



# Newsletter

## November 2024

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### Message from Head Teacher

Dear families,

Temperatures are dropping, and it's barely light before it's dark again... welcome back to winter in Scotland!

But despite the frost and the fog, we are warmly embracing the upcoming festive season, and preparations are well underway.



A list of key Christmas dates was issued on Nov 12<sup>th</sup>, and is also available on our website. We also sent out information about our Christmas Fair, being held on **Friday 29<sup>th</sup> November**.

This is always a highlight of our annual calendar, but we cannot do it without you, so thank you in advance for your help and support. We look forward to welcoming you!

In other very exciting news, we are delighted to announce our **new school values**...!

We started this process during our Parents' Evenings before the October Week holiday, when families were presented with 60 possible values to vote on. The top 20 were then presented to staff to make their choices, before a final ten were voted upon by the pupils...

The results, and our new values, are: **Acceptance Kindness Respect**



Thank you to everyone across our school community for being part of this refresh. We will now start of the process of incorporating these into all our displays and documentation.

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.

I wish you and your family all the best for the upcoming season and festivities!



Yours,  
*Iain Morrow*  
Iain Morrow  
Head Teacher

Our values:

**Acceptance Kindness Respect**

## Nurture

Between January and June, we introduced the six Nurture Principles to our pupils (one a month during assembly).

Pupils were then set a challenge to produce versions specifically for Golfhill, using child-friendly language. The work that went into this was phenomenal, with children having incredibly rich discussions in their classes.



It was all co-ordinated by our wonderful DHT, Miss Kirkland, who then set one final challenge: to design a poster to display our Nurture Principles.

The final version took inspiration from the work produced by three P6 pupils (ER, JK and SJ), and will be displayed around the school...



Our values:

Acceptance

Kindness

Respect

## Attendance



We continue to monitor attendance figures, and where necessary, contact families to highlight any concerns.

Our current average attendance across the whole school is: **91%**

Broken down by class, the average attendances are:

**P1: 92%**      **P2: 89%**      **P3: 90%**      **P4: 92%**  
**P5: 93%**      **P6: 92%**      **P7: 91%**

The national average is 95% - 97% attendance, which equates to about 8 full days off a year. Anything less than that, especially below 85%, can become worrying.

If you struggle to get your child to school, speak to us so we can work together to see what supports or strategies might be available.



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.



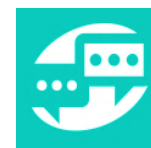
Please also note that when someone has been sick or had diarrhoea, NHS advice is clear that they must not return to school for **at least 48 hours** after the last occurrence.



Finally, while we are obliged to discourage it, we are sympathetic to families who take holidays during term-time. We know that the cost differences can be substantial. However, if you do make this choice, please note that no school work will be provided.

## Groupcall / Xpressions

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. Another great feature is that you can actually message 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.



That might not seem a lot, but it all adds up, and with budgets stretched as much as they are, every penny saved makes a difference!

Please speak to our fabulous office staff if you have any questions about this.

*Our values:*

Acceptance

Kindness

Respect

## Parents' Evening

Average attendance at the Parents' Evenings held in October was **82%** (NB: this figure excludes anyone who requested an alternative arrangement in advance).

Attendance per class ranged from 54% to 90%.

The next Parents' Evening will take place on Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> April, from 15:30 – 20:30.

We hope to see even more of you there, as we love sharing all the great work being done.



## Dates for your diary

<i>Christmas Fair</i>	Friday 29 <sup>th</sup> November
<i>Trip to pantomime (Peter Pan)</i>	Wednesday 18 <sup>th</sup> December
<i>School closes for Christmas</i>	Friday 20 <sup>th</sup> December @ 14:15
<i>Christmas and New Year holiday</i>	Monday 23 <sup>rd</sup> December – Friday 3 <sup>rd</sup> January
<i>Pupils return to school</i>	Monday 6 <sup>th</sup> January
<i>Open Afternoon</i>	Friday 14 <sup>th</sup> February from 13:45
<i>Mid-term break</i>	Monday 17 <sup>th</sup> and Tuesday 18 <sup>th</sup> February
<i>In-service Day (no pupils)</i>	Wednesday 19 <sup>th</sup> February
<i>Purple Friday</i>	Friday 28 <sup>th</sup> February ( <i>wear purple to celebrate diversity</i> )
<i>World Book Day</i>	Thursday 6 <sup>th</sup> March
<i>Parents' Evening</i>	Thursday 3 <sup>rd</sup> April
<i>School closes for Spring Break</i>	Friday 4 <sup>th</sup> April @ 14:15
<i>Spring Break</i>	Monday 7 <sup>th</sup> April – Monday 21 <sup>st</sup> April
<i>Pupils return to school</i>	Tuesday 22 <sup>nd</sup> April
<i>May Day holiday</i>	Monday 5 <sup>th</sup> May
<i>In-service Day (no pupils)</i>	Thursday 22 <sup>nd</sup> May
<i>May Weekend</i>	Friday 23 <sup>rd</sup> and Monday 26 <sup>th</sup> May
<i>Reports issued</i>	week beginning Mon 23 <sup>rd</sup> June
<i>Schools closes for summer</i>	Wednesday 25 <sup>th</sup> June @ 12:45



Our values:

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Respect