

Golfhill Primary School, Whitehill Campus

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@1Golfhill



Newsletter – February/March 2017

Dear Parent/Carer,

I hope you all enjoyed the February holiday - it was a real treat having the Friday off too! I am certain you, like me are enjoying the brighter mornings and the signs that spring is coming.

The last few weeks have been very busy with a large number of the children out and about on trips. This really helps bring the classroom learning to life by providing links to real life. We can look forward to many more experiences in the weeks to come.

Vision



We are delighted to say that we have a new school vision. This has been created using ideas from staff, children and parents. Last month the draft vision was sent home in the newsletter and feedback invited. Two slips were returned - both positive. Staff reflected on the draft vision once more and we agreed this is where we are heading as a school.

Our new vision is to nurture a love of learning.
We will do this by developing skills in a community that cares,
motivates and believes in possibilities for us now and for the future.

The teachers are going to be talking about this with the children and asking them to come up with ideas for a visual. We are very excited to see their ideas.

Trip update - thank to all the parents/friends of Golfhill who accompany the children on outings. We could not do it without your support.

Calton Fire Station – P7 and P6/5



Last month Primary 7 and P6/5 went to Calton Fire Station to take part in the Junior Firereach programme. The children appreciated the value of communication and trusting each other to help them get out of the dark room. Miss Hayworth has already posted some pictures on the school website and P7 were keen to share their thoughts too.

“It was a really good visit. We got a tour of the fire truck and we did a room of risks where we had to try and point them out. We went into a dark room and shuffled around trying to find a casualty. We all managed it but some of us bumped our heads trying to climb through a hole. We met a few fire fighters and they told us stories about cats up a tree and the most common situations that start a fire. We got to see some pictures of bad accidents where the fire brigade had to go and help.

We learned what to do in a fire situation – get out the building and phone 999. We learned the motto – get out, stay out, call us out. We learned how to stay safe in a fire:

- if you can't get out go into a room, close the door
- put blankets and socks/pillows under the door so the fire can't get out.
- you then need to open the window to get fresh air and scream to get help.
- You then stay on the ground because the smoke rises. “

by Amelia and Allan P7



Celtic Connections

The orchestra and P5/4 recently went to see bands playing in the Royal Concert Hall. The children travelled by train with Mrs Ryan and loved hearing music from around the world. The children reported that they were spellbound by what the musicians did with just a drum and a triangle. Hopefully we have learned a trick or two to feature in the next performance.

Glasgow Film Festival

P2/1, P3/2, P3 and P5/4 walked to Parkhead Forge Cineworld cinema for a showing of Moana. Staff reported that the children showed great road sense when walking there and were extremely well behaved. Thanks to the P5/4 buddies who helped look after the P2/1 children and make sure they were ok. The film was a huge success and P3/2 and P3 spirits' were not dampened by being caught in the sleet on the way back.



Dennistoun Library visit

P4, P3, P7 and P5/4 visited Dennistoun Library as part of our work to raise standards in literacy and encourage the children to read. Each class will get to visit the library - dates to be arranged.

Swimming gala – P5/4-P7

The children swam their way to second place at the recent Whitehill Swimming Club gala. The roar from the crowd really kept the swimmers motivated and helped them through to the very last stroke. Well done Team Golfhill!



SOS bid – working with St Denis PS



Primary 7 successfully linked up with St Denis Primary School earlier in the year to work on a project called Sense over Sectarianism. This was so successful so we decided to extend this work to include P6/5. As a result we submitted a bid to Glasgow City Council and were awarded £2155 to develop a piece of art to gift to St Denis Primary School and them us. The children will be working with a local artist Scott Lang. This work will last 6 weeks and begin and end with a joint celebration. More information regarding dates will follow.

Group update

Library Committee – the children are working hard organising a readathon and the new shelving has now been built in the library. Thanks to the parents who helped with this.

Shine Group - has met and are thinking about making pupil friendly leaflets about our school.

Eco Group – the old eco members were presented with a thank you plant for all their hard work and

Health Group – Health Week is coming up in May and the children have been planning lots of exciting and healthy experiences for us. More to follow...

Pupil Council - The pupil council has met on several occasions now and we have been very impressed with how well they are doing. So far we have been thinking about how the pupil council runs and thinking about the school rules and values. If you have ideas for the pupil council to discuss, please let your son/daughter know so they can pass it on.



Scripture Union Club



We are soon to welcome Fiona and Mark to the school to run a Thursday lunchtime club. The club will be open to children in P5-7 from 12.10–12.40 and will include a mix of games, stories and fun. Scripture Union Scotland is a christian organisation that works with children and young people to explore christianity.

