



Newsletter

November 2022



Message from Head Teacher

Dear families,

It seems forever since I last wrote a newsletter, but we've been keeping in touch in lots of different ways, including:

- Class newsletters
- Notes home
- Letters
- Text messages
- Emails
- Messaging via the *Groupcall Xpressions* app
- Social Media
- Links to our website (*including QR codes*)
- Open Afternoon
- Parents' Evening

We do our best to ensure you are kept up to date with school information. You can help us by making sure we have all the correct contact details for you. If you change phone number or email address, or are moving house, please let the office know straight away.

As the days grow shorter and the weather turns colder, we know it is hard to leave the comfort of our homes. However, you need to make sure that your children...

- i. Come to school (*unless, of course, they are genuinely unwell*)
- ii. Get to school **on time**



Remember, our school day runs from **08:45 – 14:45**



The start of the school day is vitally important, as routines, expectations, learning intentions and news are shared at this time. The expectation is that everyone lines up outside at **08:45**.

All lateness adds up, meaning that some children are regularly missing between **one hour** and **one day** of education each week. This inevitably affects attainment and progress.

At the end of the day, a number of pupils are often not collected on time. Please ensure arrangements are made to have your children collected at **14:45**.

On a nicer note, we're just about ready to mention Christmas... look out for a full festive schedule coming home very soon!

I hope you find the information contained in this newsletter useful. As always, if you have any concerns or questions, or if there's anything I can help with, please get in touch.



Yours,


Iain Morrow
Head Teacher

Our values:

Respect

Safe

Equality

Staffing and classes



Since returning in August, our school roll has continued to grow. We have been delighted to welcome new families from around the world, as well as a little closer to home.

We thank everyone who has chosen Golfhill for their children's education. Your support and trust are always appreciated.



Mrs Duff has now returned from maternity leave, and it's great to have her back, working in P6 alongside Ms Buchanan.

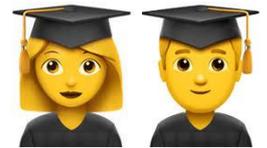


We are delighted to share that Mrs Blyth is expecting another baby, and will finish up for her maternity leave sometime in December.

Miss Ferguson will take over as teacher in P1. This will affect P7Golf, but we are working on a plan and will let the class know what is happening as soon as we can.

Over the next few months we will be welcoming student teachers across a range of classes.

We are happy to support the Universities of Dundee, Glasgow, Strathclyde and the West of Scotland by hosting student teachers, and helping develop the next generation of teachers.



Competition

For a while now, we have been asking our families to get registered for **Xpressions** and **ParentPay**. Thank you to everyone who has already done this.

Remember: if you download *Groupcall Xpressions* app (free from wherever you get your apps), we can send you messages free of charge. You can also send messages back to us!



ParentPay

ParentPay is the online platform for **ordering lunches**, and paying for school items. However, we will continue to accept cash for any trips, shows, donations etc for now.

Exception: *ParentPay* **must** be used for payment if your child attends the breakfast club in Whitehill, or is in P6 and P7 and does not receive Free School Meals.

To encourage everyone to sign-up for *Xpressions* **and** *ParentPay*, we are running a competition...

Everyone signed up to *Xpressions* **and** *ParentPay* by Friday 18th November will be entered into a draw to win a **£15 Aldi giftcard**.

So please get signed up, and good luck to everyone!

NB: If you need any help, speak to Mrs Trotman or Mrs McCrimmon in the school office.



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Financial Support Officer

We are delighted to let you know that we now have access to a Financial Support Officer.

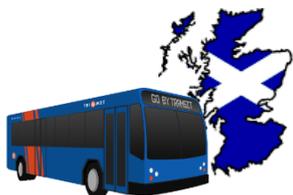
Marija Arbeitere, from Bridgeton Citizens Advice Bureau, is available to help all our families with a range of queries, including:

- Benefit entitlement
- Fuel support
- Debt arrears
- Employability programmes
- Consumer advice



Marija can be contacted, in total confidence, on 07564 726 309 or fiso@bridgetoncab.org.uk. She is available Mon to Fri, from 9am until 5pm, and is looking forward to hearing from you!

Free bus travel



All young people in Scotland aged 5 – 21 are now entitled to free bus travel using a valid National Entitlement Card.

The website freebus.scot has lots of information about free bus travel, how it works, how to apply, the benefits and some tips for travelling safely too.

At home-time... (a repeat request!)

Please let us know if someone different is collecting your child at home-time (for example, a family member we haven't met before, or if they're going on a play-date).

We know there are lots of friendship groups and family relationships across the school, but we just need to know who's collecting who. This keeps us right and everyone safe.



Similarly, if your child is to start walking home themselves, when previously they've been picked up, let us know that too.

Wellbeing (another repeat request!)

We have pupils at Golfhill with nut allergies.



Please try to ensure that playtime snacks and packed lunches do not contain any nuts.



Please provide your child with a full water bottle each day.

Staying hydrated is really important!

NB: this includes Kinder Buenos and anything with Nutella.

Remember that fizzy drinks, energy drinks and chewing gum **should never** be brought to school. We encourage healthy snacks where possible.

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Dogs in playground



We know a lot of our families have dogs as pets, and how loved they are.

Unfortunately, we need to ask that they are **not** brought into the playground.

Recently there have been incidents of fouling, and some of our pupils experience cynophobia (*fear of dogs*).

Thank you in advance for your support in this matter, and keeping our space safe for everyone.

Dates for your diary

<i>School closes for Christmas</i>	Thursday 22 nd December @ 14:15
<i>Christmas and New Year holiday</i>	Friday 23 rd December – Tuesday 3 rd January
<i>Pupils return to school</i>	Wednesday 4 th January
<i>Open Afternoon</i>	Friday 10 th February, from 13:45
<i>Mid-term break</i>	Monday 13 th and Tuesday 14 th February
<i>In-service Day (no pupils)</i>	Wednesday 15 th February
<i>Purple Friday</i>	Friday 24 th February (<i>wear purple to celebrate diversity</i>)
<i>Parents' Evening</i>	Thursday 30 th March
<i>School closes for Spring Break</i>	Friday 1 st April @ 14:15
<i>Spring Break</i>	Monday 3 rd – Friday 14 th April
<i>Pupils return to school</i>	Monday 17 th April
<i>May Day holiday</i>	Monday 1 st May
<i>Fun Week</i>	w/b: Mon 22 nd May
<i>In-service Day (no pupils)</i>	Thursday 25 th May
<i>May Weekend</i>	Friday 26 th and Monday 29 th May
<i>Schools closes for summer</i>	Friday 24 th June @ 12:45

Keep in touch...



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

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