



Newsletter

October 2021



Message from Head Teacher

Dear families,

Welcome to Term 2! The nights are fair drawing in, and there's a nip in the air, but we're back and ready to get on with teaching and learning.

The Scottish Government have announced that the COVID-19 safety measures we have in place should continue a while longer. The full statement can be read here:

<https://www.gov.scot/news/covid-19-safety-in-schools/>

These include, but are not limited to:

- Handwashing routines
- Staggered starts and breaks
- One-way system in the morning (*for the 08:45 start*)
- Staff to wear a face covering in communal areas and when moving through the building
- Maintaining at least 1m physical distancing from others
- Ensuring good ventilation by having windows and doors open

We appreciate how strange the current situation is. While society as a whole can enjoy a greater degree of normality, and do pretty much everything which was possible before COVID, schools are still bound by certain restrictions.

It is worth remembering that the purpose of this is to ensure continuity of education, and to keep everyone as safe as possible: staff, pupils and families.

If you have any questions or concerns, or there's something I can help with, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Stay safe and take care,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'Ain'.

Parent Council



Our Parent Council will be hosting their Annual General Meeting (AGM) on Tuesday 26th October at 18:00.

This will be held face-to-face, with appropriate physical distancing measures in place. Spaces are limited, but if you would like to attend, please sign-up at:

<https://bit.ly/3DPYLe6>

More information about the Parent Council can be found at:

<https://blogs.glowscotland.org.uk/gc/golfhill/parent-council/>

Golden Tickets



At the end of last term, we were delighted to re-introduce Golden Tickets. These are part of our *promoting positive relationships* strategy.

The Senior Leadership Team and Support for Learner Workers give *Golden Tickets* to pupils when they see things like our values being upheld, hard work, good manners, kindness, responsible acts, and general awesomeness!

The classes (one from P1-P4 / one from P5-P7) with the most Golden Tickets when they are tallied up are rewarded with an extra playtime.

Attendance



We have begun to monitor attendance more closely again.

The national average is 95% - 97% attendance (this is about 8 full days off a year). Anything less than that, especially below 85%, becomes worrying. If you struggle to get your child to school, speak to us so we can see what supports might be available.

That said, please continue to observe COVID isolation / testing guidance. Absence related to this is recorded differently.

Please also note that when someone has been sick or had diarrhoea, NHS advice is clear that they must not return to school for at least 48 hours after last occurrence.

Hallowe'en



We will be celebrating Halloween next Friday (29th October).

Children are welcome to come to school dressed up in their Halloween costumes, but there is no obligation to do so. Anyone choosing not to dress up may come in non-uniform. No money or donations are required: this is purely for fun!

For those children who do dress up, please note that **no accessories of any kind** should be brought to school, for example masks, swords, knives, wands, guns, tridents etc. Please don't go to trouble or expense in buying new costumes.

Classes will be able to undertake spooky activities throughout the day, and across the week.

Mr Morrow will be doing a special (virtual) Hallowe'en assembly on Thursday, and a virtual whole-school quiz is being organised by Miss Munro for Friday.

Due to the ongoing restrictions, there will be no evening disco. Please note, this was looked into but it proved to be a logistical nightmare! However, there can be small parties within classrooms. Some may opt for a movie afternoon.

A huge thank you to our Parent Council for giving us money to buy everyone a wee treat, and some new decorations.

If your children are going out guising or trick-or-treating over Halloween weekend, please bear in mind this advice from Police Scotland:

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Stay in well lit, local areas• Don't frighten others• Don't enter unknown houses• If a sign says 'no trick or treat', be respectful and move on• Be visible in the dark | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Ensure phones are charged• Tell parents/guardians where you'll be and when you'll be home• If you receive money, keep it safe and hidden• Wrap up warm and stay dry |
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Xpressions app



We continue to encourage all families to download the free *Groupcall Xpressions* app, which is available on all smartphones.

The app gives families an easy way to get updates and information from the school, and all you need to use it is the email address you have registered with us.

It doesn't cost us anything to send messages to the app, but when they are delivered via text, it can cost around £3.50 to message the whole school.

Thank you to everyone already signed up!

Dates for your diary

Hallowe'en celebrations

Friday 29th October (*pupils may wear fancy dress*)

Whitehill Christmas Fair

Saturday 4th December (*Golfhill has a stall!*)

School closes for Christmas

Wednesday 22nd December

Christmas and New Year holiday

Thu 23rd Dec – Tue 4th Jan

Pupils return to school

Wednesday 5th January

Mid-term break

Monday 14th and Tuesday 15th February

In-service Day (*no pupils*)

Wednesday 16th February



Contact us

Golfhill Primary School
280 Onslow Drive
Glasgow

Twitter: @1Golfhill

Website:



0141 554 772

headteacher@golfhill-pri.glasgow.sch.uk

Our values:

Respect

Safe

Equality