



# TRANSITION NEWSLETTER



Dear Parent

Welcome to the first transition newsletter of the session.

## Transition Plan and Transition Steering Group

The Transition Steering Group (TSG) has met twice this session. The group have helped evaluate the first phase of the transition. On the whole, the group felt that the children and the majority of parents were happy with how the children had moved buildings. This was reiterated by the vast majority of parents at the 'Meet the Teacher' event. Below are a few comments from the TSG meeting. A full list of comments can be found in the TSG minutes.

### What we have done well:

- DHT (RPS) now working across both buildings and involved in target setting for pupils Primary 4 to 7.
- Staff working closer together.
- Children have settled very well.
- Pleasantly surprised – children happy, settled with new friends.
- Children determined to make it work – taken ownership.
- Questionnaire from pupils, extremely positive.

The group also identified a few 'house-keeping' issues which were causing concern. These issues have been the focus for improvement for the past month. The table below illustrates the progress.

### Areas for development:

Area	Comment	Action
Road Safety	Add crossing patrol at Orchard Park.	HT contacted ERC and Roads service will review the existing arrangements and advise of possible improvements.  TSG has highlighted on local map the area of concern. A request for additional lighting at Woodfarm Pavilion has also been requested.  Travel plan and map issued with Transition newsletter.
Outdoor Space	Reduce car parking space to create more play area.	ERC staff visited school and with HT planned how to use some car park space to increase the playground. HT awaiting cost and funding from ERC and will report back to TSG.
Outdoor Play Equipment	Need for further games, toys, etc.	Parent Council agreed to raise funds for playground development.  TSG to visit other schools in the authority for ideas.

Area	Comment	Action
Painting exterior fence & pencils.	Need to be upgraded.	ERC costed the repair and painting of exterior fence. This cost does not prove economical so a request for a new fence has been made. Children will paint pencils.
Chestnut corner	Request that current classes in Robslee building fully utilise the resource.	SMT have actively encouraged and recommended for all classes to use the area.
Homework / Reading books	Query that there aren't enough reading books in the schools.	Parent Council sub-group formed to gather views of Parent Forum r.e. homework.  £7000 funding provided by ERC for novels for children to take home as readers / unseen texts. Books now in school.  Staff from Pr. 3 – 7 released to develop comprehension materials for these books. Now all in place.  Detailed resource catalogue established with all books graded from Pr. 1-7. Staff carefully selecting texts to match children's reading level.
Tree in playground	High winds have caused this to break and become a danger.	Tree was removed Friday 14 <sup>th</sup> September (prior to the TSG meeting).
Car Park gate	This is being used by parents and being left open.	Signage in place and janitor patrolling at key times in the day.
Dressing for Excellence	Request that both buildings endorse shirt and tie dress code.	A possible Parent Consultation this session.
Buddies for new children	Keen that Primary 2 and 3 have buddies too.	Primary 6 playzone leaders now trained and in place.
Wet weather	Sharing of policy.	HT spoke to all staff to ensure everyone aware of procedures. HT will inform parents in November newsletter.
Jackets in lunch hall	Request children don't take their jackets to lunch as food spillage a problem.	Additional storage in gym hall may be developed to include a cloakroom area.
School bag storage	Some classes storing bags under desks – request that this is reviewed.	This was raised with class teachers and they feel children need to be able to access their personal belongings throughout the day and this is the easiest option (certainly for younger pupils); however staff will continually review.
Homework bag gifts	Still not issued.	Issued September 2012.
Looking ahead	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• House Captains</li> <li>• Uniform (Robslee represented in badge)</li> <li>• Tiered seating in hall</li> <li>• Roof lights for hall</li> </ul>	TSG to look ahead, especially to next session where there will be only 3 classes in the Robslee building and ensure children's experiences are not diluted or affected.

Some issues such as Playground and Homework are not easily fixed, therefore it was agreed by the TSG that these areas would be the focus of the Transition Plan for 2012/2013. The Parent Council will be asked to support fundraising for playground development, along with the TSG looking at possible grants / funding that can be applied for. A sub-group of the Parent Council will support the school in evaluating the existing homework policies and surveying the whole parent forum's views about how we should move forward.

