEBRATION DAY



P5 welcomed their parents and carers to their Burns Event on Friday 25th January. After a traditional Burns Supper programme, with an address to the haggis followed by all the speeches, the audience were entertained with renditions of Scots poetry and song. The pupils showcased their ceilidh dancing skills followed by a family ceilidh with parents, grandparents, siblings and pupils all up enjoying a twirl around the room. There was a very positive sense of school community and we thank everyone involved for making this such a memorable event to celebrate our renowned national bard.

PSA



We hope everyone had a wonderful rest over the Christmas period and is ready to hit the ground running in 2019!

The next PSA meeting is Tuesday 5th February at St. Ninian's High School. Time to be confirmed.

We'll be discussing and making plans for all of the events between now and summer, including **Easter Fun, Sports Day, our Anniversary Summer Fete and The Supper Dance**.

If you'd like to find out more, get involved, or have any suggestions, please come along to a meeting or join our Facebook page.

Further meeting details will be posted on the OLM-PSA Facebook page.

Many Thanks

Caroline & Cristina

OLM PSA Co-Chairs

Dogs in the Playground



Following concerns raised by parents and staff, we would again remind everyone to ensure that any dog near children in the vicinity of the school should be on a lead.

There have been several instances of dog fouling in the school grounds, this is deeply unpleasant and unsafe for our children. We ask that all dog owners are vigilant about this issue. Please remember to make sure you pick up any dog mess in order to keep our school clean and welcoming for all.

PARENT COUNCIL



OLM Hubs

We would like to start up the OLM Hub (coffee, cake communicate!) events again - can you help?

If you haven't been to one before, it's a chance to meet other parents informally for a friendly chat with occasional school topics to discuss / feed back on.

A small team is needed to arrange dates/times with the school and to set up and tidy up on the day/night. Only 2 or 3 people are needed for each event and you can of course arrange dates / times around the team's availability.

We had great feedback about previous Hubs so if you can help, please email olm-parentcouncil@hotmail.com

Thank you!

OLM Parent Council

Fund raising support



I am hoping for your support in our application for the [Thornliebank together](#) initiative. This allows the local community to decide which projects are prioritised for the local area and which should receive the funding. Our **Guardians of the Garden** will pitch for funding towards the new greenhouse following the unfortunate vandalism before Christmas. Our **Parents associations** will apply for support for the playground developments to enhance the experience for our pupils each day. Once we have submitted our applications, we need you to vote for the projects and indicate your preference for our initiatives. Details of how to do this will follow and I will send reminders to you nearer the time. Thank you in anticipation of your support

FOOTBALL NEWS



Exciting times for OLM FC

During our winter break OLM FC have been busy making new plans and partnerships to benefit all our footballers and coaches.

We are delighted to have reached a partnership agreement with GHA rugby which will allow us to use their brand new 4G pitch for training and matches. We are looking forward to being able to use the GHA centre as a community hub for events, prize giving and social nights. We hope this will strengthen the school teams and further help bring the school community together.

P1 football

Is now running at 6-7pm on Monday at 'The Pitches', 137 Shawbridge Street. Pollokshaws. We had 25 footballers attend our first session, learning to play in a fun environment and a good time was

had by all, we were even told that the next day a P1 volunteered a prayer for the coaches! Divine intervention aside, P1 sessions will continue 6-7pm each Monday at 'The Pitches', costing £5 per session. All P1s are welcome and we would love to welcome more girls along. For info contact David Reilly 07776 990 581

Inverclyde Music Festival



A huge congratulations to Faith who came second place at the Inverclyde Music Festival singing a vocal solo and she was up against 12 other girls.

Well done Faith.

Digital Learning and Teaching - parent workshop



Our staff and pupils are continuing to develop their digital skills and embed the use of digital technology in the classroom and at home. This year has seen a further increase in the range of digital devices that we have available for use in the school. Pupils are thoroughly enjoying using Chromebooks, Laptops, iPads and Kindle Fire tablets to enhance their learning across the curriculum and develop vital digital skills. They have developed coding skills using a variety of programmable toys and have access to a wide range of software and apps through Glow.

As a parent, we appreciate that you may have questions relating to these devices and applications and would like advice on how to support your children with their digital learning at home. Therefore, Mrs Neil (PT) would like to offer a workshop to parents that will allow you to ask questions and get hands on experience of some of the resources currently in use in school.

The workshop will take place on Wednesday the 13th of February at 6 pm. Please click on the link below if you would like to attend this event.

[Digital Technology Workshop](#)

Space Pioneers Mission ...



Our Space Pioneers project with Flux Studios and Architecture and Design Scotland is well underway. Following the workshop with Flux Studios where our pupils designed and created their own multi-purpose furniture for the P6 and P7 areas these designs were then made into prototypes which the children have enjoyed testing and have given their seal of approval. Our 10 Space Pioneers went on a trip to Flux Studios and CNC Fabrication this week where they had an amazing experience seeing the range of tools, machinery and workspaces. The highlight of the day was when the children were given the opportunity to actually build some of the pieces of furniture. They used glue, mallets, drills and a few other tools to complete the job. Coming home on the bus with the furniture they had built gave a real sense of achievement. There's a real buzz and excitement now as we await the delivery of the other pieces of furniture in the next few weeks. We look forward to sharing this with you and inviting you along to see the finished products! A real opportunity for our pupils in our Developing the Young Workforce agenda.





DATES FOR YOUR DIARY



Dates for the Diary 2017

February

7th - School closes at normal finishing time

8th - In-Service Day- pupils **do not** attend school

11th and 12th - Holiday

13th - School re-opens

13th - Parent Digital Workshop

March

2nd and 3rd - P4 Communion Enrolment Mass – St Joseph's - All Masses

6th - Ash Wednesday

8th - P6 Easter Cantana - Two performances - More info to follow.

12th - P4 First Reconciliation – 7pm St Joseph's and St Vincent's

12th - P4 First Reconciliation - 7pm Holy Name **TBC**

18th and 19th - School Photographs- individuals/families

27th and 28th - Parents' Evenings

29th - School Closes – **2:30pm**

April

1st-12th - Holiday

15th - School re-opens

18th - School Closes at normal time

19th - Good Friday - holiday

22nd - Easter Monday - Holiday

23rd - School re-opens

27th - First Holy Communion - St Joseph's - P4a/b at 10am & P4c/d at 12noon

27th - First Holy Communion - St Vincent's at 10am

28th - Mass of Thanksgiving - 10am at St Joseph's

May

6th - May Day Holiday

7th - In-Service Day- pupils **do not** attend school

8th - School Re-opens

9th - St Mirin's Confirmation

12th - First Holy Communion - 12noon at Holy Name

14th - SNHS Information Evening for P7 Parents

16th - P7 Induction Day SNHS

21st - St Vincent's Confirmation

23rd - School Closes at normal time.

24th and 27th - May Holiday

28th - school re-opens

June

8th - Summer Fayre

27th - School Closes—**1pm**

Feedback and HT drop in



Remember if you have any questions or feedback, please send in on the Form below and we will do our best to reflect on or answer queries.

Head Teacher drop in is on the first Thursday of every month at 3.15pm. Please feel free to use this time for informal discussions.

[Feedback form](#)