

Golfhill Primary School, Whitehill Campus

Telephone: 0141 554 7723

Head Teacher: Mairi Thomson

Newsletter June 2016



@1Golfhill



It is hard to believe that we are now only days away from the end of school session 2015/16. I am certain you will agree with me that it has been quite a session for the school community...one in which there has been a great deal of change. We can look forward together to a settled year after the summer break.

This is a special time of year in particular for our P7 children who will soon be moving on to begin the next phase of their education. Starting secondary school is an exciting time and I hope the children will settle, make new friends and look back with fondness to their time in Golfhill. For those who will be in Whitehill, we look forward to keeping in touch and hope that they can pop back to say hello.

Update on plans for trip - 15 June

Thank you for your patience and understanding as we have sought to reach an alternative to the Heads of Ayr Farm Park trip. Below are some details of the plans for the upcoming trip.

Infants – Alexandra Park (am) with film in Whitehill Conference Room	Upper school - film in Whitehill Conference (am) followed by Glasgow Green (pm)
Leave school 9.15 am Eat snack at the park Leave park at 11.15 am Return to school for lunch Walking time 10-15 minutes	Children leave school 11.30am walking time – 28 minutes Take lunch with them and eat when get there. Leave park at 2pm
Activities - <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Sand park• Football area for parachute• Bubbles, hoops and skipping ropes on slope• Climbing park• Games hall - Haghill Park Primary• Toilets – Haghill Park Sports Centre	Activities – <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Climbing frame park• Ball games e.g. rounders• Parachute• Frisbees• Skipping ropes• Peoples' Palace/Winter Garden visit• Toilets – Peoples' Palace
Car to take equipment to parks Parent helpers please	Car to take equipment to parks Parent helpers please
Drink, popcorn and ice cream/lolly during film	Drink, popcorn and ice cream/lolly during film

Parent Council

Sincere thanks must go to the Parent Council for all that they do to support the life and work of the school. Thanks also to those parents who attended this week's Parent Council AGM.

Security/entering the school

Last month I updated you on the new security procedures. The locking of gates at playtime and lunchtime is working well and we will be continuing with this practice. Thanks too for your support with using the foyer window when entering the school.

The foyer competition was won by Flora Taylor P7 whose design captured the Golfhill symbol so beautifully. Well done Flora! The children enjoyed voting for the designs and all the children who entered the competition received a certificate at last week's assembly. The Technical Department have agreed to help us make the design out of wood so it can be a permanent feature in our foyer. We look forward to this being completed and installed for all to see.

The open area outside the office is undergoing a bit of a revamp too and will be used to extend the learning from the infant classes. Some of the resources located there are from Westercreigs nursery as we plan to work together to develop Early Level practice. We look forward to having four members of Westercreigs staff to support us and the new P1 children for two weeks in August.

Awards Ceremony

The school marks the end of the year with an awards ceremony. The names of those children receiving an award are being finalised by staff and I hope to send out invites to parents/carers by the end of the week.

Uniform

Uniforms can be ordered from the office using the accompanying order form. Mrs Jones and Mrs Aitken will be only too happy to help.

At this time of year, can I remind you of the school dress code? This is as follows:

blue Golfhill polo shirt	P7 children – Leavers' hoodies
pale blue shirt	Golfhill blazers
Golfhill tie	PE kit – shorts and t shirt (preferably white)
navy cardigan or jumper	warm weather – blue gingham dresses
navy trousers, skirt or pinafore	

The following items are not part of school uniform and therefore not allowed:

Hoodies for any children other than P7

Leggings, jogging trousers

Football colours

Baseball caps, hats etc. should be removed before entering the school building. Your cooperation in following the school's dress code is much appreciated. Thank you.

I understand the school community was consulted on the choice of trousers and skirts only a few years ago. However I am also aware some parents have expressed a concern that navy trousers and skirts can be hard to come by. With this in mind, could you please take a moment to fill in the attached options sheet regarding colours please? Return this to the school by Tuesday 14 June. I will be happy to update you on this. Thank you.

Retiral of Mrs Elaine Hunter

I hope you will join me in wishing Elaine a wonderful retirement as she steps forward into this next phase of her life. I know she will be most sincerely missed from the school community having taught here for almost twenty years. Elaine has been working in the Sunshine Room for the last eleven years and I know her nurturing approach has extended much beyond the children. I'm personally grateful for the occasions when I haven't managed to fit in lunch and a Sunshine Room delivery has kept me going! Thank you Elaine.

