



Battlefield Primary School

August 2023 Newsletter



Dear Parents/Carers,

I am delighted to welcome back all our pupils and staff team after our summer break. I hope you all had a fantastic break despite the miserable weather we had at times. We are very excited about the new session ahead as we continue to develop our school. We have an abundance of plants, flowers and herbs blooming thank you to the huge efforts of Martin Danzinger, our local gardening volunteer, Ms Flanagan and to the children and staff who planted the seeds before we stopped last session. We look forward to asking the children what they would like to do with the produce we have grown and can't wait to see classes making use of the crops in their learning. We will continue to build this into the children's experiences here. I have already made some pesto pasta with some of the delicious basil we have!

We are also excited about a new playground development which is due to start this term in our infant playground which will give all the classes a fantastic area to work outside in. It will also provide great fun and excitement during breaks. We are continuing to look for funding to further develop the front playground too, so watch this space! In the meantime, we have now allocated each year group a bag of their own playground equipment and have put out some goals for the classes to use. We hope the children will enjoy using these resources and will take care of them over the year.

School Uniform



It was lovely to greet all our new Primary 1 pupils and to see them and all our other pupils in their smart school uniforms this week. For those of you new to our school, the school uniform consists of a white shirt, school tie (navy and yellow), navy blue school polo shirt, navy blue school jumper/cardigan, grey trousers or grey skirt/pinafore or optional school tartan skirt and black school shoes

On PE days children can come to school wearing dark coloured jogging bottoms, their t-shirt or polo shirt and their Battlefield sweatshirt or cardigan. This means there is no requirement for a full change. Children simply take their sweatshirt off and are ready to go. It also means that children are always wearing their school uniform.

Can I please remind you to ensure that your child's name is on their clothing as children very often forget where they have put things? If you do not have a name on their items of clothing we may never be able to find them! Please help us to help you to keep your child's possessions safe.

Meet the Teacher

Our annual 'Meet the Teacher' event here in school is due to take place on **Wednesday 30th August 23** between 3:15-4:15pm. This is a drop-in session where you are invited to visit the class/es of your child/children across the school. Teachers will be on hand to give everyone general class information and to show you their rooms. We hope you are able to join us.

Staffing

This session we have 15 classes in total across the school. We have had a few changes in staffing since last August and would like to welcome some new members to the Battlefield staff team.

Mrs McKay, DHT, is currently on maternity leave having given birth in the holidays to a beautiful baby boy, Jude. He is an absolute cracker and a wee star, what a content baby! I am sure Mrs McKay will bring him in for a visit very soon. In her absence Mrs Kara Milliken will be taking her place as the other DHT for Primary 1-4. I am sure you will join me in welcoming her to the school. Kara's substantive post is at Shawlands Primary School so she knows the area well and is very excited to be joining us for the year.

We would also like to give a warm welcome to some new members of the teaching team. Fiona Marquis and Susan Osborne have joined us permanently to fill our two vacancies. They are both delighted to be at Battlefield as they had selected us on the staffing list as a preferred school. Miss Marquis will be in P1 this session and Mrs Osborne joins us in P3/2 to replace Linsey Langford. Mrs Langford secured a new job in June in Clevedon Secondary School as an ASN teacher. This is a different role than she has previously held, so I am sure we all wish her well in this change of setting.

Also joining our team for this year on a temporary basis are Zainab Manzoor, who will teach P3 and Rachel McWhirter who is going to teach P6. Both ladies joined us at the end of last term and had a chance to meet their children so are really looking forward to getting to know everyone.

