



# Newsletter

## January 2024

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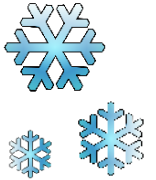
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### Message from Head Teacher



Happy New Year! We hope everyone had a lovely festive season and enjoyed the break. The weather has certainly been appropriately wintry, but despite the snow, wind, rain and frost, the days are slowly getting longer and brighter days are ahead.



Last term was really busy, but also hugely successful, with lots of great things going on!

Our Christmas Fair made more money than ever before, raising over £1200 for school funds. There was a terrific buzz around the school, reflecting yet again the support and vibrancy of our community.

The *Reverse Advent Calendar* (food bank collection) resulted in two van-loads of produce being collected by the Everlasting Food Bank on Whitehill Street. Thank you so much to everyone who donated items to this.



Primary 1 shone brightly as the stars of our Nativity, *A Midwife Crisis*. The weeks of rehearsals, learning scripts, songs and choreography really paid off! P2 also did a fabulous job as the chorus. Thank you to all the staff involved, particularly Mrs Macleod.

Our first-ever trip to the panto – Snow White @ The King’s Theatre – was an absolute triumph. It couldn’t have gone more smoothly, and everyone who attended had a ball! The time spent at assemblies leading up to it, learning about panto conventions, really paid off. Oh yes it did! It was a fabulous show, and we are so happy we organised it.



Before the holidays, the communal areas of the school were given a fresh coat of paint, and we ordered new display boards, so everything is looking smarter and crisper. Really happy with it!

As we move into the new term, classes across the school will be working towards our Scotland Showcase, a concert for everyone, celebrating our wonderful country. Look out for details coming soon...



In the meantime, 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, with best wishes for 2024,

*Iain*  
Iain Morrow

Our values:

Respect

Safe

Equality

## Attendance and latecoming

The average attendance across the school between August and December was **89.96%**.



This is down from the last time we published a figure, and below the average for Glasgow.

A number of families are taking holidays in term-time. We understand the reasons for this, and offer no judgement or penalty. However, we need to remind everyone that this should be avoided, and attendance at school is essential for attainment, progress and well-being.

From next week, we will re-start sending out letters to families where attendance has fallen below certain thresholds.



**8:45**

Also, due to latecoming, some children are now regularly missing between one hour and one day of education each week. Our school hours are **08:45 – 14:45**.

At the end of the day, a number of pupils are still 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.

Finally, 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, to keep us right and everyone safe.

## Names / labels on personal items (*another plea!*)

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

NB: Playground staff are forever asking pupils to put their jackets on outside, but it's a losing battle, whatever the weather. We really do try though!

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## Wellbeing

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 (both of which contain hazelnuts).

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

## 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.



## Being outdoors



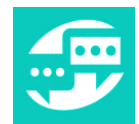
Gentle reminder that we aim to get our pupils outdoors as much as possible. This will inevitably mean that pupils (and staff!) will sometimes be out in the rain (or sleet, snow etc), so please provide your child with a waterproof jacket and appropriate footwear.

The weather in Glasgow is always unpredictable, so regardless of the forecast, we recommend coming prepared for all seasons.



## Xpressions app

We continue (after four 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, and you can reply directly to us from it. When messages are delivered via standard text message, it can cost over £3.50 to message the whole school.

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## Dates for your diary

<i>Parent Council meeting</i>	Thursday 25 <sup>th</sup> January @ 19:00 ( <i>all welcome</i> )
<i>Open Afternoon</i>	Friday 9 <sup>th</sup> February from 13:45
<i>Mid-term break</i>	Monday 12 <sup>th</sup> and Tuesday 13 <sup>th</sup> February
<i>In-service Day</i> (no pupils)	Wednesday 14 <sup>th</sup> February
<i>Purple Friday</i>	Friday 23 <sup>rd</sup> February ( <i>wear purple to celebrate diversity</i> )
<i>World Book Day</i>	Thursday 7 <sup>th</sup> March
<i>Scotland Showcase</i>	Wednesday 13 <sup>th</sup> March
<i>Parent Council meeting</i>	Thursday 14 <sup>th</sup> March @ 19:00 ( <i>all welcome</i> )
<i>Parents' Evening</i>	Wednesday 27 <sup>th</sup> March
<i>School closes for Spring Break</i>	Thursday 28 <sup>th</sup> March @ 14:15
<i>Spring Break</i>	Friday 29 <sup>th</sup> March – Friday 12 <sup>th</sup> April
<i>Pupils return to school</i>	Monday 15 <sup>th</sup> April @ 08:45
<i>In-service Day</i> (no pupils)	Thursday 2 <sup>nd</sup> May
<i>May Day holiday</i>	Monday 6 <sup>th</sup> May
<i>May Weekend</i>	Friday 24 <sup>th</sup> and Monday 27 <sup>th</sup> May
<i>Reports issued</i>	week beginning: Mon 24 <sup>th</sup> June
<i>School closes for summer</i>	Wednesday 26 <sup>th</sup> June @ 12:45
<i>School re-opens to pupils</i>	Wednesday 14 <sup>th</sup> August @ 08:45

## Keep in touch...



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

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