Pollination Group

We are taking part in the RSPB Birdwatch in school grounds programme. This will involve children from the upper school counting the different species in our school grounds. We are really pleased to see a new Pollination display taking shape in the GP room. We are looking forward to the day in March when we get stuck into digging out the sloping ground on the banking behind the football pitches. It will soon become a wild flower meadow attracting bees and other pollinators to our school grounds.



Wee Write Festival

Five classes – P1, P3, P5/4, P6/5 and P7 all took part in the Wee Write Festival at the Mitchell Library/Glasgow Concert Hall. The children are able to hear from Scottish authors as they tell their story and read to the children from their work. These visits are always very valuable experiences and encourage the children to continue to read and write.

Burns Celebration

The Burns' Celebration was a highlight for the children in the school. We were entertained through song, dance, poetry and drama and our hands were sore from clapping by the end. It was a really special event which the children and staff had worked hard to put together. Unfortunately space wasn't on our side to be able to have parents/carers joining us. We hope you managed to pick up some of the pictures tweeted from the event.



Successful bid from East Area Partnership



Thanks to the six children – Emma, Grace, Lia, Temi, Yoana and Satin who confidently represented the school and appealed to the community for money for the school. We were delighted to be awarded **£2407** for the project and this money has been used to buy cooking kitchens for the school. Thanks to the children and the families who supported this.

Great news – the Parent Council also asked the Area Partnership for money and was successful in being awarded £2000 to source the pots, pans and cooking utensils. This is wonderful news! We can look forward to healthy food being prepared by the children and families in school. We want to pass on a huge thank you from the school for the work of the Parent Council.

Water bottles



Please send in water bottles for the children to use in the dinner hall. (Please write their names on the bottles so they don't get lost – thank you!) This is to help reduce the chances of anyone slipping. Water bottles can be stored in the packed lunch buckets and taken home each day.

Lost property

We seem to have collected a significant amount of lost property again. This is located in the outer foyer should you wish to have a look. If you are able to, please take a moment to check your child's uniform and to add his/her name. This will help reduce the chance of items going missing and help lost items being recovered.



Improvement Update

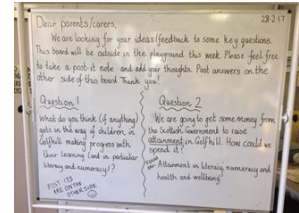
In February we had a visit from a Quality Improvement Officer (Gerard McKernan) to see the work the staff and in particular Mrs Duff is taking forward around reading. He popped into classes and talked to children and staff. We are delighted to say this was a positive visit.



Pupil Equity Fund

You may have seen news recently around the Scottish Government's plans to provide funding to schools to help raise attainment and what has become known as 'close the poverty related gap'. The amount of money allocated is based on the number of children entitled to claim free school meals. Golfhill is to benefit from this money. This money is specifically to raise attainment in literacy, numeracy and health and wellbeing and strict guidance has been provided to help Head Teachers and schools to develop plans for this.

We are keen to involve the school community in the thinking around this. You may have seen the board that was outside in the playground? Thanks to those parents/carers who contributed ideas. Unfortunately we will not be able to follow through on some of them because of the guidance schools have to follow. If you have further ideas on how we can work together to improve attainment in **literacy, numeracy** and **health and wellbeing**, please let the school or Parent Council know. Thank you!



Vegetable patch



You may have noticed that the blue container that was in the school grounds disappeared over the February holiday. This has left an area that is perfect for growing. As a result, we applied for a £300 bid to help provide the money to convert this into ideal growing space. We are delighted to have permission from Amey who look after the building to do this. Thanks to all the parents/carers and friends of Golfhill who voted for us thank you!



Parent/Carer Focus Group

We are taking a closer look at how children in Golfhill are supported as part of our on-going self-evaluation. A team of school staff will be taking part in class visits and speaking with children staff and parents/carers on 22 March. If you are interested in being part of a focus group please let the office know.

Visitors to the school

- **Pinocchio** - We were delighted to have M & M Productions in school on Friday 25 March – the children really got into the spirit of the show. Thank you for your cooperation as the children came out of school a wee bit later that day
- **Tennis event** – P1-3 children took part in a tennis road show which they loved. Among other skills, the children had to really concentrate on the ball. This was to develop their hand-eye coordination. It was a simple thing but very effective.



- **Professor Eco Show** - On 8 March P1-3 and the Eco Group children were treated to an ECO show to help get us geared up for the ECO work. The children were able to share what they had learned. Zahra was able to say the different ways people can travel and that the most eco-friendly way to travel is to walk. Sophie said she learned how important it is to switch off the lights to save energy. As part of our on-going partnership work, St Denis' Eco Group joined us for the show.