Our current staffing is as follows:

Primary 1a – Sarah MacFie & Laura McIlwaine

Primary 1b – Fiona Marquis

Primary 2/1 – Debbie Logan

Primary 2 – Roz Wilson

Primary 3/2 – Susan Osborne

Primary 3 – Zainab Manzoor

Primary 4/3 – Louise Sykes

Primary 4a – Maya Candido

Nurture – Lauren Currie

GCC EAL – Aileen Morton

Primary 4b – Rachel Lithgow

Primary 5a – Hayley Hughes

Primary 5b – Louise Thompson

Primary 6a – Francesca Mackay

Primary 6b – Rachel McWhirter

Primary 7a – Elaine Robinson

Primary 7b – David Shand

Primary 7b – Elaine Robinson

NCC – Clare Draffen

STEM Development – Ian Glendinning

Office Staffing

Unfortunately, Miss Megan Ewart left us in June to pursue a different career. We wish her well but she will be sorely missed. We have not been given a replacement member of staff for our school office and it is not guaranteed that this position will be filled. Hazel Chalmers will be working in the office on Monday and Tuesdays and Anne Marie Donaghy will continue to be there on Wednesdays and Thursdays but they will be on their own. As you know the office is extremely busy so please be patient if you don't get a response quickly. We will do our best but staff will be stretched. This is really difficult for the school as it also means that the office will be unmanned on a Friday so if you can, please make any calls or requests from Monday to Thursday and if it is an emergency email the HT email account on Fridays. It would be helpful if parents could also write a note to their child's class teacher if there is a change in pick up arrangements as often one member of the office team has to go around in the afternoons to let teachers know of the change of pick up. If we have to do that the phones will be unmanned. We are really disappointed that we have no replacement for Miss Ewart but unfortunately it is out with our control. Rest assured we will continue to do our best to respond to calls and emails.

Adult Learning Sewing Class

We are delighted to be hosting our first adult learning sewing class on Tuesday 29th August at 9:30am here in the school. We already have a number of parents signed up to join in these sessions with Clyde College tutors. If you are interested and have not yet signed up please contact Ms Flanagan on LFlanagan@battlefield-pri.glasgow.sch.uk

Parent Council Meeting

Our first Parent Council Meeting of this session will take place on Thursday 7th September at 9:30AM. Please come along to show your support.

Child Protection

If you have any concerns about the safety or welfare of any of our pupils please report these to our Child Protection Co-ordinators. **Mrs Stacy Wilson (Head Teacher)** is the first point of contact for Child Protection in Battlefield. In her absence our **Deputy Child Protection Co-ordinators** are **Mrs Laura Imrie, Mrs Kara Milliken & Ms Louise Flanagan**. Mrs Wilson is also our **Care Experienced Co-ordinator** and is responsible for monitoring any children in the school who are looked after or in foster care.



Being Eco Friendly at Battlefield

Last session our children talked about wanting to try and move to being a zero-waste school as they were concerned about food being thrown out. We have worked with the dinner school to try and reduce our food waste. If you would like to help reduce food waste in the local community too then you should definitely download the following apps:

OLIO

Too good to go

These apps share with users companies who are trying to eradicate food waste and who give away or sell foods at a reduced rate which would otherwise go to waste. Please download these apps to see how you can make our area more Eco Friendly.

Nut Allergies

We have children in our school who have severe nut allergies. Please help to keep all pupils safe and **DO NOT SEND** snacks or foods into school containing nuts. We have had a number of questions already about which products contain nuts. Can I ask that if you have any doubt at all that you send in an alternative as we must ensure that our vulnerable children are not put at risk. Thank you!

Allergy Aware School



Healthy Snacks

Can you please provide your child with a healthy snack for school and avoid too many sugary snacks. We would also ask you not to send in lollipops as these can be a danger in the playground. We have snack boxes in the school for anyone who forgets which have raisins and cereal bars in them. These or a small bag of crisps are ideal for children as they are not too much to eat during the break.

Medication



As it is the start of a new session can you please ensure that if your child has any prescribed medication, inhalers, Epi pens etc. that you hand these into the school office and fill out the appropriate form. Glasgow City Council policy states that no medication (prescribed or non-prescribed) can be either self-administered or given voluntarily to your child by school staff without your prior written agreement. The relevant forms can be obtained from the school office. Please ensure you fill these in and hand into the school office.

