

# Golfhill Primary School, Whitehill Campus

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Vision – to nurture a love of learning



@1Golfhill



## News Update – March 2017

### Parents' Night update and feedback from questionnaire

Thanks to all parents/carers who came along for the parents' night on 22 March. It was wonderful to see so many families represented and to hear how well your children are progressing. On the night we had **86%** of our school community represented. We know that due to family circumstances a number of families could not attend and we are pleased that alternative appointments have been made.

Thank you for taking the time to complete the questionnaire. It provided us with really helpful information and this News Update has been created specifically to share the results with you.

### Uniform

Keep navy skirts and navy trousers	<b>105</b>	Change to grey trousers and grey skirts	26
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Given the numbers above, we can confidently state that the school community wishes the school uniform to remain as it is with navy trousers and skirts. This is not something we will revisit again in the near future. Please encourage your child to stick to the school dress code. Just a reminder – the uniform consists of:

- Blue shirts/polo shirts
- Navy school jumper
- Navy skirts/pinafores/trousers

### Values

As you know parents/carers were asked for to vote on our school values. Here are the results of this:

Value	meaning	Number of votes
honesty	is always telling the truth	97
cooperation	is working together as a team	57
respect	is treating everyone and everything with kind thoughts	104
fairness	is to treat people reasonably	56
politeness	is using good manners	60
responsibility	is making good choices for yourselves and others	91
commitment	is giving someone or something your all	30
resilience	is to keep trying and don't give up	56
compassion	is to care for others	69

We can now share with you the values we have selected for our school.

- honesty
- respect
- politeness
- responsibility
- cooperation

We opted for **cooperation** over **compassion** as the school vision mentions that we are a community that cares. This gives a really good balance in terms of what we want Golfhill children to be like.

The work on values brings together work over several months:

- creating a new vision for the school
- staff discussing and selecting 14 values from a list of 50 potential values
- Pupil Council considering these 14 values and selecting 9 of them
- Pupil Council working to create child friendly meanings.

We now need to work together to introduce the wider school to these values.

**Pupil Equity Fund** – close the poverty related gap to raise attainment in literacy, numeracy and health and wellbeing

Do you agree with the following proposed interventions?

	Yes	No
Targeted work for groups of children in literacy and numeracy including targeted afterschool work	109	8
Support for families through play therapy and family support worker	108	6 (1 not sure)
Developing children’s emotional wellbeing and resilience and building a growth mind-set	117	1 (1 not sure)

Do you have other ideas to raise attainment levels in literacy, numeracy and health and wellbeing?  
Please add them below.

- Look at Finland
- Possibly more homework
- Game e.g. darts to help with numeracy skills
- Families doing more at home
- Discuss funding with local and regional reps to achieve best outcomes for elected area
- Lunchtime clubs
- Peer support (in homework clubs?)
- Competitions, clubs or prizes
- Regular assessments to ensure pupils are constantly being pushed in terms of academic achievement
- Opportunities for children on the other end of the scale
- More workshops for parents
- More after school clubs
- Participation in more experiential learning to complement written work as an alternative to more classroom/written activities
- After school homework club
- Active learning, making fun with games
- School and at home – work hard to increase their interests and keep them focused and attentive towards learning. This can be done by engaging them in healthy activities at school and homework could be made more interesting too. As parents we need to play our part too.
- Encourage children to use library facilities provided in local area
- More take home work
- Additional workshops for parents to what is being taught and why and how. Health and wellbeing – get back to 1 mile a day initiative, look to offer healthier options at lunch available for all (no matter if early or late sitting)

- Extra support for children who require more help with literacy/numeracy that is tailored to the child's individual needs.
- Daily mile walk/run, lots of outdoor learning and more creative activities (for wellbeing). I think the school already does a lot!
- Less homework, more practical, creative and outdoor learning

Here are the ideas from the board in the playground that specifically relate to either literacy, numeracy or health and wellbeing:

- Support for learning worker and linked to EAL teacher to work with groups to sustain support on a daily basis
- More training in additional support and more support for children with diagnosed needs
- Outside educators i.e. industry leaders
- interactive learning

**Thank you for taking the time to share your thoughts. The proposal for how the money will be used will be drawn up in the coming weeks following the strict guidance set out for Head Teachers. More information will follow on this.**

### Summer trips

This year it has been decided that trips will take place on two different days – P1-3 and P4-7. Here are the results from voting at Parents' Night:

	P1-3	P4-7
Blair Drummond Safari Park	46	27
Calderglen Country Park East Kilbride	6	11
Summerlee Museum Coatbridge	8	13
Tall Ship and Transport Museum	5	8
Mugdock Country Park Milngavie	5	9
Palacerigg Country Park Cumbernauld	7	7
Almond Valley Heritage Trust Livingston	9	12
Stirling Castle	16	14
Cinema/bowling	12	25
Other	Five Sisters' Zoo 2, Wellsfield Farm Park 2, Baltic Adventure Play 1	Go Karting 1

As you can see the most popular option for the school trip is **Blair Drummond Safari Park**. Mrs Jones will now contact bus companies for costs. More information will follow and provision will be made in school for those children who will not be attending the trip.

### Concerns

Should you have a concern regarding your child or if it involves other children, please feel free to contact the school and as ever we will do our best to work with you to resolve it. Please do not approach other parents/carers in the playground as at times this can make matters worse. Thank

you for your continued understanding regarding this. In Golfhill we have all children's best interests at heart.

### **Playground safety**

Break times are an important part of the school day and we want all children to have fun and enjoy their time outside. Unfortunately we have had a couple of genuine accidents in the playground recently. We would ask that you encourage your child to think about playing safely and looking where they are going as they run and jump about. This way the children are beginning to think about risk benefit. The wooded area just outside the entrance is closed before the start of the school day as the grass needs time to recover from the winter weather.

### **Visitors to the school**

Thanks to the many parents/carers who came to the school to be part of the Focus Group discussions on 23 March. On the day we had a team made up by an Area Manager, Quality Improvement Officer, Educational Psychologist and a peer Head Teacher. The team visited classes, spoke, spoke to children and staff and then shared their thinking with us. I am due to receive a report of the visit shortly.

### **Good news**

One of our P7 pupils took part in a 'Fake News' Hackathon technology event for young girls at the University of West of Scotland in Paisley run by STEMettes and Method Digital (all London based). She had a mentor from Method Digital who tweeted that the webpage she designed stole the show. They are opening up an Edinburgh office and this was their first event in Scotland. Grace leads the Scratch club in school to share her skills with others. Well done Grace!



P3/2 took part in the Sumdog competition competing against many upper school classes and they finished 103 out of 469. The competition ran for a week and the class only managed on twice so Miss Jamieson was happy with that placing.

### **Upcoming dates and events**

- Wednesday 29 March – wear onesie/pyjamas for 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
- Thursday 30 March - wear something green for ECO week
- 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**