A copy of the Transition Steering Group minutes can be found on the United School section of the school website.

## Classes

All of the children have settled well into their new classes and very good relationships have been established between class teachers and the children. A few people have queried who is based in which building, so as an aide-memoire please find below class lists with staff names.

Class	Building	Teacher
Nursery	Giffnock	Mrs. Gilhespie (Principal Teacher Nursery to Primary 3) Miss Bruce Mrs. Bell & Mrs. McWilliams
Primary 1a Primary 1b Primary 1c Primary 1d	Giffnock	Miss Caughey Mrs. Brown Mrs. Bradley Ms. Eddie
Primary 2a Primary 2b	Giffnock	Mrs. Russell Miss Doig
Primary 3a Primary 3b	Giffnock	Miss Stead Mrs. McCausland & Mrs. Horrocks
Primary 4 Primary 4a Primary 4b	Robslee Giffnock Giffnock	Miss Mulgrew & Mrs. Sibille Mrs. Fraser Miss Kraish & Mrs. McLaughlin
Primary 5 Primary 5a Primary 5/6	Robslee Giffnock Giffnock	Mrs. McNally (formerly Miss Matson) Mr. Thompson Miss Carter & Miss Rawley
Primary 6 Primary 6a Primary 6/7	Robslee Giffnock Giffnock	Mrs. Hale & Miss Mitchell Mrs. Backer Mr. Mayer
Primary 7 Primary 7a	Robslee Giffnock	Mrs. Frew (Principal Teacher Primary 4 – 5/6) & Mrs. Carney Ms. Livingstone & Mr. McDonald (Principal Teacher Pr. 6 – 7)

Miss Kirsty Rawley has a specific remit as DHT for Primary 1 to 3 children and Support for Pupils (Nursery to Primary 7) across both campuses and Mrs. Pauline Ferguson for Primary 4 to 7 children, again over both campuses.

## Joint Activities for Pupils

The children continue to work together across both campuses. Activities such as glow chats, shared committees and pupil council events have all taken place so far. The most significant event to date is the Inclusion/Harvest service in October. This service was led by Primary 7 children and their Charity Committee. It was great to see all the children in the Church, listening, singing and celebrating the Harvest festival. A huge thank you to the parents from both campuses, who helped escort the children to church, and indeed those who came along to join in as part of the audience. One of the areas we wish to hear from you about is our next service at Christmas. The Transition Steering Group would be keen to find out if we should explore a joint celebration again.



In addition to our joint service, the teachers have been planning across both buildings how the children can work together. At the end of last year, we took the decision to use Scotland as a theme for our joint work.

**Primary 4** will highlight the work of our National Bard – Robbie Burns. Watch this space!

**Primary 5** will be leading our St. Andrew's celebrations this year, with the children presenting to the parents on Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> November and to the whole school on Friday 30<sup>th</sup>.

**Primary 6** have been given the opportunity to lead our Tartan (Kilts) celebrations in April. I have no doubt they will come up with something very interesting for the whole school to take part in!

**Primary 7** will plan and organise a leaving Ceilidh in June.

In addition **Primary 4 – 7** enjoyed the recent visit by staff from The King's Theatre, Glasgow. They were treated to some behind the scenes information on how to stage their own production. This should come in very handy for the planned performance of 'Cinderella' in May. The children learned about backdrops, costumes and scripts as well as getting to dress up for the occasion!

### School Travel Plan

The School Travel Plan is issued with this newsletter together with a Green Travel Map.

### Parent Council News

Giffnock and Robslee Parent Council have now merged. The new council is committed to supporting the children in both campuses, as we move on towards phase 2 and 3 of the transition. As well as supporting the school with policy formation, the council plays a vital role in raising funds and organising 'fun' events for children and their families. The first such event is organised for Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> November. The Parent Council has arranged Hallowe'en discos as follows:



6.15 – 7.30 p.m.	Primary 1 – 4	Giffnock building
6.00 – 8.00 p.m.	Primary 5 – 7	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*

Janice Collins  
Head Teacher  
Giffnock Primary and Robslee Primary