

Golfhill Primary School, Whitehill Campus

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Newsletter - September 2016



@1Golfhill



Dear Parent/Carer,

The term so far has been a busy one but it is still hard to believe we are at the September weekend already. The children continue to settle into the routine of school and have enjoyed the last month getting to know their new teachers and classmates.

I hope you found the Standards and Quality Report that was sent home recently helpful and that this newsletter keeps you up to date with life in the school. Please let me know if there is anything more you would like to see added to the newsletter.

Staffing update

Ms Sim has just been offered an Acting Depute Head Teacher post in the north west of the city and has accepted this position. This is a wonderful opportunity for Hazel and we are delighted for her. This post begins with immediate effect so this means that today, Thursday 22 September will be her last day in school. I am sure you will join me in wishing Hazel well as she leaves Golfhill. Given the short notice, I have asked that Hazel return to the school for a proper send-off by the children and interested parents. I will be able to share details of this once Hazel has confirmed her availability. Hazel has given of herself both personally and professionally to support the life of the school and she will indeed be missed.

With Hazel's departure in mind, I am delighted to welcome Mr Allan Fleming to join the team in Golfhill. Allan comes with a wealth of leadership experience in the early years and will be a real asset to us. Allan will take on the remit of Acting Principal Teacher together with the teaching commitment in Primary 1. Mr Fleming will therefore share the P1 class with Ms Buchanan and will begin in Golfhill on Tuesday 27 September. He is very much looking forward to starting at Golfhill next week and getting to know the children. I hope you will make Allan feel as welcome in the Golfhill community as you have made me feel.

I am out of school during the day at HT training on Tuesday 27 September however I know that Mr Mackin will help Mr Fleming on his first day. I will return to school at 3pm for a meeting with the Principal Teachers – Mrs Gray, Mr Mackin and Mr Fleming.

Contact details/mobile phones

Should any contact details change, please let the office know so they can update the records. This helps should we need to contact you in the event of an emergency.

As before, we ask that any child bringing a mobile phone to school, hands it into the office each day. Mrs Jones and Mrs Aitken lock the phones in the strong room and these are returned to the children at the end of the day.



Ladies' Night Fundraiser - Have you bought your ticket yet?

Diane Dickie (grandparent) is organising a Ladies Night for **7 October at 7pm** in the bowling club. This evening will support school funds and be used to reduce the cost of a summer trip for the children. We are so pleased to have Diane's support and we are very aware of how much effort, she is going to in order to put the evening together. I have been told that the night is sure to be great fun so please come along and support us. The cost of a ticket is £5 and is available from the school office.



Good news!!!

We were delighted to receive a donation of £350 from a film company towards school improvements. The money came with the wish to spend it on something all children could benefit from. For this reason, we hope to be able to purchase natural play materials for the playground and have been in touch with countryside rangers to help us source materials. As we are an AMEY school, we have to link closely with the management company who look after the building and school grounds to see what is possible. I hope to have more information on this soon.

We have been successful in our bid for £2000 to support PE. Our sincere thanks goes to past pupils and the Whitehill Sports Committee for their generosity. Once received, the money will be used to purchase outdoor PE equipment to help ensure the children can get two hours of quality PE no matter the weather. The money has also been ring fenced to pay for wifi for the school. This will enable the iPads we have in school to be set up... Mrs Duff has already been in touch with Edict our training provider to ask for their help in identifying suitable apps to support our PE curriculum. I look forward to seeing the children orienteering using QR codes! Once we get this set up, we would be thrilled to let the children show you what and how they are learning.

You may have noticed a new shed in the school grounds. This is the result of the work undertaken last session by Mrs Baruah, the ECO Committee and the Parent Council through the Dragon's Den. The shed is to be used to store gardening equipment. Our sincere thanks to the parents/carers who did a wonderful self-build last week. Thank you!!!



P4-7 Theatre visit

We were pleased to welcome Hopscotch Theatre to the school on 14 September. The cast performed 'This is my Life' - a story about separation, friendships, responsibilities and coping with change. The children were captivated by the story and a few children in P5/4 commented how they found the story very moving. We look forward to hearing the song they learned for the performance.

Pantomime



I have booked the pantomime 'Rapunzel' at Platform Theatre in Easterhouse for the whole school. This will take place on Thursday 15 December. I have managed to secure buses through Class Connections which will significantly reduce the cost for families. **Tickets cost £5 per child** and can be payable at the school office. I am certain the children will thoroughly enjoy their outing.

