

Golfhill Primary School, Whitehill Campus

Telephone: 0141 554 7723

Acting Head Teacher: Mairi Thomson

Newsletter April 2016



Term 4 is now underway and already several exciting things have been happening in Golfhill. I hope you find this newsletter informative and that it helps to keep you up to date with some key events within the school. If you would like to see anything further included, please let us know.

Netball

The netball team had a very successful outing to Tollcross Leisure Centre last week. They played eight matches, won five, drew two and lost one. What a result, well done! Thanks to Miss Munro and Mrs Ryan for taking them.

Assembly

Last week at assembly we had a visit from Boots. They were sharing with us the importance of looking after our eyes and we learned some fascinating facts about animals' eyesight. I hope your son/daughter was able to remember some of the facts they learned at this assembly.

The popular GLOW and SHINE awards take place at Assembly on **29 April**. If you have any nominations for these special awards, remember to post your slips in the box in the office. Thank you.

Orchestra update

The orchestra with Mrs Ryan continues this term. The children are learning a new piece 'Twinkle Twinkle' so we all look forward to hearing that soon. It was lovely to hear how some of the older, more experienced players helped the younger children learn their piece. I understand there may be a new player joining the orchestra this term. (Look out for a tall, clarinet playing male.)

Parents' Nights

Parents' Nights are taking place this week. We hope you find having the opportunity to discuss your child's progress and to see more of their work helpful. We are hoping to use these opportunities to gather some parental views of our school so thank you to all parents who take the time to share your thoughts. Thanks to P7/6 for your help with this and also for refreshing our foyer and creating a wonderful display of work. The Anderson shelters are very effective and the project books on WW2 are an interesting read. Our hope is that some of the children will be able to visit St Denis' Primary to share their work with the P7 children there who will soon be learning about WW2.

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Eco Committee

The Eco Committee are hard at work designing new bins for our playground. We hope these bins will have a big impact in the playground and encourage the children to put their litter in the bin. The Eco Schools project is changing and as a school we have to apply to keep our flag. This means that Mrs Baruah and the Eco Committee will have to gather all that they have done and achieved over the last two years and submit this by the end of May. Good luck with this!

Keeping fit

The Daily Mile is growing in popularity in Golfhill. All classes are now taking part. This involves the children walking or running round the multi-use games area (MUGA). One mile is equivalent to fifteen times round the MUGA. The children and staff are aiming to complete a marathon distance of 26 miles. With just a week in, staff are already noticing an improvement in the children's fitness levels. For more information on the Daily Mile please see <http://goo.gl/XAOvWT>

Coding

P7/6 are taking part in a Coding workshop in Whitehill Secondary on 28th May and we look forward to hearing more about this.

P4 – 7 Scratch Club update provided by Amelia, Grace and Ayush P7/6

“We run Scratch Club every Monday lunchtime. Scratch is a free programming website approved by Glasgow City Council. There are also coding sessions in the Mitchell Library. We teach members how to code, draw and publish games online. You get to play other people's games too. Sometimes there are free sessions where you can choose what to do on Scratch. The computers are all set up for members to get started straight away. It's brilliant fun. There are so many people who want to join Scratch club we are now going round the classes to find out who wants to become official members. At the moment we are using the 'try it out' option but we hope to have official accounts for members soon.”



Watch this space for more updates and tutorials from the Scratch Club.

Nursery transition

Children from Westercraigs Nursery, Onslow Drive Nursery and Dennistoun Early Years Centre have been visiting the school and working with P1 and P2/1. Last week they took part in a treasure hunt in the school grounds and an activity on symmetry. The children enjoyed their experience and this all helps for a smooth transition to school.

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Film Club

Friday Film Club continues to run successfully. This club is run by parents through the Parent Council and provides a wonderfully relaxing start to the weekend for children. The cost of attending the film club is £2 and names should be handed in to the office by the Friday of the film week.

Health Week

Health Week is fast approaching. This takes place week beginning 9 May. The staff and children have already been sharing some of the successes of Health Weeks gone by. We can all look out for park walks, Internet safety talks, fruit tasting, relaxation and support from Gerry our Active School Coordinator. Thanks to Ms Sim for coordinating this. More details to follow.

Sunscreen

As we move into May and the hopefully improving weather, can I please ask that you prepare your child for this? If you could possibly put some sunscreen on him/her on days when it is likely to be sunny, this will give us all peace of mind. With playtime and lunchtime the children are outside for at least one hour each day in the heat of the sun. We would not like to see anyone suffering with sunburn. Your help with this is much appreciated.

Any spare bikes?

The bike club run by Mr Moore takes place on Tuesdays and Wednesdays and is due to start again. It is normally for P4-7 pupils but we would like to extend this to children in P1-3. If anyone has any 'balance bikes or infant bikes' they are no longer using, please speak to the office about the possibility of donating them to this good cause. Applications have gone in to Waitrose and Nationwide for funding to support this venture.

A spotlight on some classes

- P2/1 and P7/6 continue to receive dance and football input from A and M Training. This continues over a six week period...perhaps they can share their moves at the end of term talent show?!
- P2/1, P3 and P3/2 are about to begin their 'Farm to Fork' topic. The children are looking forward to learning about food chains and the origin of food.
- P3 have been creating wonderful space pictures using the technique of pointillism. They are very striking. We look forward to seeing them on display. We have a new visitor in school Spencer Bear. He has been spending the week with P3 and we look forward to finding out about his adventures with the children.
- P6/5 are delighted to have Mr Mackin back as their teacher. They were sorry to see Mr McInnes leave but wish him well in his new post.

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Holiday opportunity

An opportunity has been brought to our attention that you may be interested in. Family Holiday Association is a charity that gives families a break and is receiving applications for holidays in 2016. I am more than happy to help with this and support applications in whatever way I can, please just let me know.

To be eligible for these breaks families must:

- live in Scotland
- have children under the age of 18
- be living on a low income (household income of less than £24,000 per year or on relevant benefits)
- not been on holiday last year and not likely to go on one this year

More information can be found at <http://www.familyholidayassociation.org.uk/scotspirit/>

Upcoming dates and events

- **Monday 2 May** – school holiday. School reopens on Tuesday 3 May.
- Induction for new P1 children will take place over the course of three weeks. Dates are as follows **3, 10 and 17 May** from **1.15 – 2.15 pm**. If you have a new child starting school next session, we look forward to meeting you and your child then.
- **Thursday 5 May** - In-service Day – no children at school on this day.
- Sports Day is booked for the afternoon of **2 June** and will take place on the Whitehill pitch. Should the weather be inclement, an alternative date for **9 June** has been booked. Fingers crossed for some good weather!
- Week beginning **9 May** - Edinburgh Science Festival workshops will take place.
- **Tuesday 10 May am** – Gilmour Sports will be in the school for school blazer fitting. Please feel free to pop into the school on this day for this.
- **Thursday 19 May** - Big Maths Workshop P4-7 parents 1-2 pm and 6.30 – 7.30pm
- **Holiday weekend** – Friday 27 May and Monday 30 May children are off school.

Enjoy the long weekend when it comes.

Mairi Thomson