



Newsletter

October 2023



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Message from Head Teacher

Dear families,

Can you believe we're into October? There's definitely a crisp, autumnal feeling in the air!

There's been lots to celebrate since returning to school after summer, including:

- New pupils across the school settling in well
- Successful *Open Afternoon*
- Trips to Alexandra Park Sports Hub
- The polytunnel getting repaired (thanks to Parent Council!)
- P7 working with St Denis' Primary on anti-sectarianism
- Range of after-school clubs (dance, football, golf)



Next week, we are delighted to host our first Parents' Evening of the year. As well as being an opportunity to speak to your child(ren)'s teacher, we will have the following...

Mrs Trotman and Mrs McCrimmon will be on hand to offer support and advice on using ParentPay.

We need more families to be ordering school lunches in advance via this platform.



You could get help with your school-aged childcare costs



Scan QR to find out more

School Age Childcare Project

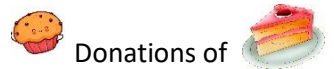
Karen and Michael from Glasgow City Council will be here to offer advice and support around accessing School-Aged Childcare Costs.

The 2023 Golfhill Homework Referendum
(because we love a referendum in Scotland!)

Read arguments for and against homework, then cast your vote for if we should have it!



Tea, coffee and treats provided by our fabulous P7 families.



Donations of homebaking gratefully received!

Proceeds will go towards our Christmas panto trip!
(more info to follow)

I hope you find the information contained in this newsletter useful. If you have any concerns or questions, or if there's anything I can help with, please do not hesitate to contact me.



Yours,

Iain Morrow
Iain Morrow
Head Teacher

Our values:

Respect

Safe

Equality

Communication

We know from our most recent Family Survey that the majority of our families are happy with our communication, and the various methods we use to get information to you.



As we move further towards more sustainable practices, we will still issue paper newsletters, and send a range of letters and notes home, but larger documents will be put on our website. These will be signposted via links and QR codes.

You can help us by ensuring we have all your latest phone numbers, email addresses, and, if you move house, up-to-date home addresses.

School hours

Our school day runs 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.

We expect everyone to line up outside when the bell rings at **08:45**. Good timekeeping is an essential skill for learning, life and work.



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, as they do not finish until *after* we do, **this is not a suitable option**.

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).

Attendance

The current average attendance for the school is **91.5%**.

A number of families are choosing to take holidays in term-time. We do understand the reasons for this, and offer no judgement or penalty. However, we are obliged to remind everyone that this should be avoided, and attendance at school is essential.

Also, due to latecoming, some children are now regularly missing between one hour and one day of education each week. This affects attainment, progress and wellbeing.

NB: We appreciate a level of irony as we talk about this, due to the industrial action which has taken place this year. These days, however, do not affect attendance statistics.



Our values:

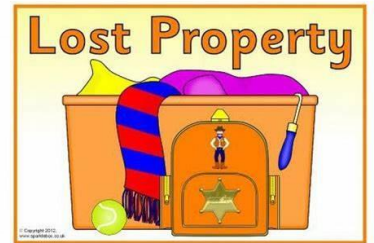
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Names / labels on personal items

Our pupils come to us with a myriad different talents and abilities, and impress us every day with their learning. However, one major skill which could be better across the school is... **looking after their belongings!**



You can help us with this by...

- labelling everything, especially items of clothing (*as so many things look the same*)
- reminding your child(ren) to place things where they belong
- encouraging them to remember where they've left items (*jackets, jumpers, lunch boxes etc*)
- asking them to check they leave school each day with everything they arrived with

Halloween

We will be enjoying Halloween celebrations as soon as we return from the October Week holiday.



The Parent Council have organised special Halloween discos, for the evening of **Monday 23rd October:**

- ☠ P1 – P3, 18:00 – 19:00
- ☠ P4 – P7, 19:15 – 20:15
- ☠ £2 per ticket, or £5 for family of 3 or more (*available from school office*)

We will be celebrating Halloween in school on **Friday 27th October.**

Children are welcome to come to school dressed up in their Halloween costumes, but there is no obligation to do so. Anyone opting not to dress up may come in non-uniform.

NB: Costumes and make-up will need to be done at home.

Those who do dress up must note that **no accessories** of any kind are allowed in school, including masks, swords, knives, wands, guns, tridents etc. This helps prevent loss and injury.

There will be spooky activities throughout the day, including a virtual quiz and class parties.

School photographer



Our photographer visited us on Monday 2nd October. Everyone looked wonderful in their school colours and fresh haircuts!

We will get the proofs out to families as soon as we can.

NB: P1 had an extra photograph taken last month, for publication in the *Glasgow Times* newspaper. This will be published sometime in week beginning Monday 6th November.

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Wellbeing – important reminder (*again!*)

We have pupils at Golfhill with nut allergies.



Please 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.

Being outdoors



Gentle reminder that we aim to get our pupils outdoors as much as possible. This will inevitably mean that pupils (and staff!) will sometimes be out in the rain, so please provide your child with a waterproof jacket and appropriate footwear.

The weather in Glasgow is unpredictable, especially as we get through autumn and winter, so regardless of the forecast, we recommend coming prepared for all seasons.



Dates for your diary

<i>In-service Day</i> (no pupils)	Friday 13 th October
<i>October Week</i>	Monday 16 th – Friday 20 st October
<i>Hallowe'en celebrations</i>	Friday 27 th October (<i>pupils may wear fancy dress</i>)
<i>Flu vaccinations</i>	Friday 10 th November
<i>School closes for Christmas</i>	Friday 22 nd December @ 14:15
<i>Christmas and New Year holiday</i>	Monday 25 th December – Friday 5 th January
<i>Pupils return to school</i>	Monday 8 th January

Keep in touch...



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