Physical Education

Glasgow City Council guidelines state that **“It is important that pupils come prepared to learn and for PE this requires appropriate clothing. All jewellery should be removed.”** If your child has their ears pierced please either remove their earrings on the days they have PE (or a sporting club) or ensure that they are able to do this for themselves. Staff are not able to assist with the removal and insertion of earrings. Unfortunately, taping over earrings does not provide the same degree of protection as removal. If you are unsure about which days your child has PE, please check with us as we’ll be very happy to let you know.



Water Bottles

We encourage children to drink water during the school day to help with their concentration and learning. Children should bring a water bottle to school with them, every day. The dinner school has reduced the use of single use plastics so no longer give out cups. Water bottles can be taken home at the end of each school day and be refilled which is really important to ensure children stay hydrated.

Attendance Matters

The attendance of all pupils is always closely monitored. Glasgow City Council is passionate about improving children’s level of attendance. We would ask the parents do their best to ensure that they do not take their children on holiday during term time. You should notify the school in writing (email or note) if you intend to remove your child from school for holidays, etc. You will be asked to come into the office and fill out a slip which details the dates of any holiday. Glasgow City Council policy states term time holidays will be recorded as unauthorised absences

We ask if you could phone the **Pupil Absence Reporting Line Service** on **0141 287 0039** instead of the school office. You can call this line each day from 8am. This is to ensure that staff always know whether a child is supposed to be at home or school on a particular day. You should only phone the school for other reasons including:

- Requests for Religious/Parental holiday requests
- Illness of a family member
- Children’s Panel
- Funerals
- Bereavements
- All exceptional circumstances



Mrs Wilson will also continue to monitor the attendance of all pupils in the school as the impact attendance and late coming has on a child can be significant. We may contact you if we have any concerns. Regular school attendance will mean that your child has a better chance in life. Your child will achieve better when they go to school all day, every school day.

Surely 1 or 2 days absent a week doesn't seem much but this is how it is..

If your child misses...	That equals...	Which is...	And over 13 years of schooling that's...
1 day per fortnight	20 days per year	4 weeks per year	Nearly 1 ½ years
1 day per week	40 days per year	8 weeks per year	Over 2 ½ years
2 days per week	80 days per year	16 weeks per year	Over 5 years
3 days per week	120 days per year	24 weeks per year	Nearly 8 years

If your child is late 10 minutes a day - surely that won't matter or affect my child..

Only missing just..	That equals..	Which is...	Over 13 years of schooling that's...
10 minutes per day	50 minutes per week	Nearly 1 ½ weeks per year	Nearly ½ a year
20 minutes per day	1hour 40minutes per week	Over 2 ½ weeks per year	Nearly 1 year
30 minutes per day	Half a day per week	4 weeks per year	Nearly 1 ½ years
1 hour per day	1 day per week	8 weeks per year	Over 2 ½ years

Late coming

Lateness has a negative impact on school life because being late can:

Disrupt lessons Affect achievement Embarrass/upset your child

Is 80% good for school attendance?

An 80% mark in an exam may be good but 80% attendance through four years of school equal **1 full school year** lost.

Being on time and at school means not missing out!

If your child is late or absent from school on a regular basis – maybe we can help. Please contact the school office to discuss any issues.

This year we are going to track the attendance rate of each year group every month to see who are the best at getting to school so please make sure you support us in this. We want all year groups to be as close to 100% as possible. If you need help getting your child to school please contact Mrs Wilson who is able to support with this.

Free School Meals

School lunches now cost £1.90 per day for children in P6-7 but are FREE for children in P1-5. Breakfast Club opens at 8am and costs £2 per day for your first child and £1 for any other siblings. Our Breakfast Club is not very busy. Although P1-5 pupils automatically get free lunches, they don't automatically get free breakfasts. If you apply online for your free school meals and Clothing Grant, your children will get free breakfasts too!