Staffing and classification

I am delighted to say that the staffing for next year is as follows:

Miss Catherine Thomson – Class Teacher	Mrs Linda Jamieson – Support for Learning Worker
Miss Samantha Munro – Class Teacher	Mrs Pauline Todd – Support for Learning Worker
Mrs Karis Johnstone – Class Teacher (Wednesday – Friday)	Mrs Yvonne Davidson – Support for Learning Worker
Mrs Jane Little – Class Teacher (Monday – Wednesday)	Mr Russell Moore – Support for Learning Worker
Miss Nicole Jamieson – Class Teacher	Mrs Sandra Trench – Support for Learning Worker
Mrs Ruth Duff – Class Teacher	Mrs Sheena Gray – Principal Teacher (Mon – Thurs)
Mrs Kate Buchanan – Class Teacher (Monday – Tuesday)	Mr Peter Mackin – Principal Teacher
Mrs Nirala Baruah – Class Teacher	Ms Hazel Sim – Acting Principal Teacher
Miss Kirsty McCarten – Class Teacher	Mrs Mairi Thomson – Head Teacher
Miss Rowan Hayworth – Class Teacher	
Ms Marilyn Gordon – EAL teacher	
Mrs Mary Jones – Clerical	
Mrs Kay Aitken - Clerical	

The school roll is rising and this means we move from seven classes to eight classes. The classes for next session include:

P1, P2/1, P3/2, P3, P4, P5/4, P6/5, P7 plus The Sunshine Room (Nurture)

I am working with the staff on classification and the stages they will be teaching next session. As soon as this information is finalised, I will be happy to share this with you.

Calendar for session 16/17

The calendar of activities for next session is in development and an early draft copy will be shared. I hope this will help you know what is coming up in the school so you can help prepare your children. As you can imagine some dates will be subject to change. In the meantime, we are working hard to secure campus facilities for key events.

School improvement

Guidance on school improvement suggests that schools select no more than three priorities each year. These should reflect school, Glasgow and national priorities and takes into account the 'Thoughts please...' exercise carried out in May. As a result, the areas we will focus on next session include:

1. Glasgow's Improvement Challenge – this is linked to the Attainment Challenge and builds on the work started this year.
2. Our curriculum – this will give us a chance to explore what makes Golfhill unique and to develop a rationale and model that really reflects us as a school community.
3. Meeting learners' needs – this builds on the inclusion work carried out this session.

I am in the process of developing the school improvement plan and will be happy to share more information after the summer.

Coding

Mrs Trench took a group of children to the coding competition in the City Chambers this week. It was a wonderful experience for the children and they represented Golfhill beautifully. Grace and Amelia P6 were bowled over by the interest shown by the infants at their recent Scratch tasters. The girls were very patient with the wee ones as they tried to set up and explain what to do.

Outdoor Learning Week Round Up

The children took part in a number of lessons and experiences outside. It was great to hear the buzz as children searched for jigsaw pieces hidden by classmates, walked through the woods, did their sounds and spelling in chalk, planted bushes in the garden or recited vocabulary outside my office window. The highlight of the week for many was sports Day held on the large Whitehill pitch. The school really came together and the team spirit was evident in the way the children helped each other. A number of people have commented on the stamina shown by the children...a positive effect of the Daily Mile was thought to be a contributing factor. Thanks to Mr Mackin for planning the event so thoroughly and leading us through it. Well done everyone for the good sportsmanship and the team captains who took their role very seriously.

Upcoming dates and events

- Wednesday 15 June – trip
- Thursday 20 June – Talent Show please note change of date
- Tuesday 21 June – 'Meet the new Teacher' – a chance for the children to meet their new teacher
- Tuesday 21 June – P7 Leavers' Party 5 – 6.30 pm please come dressed for the beach. Bring a spare set of clothing and a towel!
- Wednesday 22 June – 9am infant awards ceremony, 1pm P7 Leavers' service and P4-7 awards' ceremony
- Thursday 23 June – afternoon tea for prize winners supported by Milnbank Housing Association
- Friday 24 June – non uniform day, school closes 12.45 pm
- Thursday 11 August – staff return
- Monday 15 August – pupils return

May I take this opportunity to wish you a wonderful summer break and I look forward to seeing you all again in August.

Best wishes

Mairi Thomson Head Teacher