Good news

- Caoimhe wrote a poem about a wolf and she won a competition with it. We are delighted to hear her news that the poem is going to be published in a book. Fantastic news!
- We were delighted to hear that Aaron in P4 received a medal for his efforts at the football club. Well done!
- Ewan in P6 displayed great courage when he helped a friend who was ill.
- Carly P6 stepped in to help someone when they were choking.
- Sporting success - Twelve children from P7 represented Golfhill at the recent P7 Emirates event. They came back having had a fantastic day and glittering in medals. Well done to everyone who took part! We must also give a particular thanks to Gerry our Active Schools Coordinator for putting on a terrific event. Pictures from the event were posted on twitter if you'd like a look.
- P6/5 released the trout they had been caring for in class. This was "brilliant!" and the children returned with big smiles on their faces and their shoes a little muddier.
- Thanks to all the parents/carers who came into school on Thursday 9 March for the Open Afternoon. The children worked very hard on their books and it was great to be able to share them with the school community. We were delighted that 87 people managed to come along and support this event. We know it can be tricky fitting things such as this in around the working day. The books will be on display in the GP room for the children to enjoy too.



Recent dates and events

- From Monday 20 February until 31 March – Student teacher Miss Differ begins again in P7
- Tuesday 21 February – Parent Council meeting 6.30 pm
- Friday 24 February – Free tennis sessions for P1, P2/1, P3/2 and P3
- Friday 24 February – Pinocchio performance by M&M Productions in school for whole school
- Tuesday 28 February – P6/5 (am) and P7 (pm) to Mitchell Library for Wee Write
- Wednesday 1 March – Marvellous Magnets workshop for P3 by Generation Science
- Wednesday 1 March – P1 (am) and P3/2 (pm) to Mitchell Library for Wee Write
- Wednesday 1 March – P7 children to Whitehill Secondary School for a skills building afternoon with Price Waterhouse Coopers (business partner) 1.15 pm – 3.25pm late dismissal
- Friday 3 March – Mr Fitzsimmons finished working with P5/4
- Friday 3 March – P4 soccer begins outside 1.45 – 2.45 pm in MUGA
- Friday 3 March – P3 (pm) visit to Mitchell Library for Wee Write
- Monday 6 March – P5/4 (am) visit to Concert Hall for Wee Write
- Wednesday 8 March P7 Athletics Event at Emirates Arena (12 children)
- Wednesday 8 March – P1-3 plus Eco Group plus St Denis Eco Group and P7 children have a Professor Eco Show in Whitehill Secondary Conference Room
- Thursday 9 March – Open afternoon for parents/carers begins at 1.30 pm
- Friday 10 March – P6/5 to Pollok Park to release the trout they have been caring for
- Friday 10 March – Parent Council run discos P1-3 5.30 – 6.30pm P4-7 6.45 – 8pm

Upcoming dates and events

- Beginning Monday 13 March SHRE lessons taking place in school (Sexual Health and Relationships Education) more information to follow on this. (P7 have already taken part)
- Tuesday 14 March – 2 – 2.45 pm Developing Mathematical Mind-sets a workshop for parents/carers led by Mr Mackin
- Friday 17 March – P7 to Glasgow Sculpture Studio for a clay workshop (all day event)
- Tuesday 21 March – Parents’ Night 3.15 pm – 8.45 pm in Whitehill Secondary Fuel Zone
- Friday 24 March – Seasons for Growth Celebration – parents/carers of those children who have been taking part in this are invited to join us for this special event. Mrs Ryan will send out invitations shortly.
- Friday 24 March – Red Nose Day
- Friday 24 March – P2/1 Assembly at 1.30 pm – parents/carers are invited
- Monday 27 March – Friday 31 March ECO week in school – Mrs Baruah and the Eco Group will update you on this.
- Monday 27 March – Friday 31 March Autism Awareness Week
- Thursday 30 March – 9 – 10 am - P4 Active Play Graduation and P6/5 Play Champ Graduation – this is to celebrate the work the children have been doing with PEEK. Parents/carers are invited to join us for this
- Friday 31 March – Easter celebration – children only due to space restrictions
- Friday 31 March – non-uniform day (contribute £1 towards school funds)
- **Friday 31 March - school closes 2.15pm**
- **Return to school Tuesday 18 April 8.45 am**
- Tuesday 18 April – Student teacher Barry Fitzsimmons begins in P3
- Friday 28 April Celebration Assembly – please share good news with us to celebrate in school
- **Monday 1 May - holiday**

Any further updates will be sent home where possible via letter, text message, twitter and on the web. If you have any questions or comments, please do not hesitate to contact me via the office.

I hope you all have a wonderful holiday when it comes.

Best wishes

Mairi