Children and young people whose families meet the criteria for free school meal entitlement will continue to receive a breakfast and school meals with no change. If you are receiving benefits you will be entitled to this too. If you would like to apply for this you can follow this link: <https://www.glasgow.gov.uk/schoolsandlearning>

The breakfasts are really nice and it gives your child a great healthy start to the day, ensures they are in school on time and also contributes to the number of teachers we get. The more families who apply for free school meals and clothing grants the more staffing allowance the school gets. Your child could be getting a free breakfast every day if you apply!!!! Just bring your child in any time between 8 and 8.30am for a healthy breakfast

Clothing Grant

You may be entitled to a Clothing Grant! You can apply at:

<https://www.glasgow.gov.uk/index.aspx?articleid=17885>

Glasgow Helps

Glasgow residents who need emergency free food and help with energy supply, heating and other problems can now contact a new council service as the cost of living crisis hits families. Glasgow Helps has been assisting people to access food and source a £49 fuel top-up through third sector organisation Heat among other issues. The service, which was initially set up during the pandemic, connects people with the support they need in the city. Staff are on hand to offer confidential advice, support and information. To get in touch with **Glasgow Helps**, call 0141 276 1185 or complete an online referral form at www.glasgow.gov.uk/glasgowhelps. More information is available at: www.glasgowhelps.org

Outdoor Learning

Here at Battlefield we encourage as much learning outdoors as we can. Therefore, your children may be outside on cold or wet days. Please ensure you send your child to school dressed for all weather conditions. This will help keep them warm and dry as they play and learn.

Wet Weather

On very wet days the staff will bring the children into school in the morning from 8:45am. We will gather children in the dinner hall and then send to classes at 9am. If there is just a drizzle we tend to leave children outside, however on very wet and/or windy days we will come and collect children from the playground.

Playground Congestion & Safety

During the end of last term, we had a lot of issues due to the amount of people and dogs in the playground which meant teachers were finding it difficult to ensure that children were handed over safely to parents and carers. We need your help and support to resolve this situation. **With the exception of our Primary 1 parents and carers** who can enter the playground at drop off and pick up we would ask that all other parents and carers ensure they do not enter the playground during these times. At 3pm please ensure you stay outside the school grounds adjacent to where your child's class is dismissed from and teachers will send children out to you. Staff have all been briefed on this and will ask you to leave the grounds so we can resolve this situation to ensure everyone is safe. Dogs are not permitted in the playground either. We would also ask that parents and carers with nursery children do not enter the playground to drop off and pick up and instead use the dedicated nursery entrance. With nearly 400 children in the school being dismissed at the same time we would really appreciate your cooperation with this. Thanks.

Car Free Zone

As you know the area around the school is designated as a 'Car Free Zone' but there still seems to be confusion around what this means for some parents and carers. The zones are designed to prohibit cars and other vehicles from driving up to school gates between 8.30am and 9.15am and then 2.30pm and 3.15pm each week day during term time. Blue badge drivers are exempt and residents within the zones are issued with permits that allow them to park without penalty. Any other driver who enters the zone during the specified times can be fined £50 by police. It is essential that all the children have a safe journey between home and school. A number of parents have expressed concern about some potentially dangerous driving around the school. It is also important that the school is a good neighbour in relation to the people who live around and about us. While it is not possible for everyone, walking or cycling can provide a healthy and environmentally friendly alternative to bringing the car to school.

Thank you for all your support, if you have any questions please get in touch with the school office.

