



TRANSITION NEWSLETTER



Dear Parent

Welcome to the first transition newsletter of 2013!

Transition Plan and Report to the Education Minister

The Transition Plan has been updated since last term and reflects all the activities that have taken place since August. It also details future events for the rest of the school year.

Twice a year the authority, with the school, submit a report to the Education Minister, detailing the progress to date. While preparing this report, it was great to reflect on the journey we have made so far and the significant progress. I thank the parents, pupils and staff for their continued support as we move towards June 2014.

A copy of the plan and report can be found on the school website.

Transition Steering Group

The group last met on Thursday 17th January. The minutes of the meeting can be found on the school website. From the minutes you will see that the work of the Homework group is taking shape and the group has produced a newsletter detailing their next steps. It is an important step having a shared Homework policy and look forward to some of the workshops and events planned to enable you to support your child further with their learning. Thank you to F. Priest, S. Curran, P. King and K. Rawley for their continued hard work and commitment to improving this area.

Building Improvements

Your comments, thoughts and ideas on how we can make the uniting of the schools a success do really matter. Whether you share through the drop in, parent council or the transition group, you are being listened to. Some of the recent improvements to the Giffnock building have come at your request. These include:

The car park area has been reduced, thus increasing the playground at the back. Although not a huge increase of area, it has provided a significant improvement and allowed the children to play even more football!

The surface area in the playground was recently improved. During the February break contractors worked on raising and levelling the ground at the drains. This will hopefully reduce flooding and allow the children to make full use of the playground, no matter the Scottish weather conditions.

The fire exit in the school gym hall / dining hall will be increased from a single width door to a double width door. This work will take place in March.

The fencing at the front of the building will be replaced next week.

A new storage area will be created for our gym hall. This will provide space to store our gym equipment. This is very much needed, as we continue to meet the needs of the curriculum and provide opportunities both in school and part of after school clubs for children to participate in a range of sports and activities.

Playground

You will be aware that the Transition Steering Group agreed to make the improvements to the school playground a priority. I, along with a member of staff, and a few parents visited St. John's Primary School to look at their facilities. Children from the school showed us their playground and were very enthusiastic about what they had on offer, including an outdoor classroom, interactive wall mounted games, playground paintings, bike shed/area and musical instruments.

The Parent Council has agreed to focus their fundraising for the next session (August 2013 to June 2014) on this area. In true Blue Peter style, we will be able to watch our funds grow as we make a real push on improving the facilities for our children.

This will be a huge project next session and I believe it is a real opportunity to bring the community further together. As well as our Parent Council helping to raise funds we will be looking for local businesses and making grant applications.

The children are unaware of the details of this project at the moment, but we plan to spend next term, building up the excitement with a proper launch in August.

The next step is to establish a steering group including staff, pupils and parents to create a draft plan / timeline. I'm aware that some of you have joined 'Giffnock Connect', but I appeal to the remainder of the forum to offer their assistance in any shape or form. We already have an architect and accountant involved from our Parent Council, but if you have a skill or some knowledge of how we can move forward then please contact me at the school. Everyone has something to offer, so all offers welcome. Please return the tear off slip if you are interested.

Joint Activities for Pupils

Although we are keen that children work together as frequently as possible and that the children who will move to the Giffnock building in Primary 6 and 7 have as many opportunities as possible to get to know the environment, I have listened to parent comments and we have tried to look at alternative ways in which the children can benefit from joint working without spending too many occasions walking to and from.

Primary 4 achieved this recently with the staff working closely together to plan a focus on Rabbie Burns. The children read the same poems, learned the same songs and presented a dramatisation of Tam O'Shanter. We have plans for their work to be uploaded onto Glow and for the children to share their learning with their peers. Parents were invited to the individual buildings for the children to present their assembly. When the weather improves, it is hoped the children get together and share further.

Primary 6 will be working closely together on their Tartan celebrations in March – watch this space!

The individual **Pupil Councils** have met and arranged a talent show for their own buildings to celebrate Red Nose Day. Each class will have a representative. The show will take place simultaneously on the afternoon of Friday 15th March.

Similarly, every child in both schools has participated in an interactive Science workshop. Careful planning has taken place to ensure that the children have focused on similar areas of scientific knowledge and are able to populate their glow pages and share during chats.

Parent Council News

The United Parent Council continues to meet each month. The Parent Council supports the work of the school and represents the wider parent forum for both schools. This session the Parent Council will support the school with policy formation, most notably homework and parental involvement. The Parent Council continues to play a vital role in raising funds and organising 'fun' events for children and their families. I cannot emphasise enough our appreciation for their continued support. Almost all of our Christmas celebrations were funded by the Parent Council, which meant as parents your children enjoyed pantomimes, lunches, parties, etc for free. I'm well aware that other schools charged parents a considerable amount of money for these events, so thank you again to the Parent Council for their fundraising. Thank you also to the parents from both campuses, as without you attending these events and digging deep into your pockets, the amount raised wouldn't support the children in both buildings. The Parent Council is hoping to build up a nest egg in their funds, to allow them to continue to support the day to day events and raise funds for our playground. For this reason, they continue to host events. The Spring Discos will be the next events.

Thursday 14 th March	Giffnock building
Friday 15 th March	Robslee building

Opportunities for Parents

May I remind parents that a weekly drop in service with the Senior Management Team takes place on the following days/times:

Robslee Primary	Thursday mornings – 9.00 a.m. – 9.40 a.m.
Giffnock Primary	Friday mornings – 9.00 a.m. – 9.40 a.m.

Yours sincerely



Janice Collins
Head Teacher

Child's Name: _____ Class: _____

I would like to volunteer to be part of the Playground Steering Group.

I have a particular skill / talent / interest in the following area(s):

Signed: _____ Date: _____