

Message from Head Teacher

Dear parents and carers,

After an incredibly busy couple of months, featuring a range of learning experiences, we've made it to the last week of term!

Since January we've enjoyed...

- Class assemblies
 - P6 – *French / français*
 - P2 - *Friendship*
- World Book Day events
 - *Bedtime Stories* theme
 - Storytelling afternoon
 - Author visits
 - Competitions
 - Book share open afternoon
 - Book Swap
- Sporting achievements
 - Attendance at after-school clubs: football, badminton, running and hockey
 - Participation in *Bridges and Barriers* football tournament
 - Medal winners at the *Super 7s* athletics event
 - Participation in Scottish Country Dancing festival
 - Winning the Whitehill Swimming Gala (*for second year in a row!*)
- Other activities, including:
 - Robert Burns celebrations
 - Sewing workshops
 - Cooking (*inc. Pancake Cafés and trips to Celino's!*)
 - Installation of polytunnel
 - Non-uniform *Wear Yellow! Day*



As noted in the previous newsletter, and in conversation with many of you, we are aware of the various challenges we face across the school. As a staff we are working on a new *Promoting Positive Relationships* policy, which will be shared with everyone in due course.

There are no easy solutions to some of these challenges, but if we work together, and develop robust, holistic approaches to what we do, things will continue to improve. The patience, understanding and support of our families is always appreciated, and never taken for granted.

As always, if there is anything you would like to discuss, or something that I can help with, please do not hesitate to contact me. In the meantime, may I take this opportunity to wish everyone a wonderful Spring Break. We look forward to seeing everyone back, rested and ready for Term 4!



Yours,

Iain Morrow
Head Teacher

Staff news

It is with joy that we can announce that Mrs Blyth is expecting a baby! We are all thrilled for her, and look forward to meeting Baby Blyth sometime in June.



Mrs Blyth will start her maternity leave in May. Her role as Nurture Teacher in the Sunshine Room will be taken over by Miss Allan, who is currently undertaking the relevant training.

We were delighted to welcome Mrs Grant, our new Support for Learning Worker, to the team this week. Mrs Grant comes with lots of experience of working with a range of children, and will be a great addition to the school.



Mrs Grant's appointment takes the number of SfLWs in the school to **six** (you may recall at one point this year we were down at *three*). This extra provision allows us to allocate even more support to each class.

Looking ahead to next session, we will have two vacancies for permanent teaching staff. Recruitment of teachers is all done centrally at authority level, and will be worked on over the Spring Break. We hope to be able to tell you who our new teachers will be in May.

Attendance

Latecoming was noted in the previous newsletter. We have seen some slight improvement in this since then, but please remember that pupils should be at school by 08:45, and collected at 14:45.

Our attendance figures are closely monitored, and when they fall below certain levels (see below), further action may be required. This is Glasgow City Council policy, and we are duty bound to do this. It is worth remembering that most absences are included in these figures, including sickness and holidays within term time. Exceptions include appointments issued by the NHS and religious holidays.



98% attendance or more
95% - 97% attendance
90% - 94% attendance
80% - 89% attendance
Less than **80%**

above national average
in line with national average
may begin to impact attainment
letter sent home
may lead to visit from Education Liaison Officer

Water bottles

Please provide your child with a bottle which can be refilled with water throughout the day. It is essential that we all keep ourselves hydrated, but we cannot afford to continually give out disposable cups.



Using a refillable bottle is also better for the environment - **let's try to avoid single use plastic!**

Online safety

We have been receiving an increasing number of complaints from pupils and parents regarding inappropriate use of social media and online platforms.

The problems appear to be:

- The use of private or direct messaging to send abusive, threatening and intimidating messages
- Sending photos, copied from other social media accounts, which have been edited to cause humiliation and distress
- Sharing of gossip and misinformation



As these problems occur outwith the school day and environment, there are limits to what we can realistically be expected to deal with, so your support is invaluable. Could we please ask that you closely monitor your children while they are using their mobile devices, tablets and consoles.



← useful information

If you have any concerns about your child's online activity, the *Child Exploitation and Online Protection (CEOP)* website contains a wealth of information: www.ceop.police.uk

Thank you for your co-operation.

Toys etc

We know that children enjoy bringing their toys into school, but they often get lost or broken, causing lots of disappointment.

Therefore, we kindly ask that things like Lego, toy cars, action figures and other such items are left at home. This will save unnecessary upset and distraction.

Slime remains an incredibly popular pocket money treat, and we know many children enjoy making it themselves. However, it is now starting to cause damage to school property, including carpets.

Slime is therefore no longer allowed in school.



Dates for your diary

<i>School closes for Spring Break</i>	Friday 29 th March @ 14:15	
<i>Spring Break</i>	Monday 1 st – Friday 12 th April	
<i>Return to school</i>	Monday 15 th April 2019 @ 08:45	
<i>Parent Council Meeting</i>	Wednesday 17 th April @ 18:30	<i>new members wanted!</i>
<i>Easter Weekend</i>	Friday 19 th and Monday 22 nd April	
<i>Spring Disco</i>	Wednesday 1 st May	
<i>May Day</i>	Monday 6 th May	
<i>In-service Day (no pupils)</i>	Tuesday 7 th May	
<i>Parents' Evening</i>	Wednesday 22 nd May	
<i>May Weekend</i>	Friday 24 th and Monday 27 th May	
<i>Talent Show</i>	Friday 31 st May @ 13:30	<i>details to be confirmed</i>
<i>Parent Council Meeting & AGM</i>	Wednesday 5 th June @ 18:30	<i>new members wanted!</i>
<i>Sports Day</i>	Friday 7 th or 14 th June	<i>to be confirmed</i>
<i>P7 Leavers' Celebration</i>	Tuesday 18 th June	
<i>School closes for summer</i>	Friday 28 th June @ 12:45	

Until the next newsletter, please keep an eye out for letters and notes coming home. We will also communicate information via text message and Twitter (but please note we will not respond to private messages on Twitter).

Keep in touch...



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