Stacy Wilson

Battlefield Primary School

Key Dates 2023- 2024



Date	Event	Time
Friday 25 th August	Curricular Newsletter to parents	
Wednesday 30 th August	Meet the Teacher	3:15-4:15PM
Thursday 7 th September	Parent Council Meeting	9:30AM
22 nd and 25 th September	September Weekend Holiday	
Monday 9 th October	Numeracy Jotters/Work home	
Thursday 13 th October	Numeracy Jotters/Work returned (parent/pupil feedback)	
Friday 13 th October	Inservice Day	
16 th – 20 th October	October Week Holiday (Inclusive dates)	
Thursday 26 th October	Halloween Disco	P1-3 4:30-5:30PM P4-7 6:00-7:00PM
Friday 11 th November	School Remembrance	
Wednesday 15 th November	P6 Sharing of Learning	2:15PM
Thursday 16 th November	Sharing of Learning	
Wednesday 22 nd November	Parents Night (Late)	5:30-7:30PM
Thursday 23 rd November	Parents Night (Early)	3:00- 5:30PM
Friday 1 st December	P2 Sharing of Learning	2:15PM
Wednesday 6 th December	Class Assembly	
Week beginning 6 th December	Christmas Fair	
Wednesday 13 th December	P1 - Nativity	9.30AM
Monday 18 th December	Writing Jotters/Work home	
Thursday 21 st December	Writing Jotters/Work returned (parent/pupil feedback)	
Friday 22 nd December	Early Close	2.30PM
25th December – 5th January	Christmas Holidays (Inclusive dates)	
Friday 19 th January	Sharing of Learning	
Wednesday 7 th February	P4 Sharing of Learning	2:15PM
Thursday 8 th February	P2 Class Assembly	9:30AM
12 th – 13 th February	February Holiday (Inclusive dates)	
Wednesday 14 th February	In-service Day	
Monday 19 th February	P7 Sharing of Learning	2:15PM
Wednesday 21 st February	P5 Sharing of Learning	2:15PM
Thursday 22 nd February	P6a Class Assembly	9:30AM
Monday 26 th February	Reading Jotters/Work home	
Thursday 29 th February	Reading Jotters/Work returned (parent/pupil feedback)	
TBC	P7 Residential (Inclusive dates)	
Wednesday 20 th March	Parents' Night (Late)	5:30-7:30PM
Thursday 21 st March	Parents' Night (Early)	3:00-5:30PM
Thursday 28 th March	Early Close	2.30PM
Friday 29 th March	Good Friday	
1 st April – 12 th April	Spring Break (Inclusive dates)	
Thursday 2 nd May	Possible Election In-service Day	
Monday 6 th May	Holiday	
Wednesday 15 th May	P1 Sharing of Learning	2:15PM
Thursday 16 th May	P5b Class Assembly	9:30AM
Wednesday 22 nd May	P4b Class Assembly	9:30AM
24 th May & 27 th May	Holiday	
Wednesday 12 th June	Sports Afternoon (First Choice)	PM
Thursday 13 th June	<i>Sports Afternoon (Reserve Date)</i>	<i>PM</i>
Wednesday 12 th June	P7 Leavers' Assembly	
Friday 21 st June	Reports Issued	9.30AM
June	P7 Transition Week – Shawlands Academy	TBC
Wednesday 26 th June	Early Close	1.00PM

School Holiday Dates for 2023/24

Return dates for Teachers	Monday 14 th August 2023
Return date for Pupils	Wednesday 16 th August 2023
September Weekend	Friday 22 nd September 2023 Monday 25 th September 2023
First Mid-Term	Friday 13 th October 2023 (Inservice Day) Monday 16 th October 2023 to Friday 20 th October 2023 (October week)
Christmas/New Year	Schools close at 2.30 pm on Friday 22 nd December 2023 Monday 25 th December 2023 – Friday 5 th January 2024 (Christmas holidays)
	2024
Return to School	Schools return on Monday 8 th January 2024
Second Mid-Term	Monday 12 th February 2024 & Tuesday 13 th February 2024. Wednesday 14 th February 2024 (Inservice day)
Spring Holiday	Schools close at 2.30 pm on Thursday 28 th March 2024. Good Friday 29 th March 2024 Monday 1 st April - Friday 12 th April 2024 (Spring Break) Schools return on Monday 15 th April 2024
UK Elections	Thursday 2 nd May (Possible Inservice day)
May Day	Monday 6 th May 2024 (May Holiday)
May Weekend	Friday 24 th May 2024 and Monday 27 th May 2024
School Close	Schools Close at 1.00 pm on Wednesday 26 th June 2024