Pupil update

We are sorry to hear the news that Caoimhe and Oisin P6/5 are leaving Golfhill given their recent house move. They have been a joy to have in our school and we are confident they will thrive in their new school. I look forward to seeing their names in lights someday given their on-stage talent as shown at the summer talent show and Oisin's cycling success.

Outdoor clothing

Here on the campus we are very fortunate to be able to use a variety of settings including the campus gym hall, games hall not to mention the school grounds in order to deliver two hours of quality PE. Please continue to ensure children come to school with a change of clothes and shoes for PE and as we look ahead to autumn and a change in the weather, please continue to send your child to school with suitable jackets for outdoor play.



Some news from the classes

- P1 and P2 - Families in Partnership workshops continue. Thank you to all parents who have joined these so far.
- Westercraigs nursery continues to work with P1 and P2/1 as part of our extended transition work. The children love going to the nursery garden and outdoor area and the nursery children look forward to coming to school to learn together. P1 children have benefited from the work with Child Development Officers from Westercraigs. Staff have commented on how this work has helped the children settle in class and really build on their phonological awareness.
- P3 and P4 have been studying the work of Roald Dahl and have produced some super character work around this.
- P5/4 continue to impress visitors to the classroom with their solo talks and the very constructive feedback. It has been a pleasure to see the children grow in confidence as they do this.
- P6/5 and P7 have been working with GEAPP to raise their awareness of alcohol misuse and harm. GEAPP come into the school each year to work with our older children as part of their health and wellbeing curriculum.
- P7 completed their Sense over Sectarianism work with St Denis' Primary with a sports session on the Whitehill pitches. The children have shown real maturity when thinking about some of the issues raised. This work has been supported in class with the reading of the novel 'Divided City' by Theresa Breslin.

Upcoming dates and events

- Holiday weekend – Friday 23 and Monday 26 September
- Wednesday 28 September – ESOL class begins 1.15pm – 2.40pm
- Friday 30 September – International Day of Languages – some parents/children will be sharing what they know about other languages. You may wish to come in traditional dress if you wish.
- Friday 30 September – non-uniform day please pay £1 (no football colours)
- Families in Partnership Numeracy Workshops – 4th, 11th, 25th October and 1st November
- Wednesday 5 October – Parent Council Meeting

Upcoming dates and events (continued)

- Friday 7 October – Ladies’ Night at Bowling Club 7pm Tickets £5 from school office
- October is the Big Draw month... watch this space. Any artistic parents/carers? Please let us know if you are interested in helping out with creative activities.
- Friday 7 October – Save the Children will be sharing their work at assembly
- Friday 14 October – In-service day – no children at school
- 17 – 21 October – school holiday
- Friday 28 October – Celebration Assembly and P7 children to St Denis’ Primary for entertainer
- Wednesday 2 and 9 November - NSPCC will visit the school to do workshops/presentation with P6 and P7
- Friday 4 November – school photographer in
- Thursday 17 November – parents’/carers’ night – 3.15pm – 8.45pm

I hope you all enjoy a relaxing September weekend. I look forward to seeing you next week.

Best wishes

Mairi Thomson Head Teacher

Parent Council Update

This term the Golfhill Parent Council are organising a series of events. **Film Clubs** run every other Friday after school. P1&P2 pupils need to be accompanied by an adult. Dates will be:

- 16 September
- 7 & 28 October
- 11 & 25 November
- 2 December

We’d love it if you can help out as a parent helper at Film Club. It’s fairly light duty and you’ll get to watch a movie with your wee one for a couple hours after school. ☺ Email for more info (details below).

The **Autumn Disco** will take place 24 October. Watch for more information in a bag drop. Finally, all welcome at the **PC meetings** which will take place at the school from 6:30-8pm on:

- 5 October – Wednesday
- 22 Nov – Tuesday

All these dates are available on a public Google calendar that can feed into the calendar on your phone. Email or Facebook message us for the link! Watch the PC Facebook page too (details below), which will list them all.

There are two PC fundraising subgroups running this year. One is focused on raising money for the all school trip. The other is focused on raising money for the P7 trip. The all school trip subgroup is looking for representation from parents from each year group. And the P7 group needs new leadership. Get in touch if you are up for helping out with either group!

Keep up with the PC by following us on Facebook (/golfhillprimaryparentcouncil) and you can always reach us on GolfhillPC@gmail.com.

