



Newsletter

January 2023

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Message from Head Teacher

Dear families,

Welcome to Term 3! We hope everyone enjoyed the festive break, even if it already seems a distant memory.

As always, we have a busy term planned. Look out for class newsletters being uploaded over the next few days. These give a useful overview of the learning taking place across the school. NB: No paper copies will be issued.

We are trialling a slightly different format in an effort to ensure clarity and consistency in all classes. They can be found by navigating to the *Class newsletters* section of our website, or by scanning this QR code...



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

Wishing everyone all the very best for 2023,

Baby news

We are thrilled to let you know that Mrs Blyth gave birth to a beautiful daughter just before Christmas. Mum and baby are doing well, and we send them all the love!

And more lovely news... Ms Stewart, who has been teaching in P7Golf since August, is expecting her first child. She'll be with us until Spring Break, before going on maternity leave.



Some important reminders...

We have raised these points several times, but sometimes it is good to have everything in one place...

School hours

We operate from **08:45 – 14:45**. While this is unusual, it is not a new development.



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**. Latecoming will be formally recorded and monitored.

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

Some families rely on older siblings who attend Whitehill to do the collecting. However, they do not finish until after we do, so this is **not** a suitable option.

Allergies



Please remember that, due to a number of pupils with severe nut allergies, products containing nuts should not be brought into school. This includes the Kinder Bueno range and anything with Nutella.

Uniform

All pupils are expected to wear a uniform. We are flexible in our approach to this, being mindful of different preferences and the cost of the school day.

Our school colours are **navy** and **sky-blue**. Full information can be found in our uniform policy, which can be found in the Useful documents section of our website, or by scanning this QR code...



Please remember that **no** football colours (regardless of team or country) should be worn, and neither should football shoes with studs.

Some important reminders... (continued)



Dogs

Dogs should not be brought into the playground. We have pupils with a fear of dogs, and have had issues with fouling. We appreciate your help with this.

Car park



Our car park is for the use of staff only, and should not be used as a pick-up and drop-off facility. It is already incredibly busy, with staff from three establishments using it, and there is simply no room for more traffic.

Attendance



With support from our Home School Support Worker (formerly known as an *attendance officer*), we are closely monitoring attendance and latecoming.

The national average is 95% - 97% attendance, which equates to 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. Please be aware that persistent absences can, eventually, lead to legal proceedings being brought by Glasgow City Council.



That said, we do ask you to exercise common sense. If your child is ill, they should not come to school. They will just be sent home, and could infect others in the meantime, including members of staff.

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.

Passports

We are often asked to counter-sign passport applications. Mr Morrow is happy to do this, as long as **one** of your children has been at Golfhill for *at least two years*.



The easiest way to apply for a passport is online. More information can be found at: <https://www.gov.uk/browse/abroad/passports>

Xpressions app



We continue (after three years of asking!) 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 £3.60 to message the whole school.



Financial Inclusion Support Officer

Don't forget...! Marija Arbeitere, from Bridgeton Citizens Advice Bureau, is available to help all our families with a range of money matters.

She will be in Golfhill every Tuesday afternoon, from 13:30 – 15:00. Make an appointment via the office, contact Marija directly on 07564 726 309, or just drop in.

This is a great opportunity for everyone, especially during the cost of living crisis.

Dates for your diary



Open Afternoon	Friday 10 th February, from 13:45
Midterm break	Mon 13 th and Tue 14 th February
In-service Day	Wednesday 15 th February
Purple Friday	Friday 24 th February (<i>wear purple to celebrate diversity</i>)
Parents' Evening	Thursday 30 th March
Close for Spring Break	Friday 31 st March @ 14:15
Spring Break	Mon 3 rd – Fri 14 th April
Re-open for Term 4	Monday 17 th April @ 08:45

Our values:

Respect

Safe

Equality