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| Making Friends | Eco Friendly | Responsible | Respect | Yes we can! | Learning Outdoors | Enjoy a healthy lifestyle | Exciting Opportunities |
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23 November 2020

Dear Parents/Carers,

As Glasgow is now under Tier 4 restrictions until 11 December, I hope you find the following updates and information useful.

As always, if you have any questions or require any further information, don't hesitate to get in touch. You can call the school office to make an appointment to speak to me or any member of the school leadership team. Alternatively you can email me at chaddock@merrylee-pri.glasgow.sch.uk

Kind regards,

Colette Haddock

Head Teacher

Staff News

Many congratulations to Mrs Mort (formerly Miss Lang) and Mrs Kearney-Sleigh (formerly Mrs Smith) who were finally able to get married after having to postpone their planned wedding celebrations during lockdown. We wish Mrs Mort and Mrs Kearney-Sleigh every happiness for the future.

Congratulations also to Mrs Williams and her husband who are looking forward to a new baby brother or sister for their son Charlie in February.

It is lovely to be able to share some good news, especially at this challenging time.

Covid-19 update

We continue to follow all government and public health guidance in ensuring the safety and wellbeing of our school community. This includes regular hand washing, making sure all the classrooms are well ventilated and getting the children outdoors as much as possible. While we still encourage pupils to bring only what they need to school, please ensure your child is warmly dressed and has a waterproof jacket, preferably with a hood. Pupils are permitted to wear a non-uniform hoodie or jumper to wear in the classroom if they are cold. Please make sure everything is clearly labelled with your child's full name.

Under Tier 4 restrictions indoor PE is temporarily on hold. Classes will continue to have outdoor PE, usually on their outdoor day.

Please wear a face covering when you are dropping off or picking up your child before and after school.

If your child or anyone in your household has symptoms, then you must all self-isolate for 14 days or until a negative test result. If your child is identified as a close contact, they should self-isolate for 14 days even if they do not have symptoms or have a negative test result. Please inform the school office and we will arrange for a home learning pack to be available.

If your child tests positive, please inform the school immediately as we need to inform public health who will initiate any necessary contact tracing procedures. Please note that all personal information is treated confidentially.

Car Free Zone

Please remember that car free restrictions are in place from 8.30 until 9.15am each morning and from 2.30 until 3.15pm each afternoon. You should not drive or park in the area during these times unless you have a resident permit or blue badge. If you are parking in any of the surrounding streets, please be considerate to our neighbours around Merrylee. We have had reports of cars using private driveways to make turns, particularly at Mochrum Road. The community police will continue to be in the area when they can to support us in keeping our children safe during the restricted times. These restrictions are in place as a city wide initiative to provide spaces for people and to help keep our children safe travelling to and from school. Your support and cooperation in this is greatly appreciated.

Children In Need

Thank you to everyone who took part in this fundraising event. Thanks to your generosity our final total is £565.50. I am sure you will agree this is a fantastic amount of money which will help support children in need.

Digital Update

All of our P7 pupils now have their individual i-pads. They are already making excellent use of a number of apps and the accessibility features to enhance their learning. As part of the council initiative, all P1-6 classes will also be provided with a set of shared i-pads which we are expecting in the next week or so. These will be used in class to develop digital skills and also to use apps and features to enhance the learning experiences of our children.

Winter Wonderland

As we approach the festive season, the Parents' Association are excitedly making preparations to transform Merrylee into a Winter Wonderland. Many thanks for your support in all of these efforts. It is so encouraging to see our parent community continuing to find ways to be involved in the life of the school despite the restrictions. Don't forget to hand in any donations for the Festive Hampers into the school office. Please leave any donations clearly labelled for the hamper outside the office. All pupils will be entered into the prize draw.

Christmas Lunch – Wednesday 9 December

Christmas lunch will be served on Wednesday 9 December. We are still unable to accept cash payments in school so payment for children in P5-7 must be made by bank transfer (unless your child is entitled to a free school meal) using your child's unique reference number for lunches. The unique reference number is the same number used to pay for school lunches. If you have not made payment for lunches before, the information can be obtained by emailing the school office at pmcgrory@merrylee-pri.glasgow.sch.uk

All orders for Christmas lunch must be made through your Parentpay account. Please indicate whether a vegetarian option is required. There is no payment required for children in P1-4 or if your child is entitled to a free school meal. All orders must be made by **Friday 4 December**.

If your child is not having a Christmas lunch, please provide a packed lunch as it won't be possible to make sandwiches etc as an alternative. If your child is having a packed lunch, they will have it in the hall with their class as usual.

School Office

While we appreciate that there may be the odd occasion when your child does forget something, please try to ensure your child comes to school with everything they may need, including a waterproof jacket. A number of parents have been dropping off children's belongings at the school office. This places an additional burden on our

office staff as they then have to go to that child's class with the jacket, lunch box, water bottle or whatever it happens to be. Again, contact with others should be as minimal as possible, particularly as some staff do have underlying health conditions putting them at greater risk.

Christmas Cards

Regretfully, it won't be possible for children to exchange Christmas cards in school at this time.

Lost Property

Lost property is stored at the community entrance. You are able to access this at the end of the school day to reclaim any items. Please help us to return belongings by ensuring everything is clearly labelled. Any unclaimed items will be donated to the Keeping Glasgow Warm campaign at the end of this month and again before we close for the Christmas holidays so please make sure you check for any of your child's belongings.

Dates for your diary

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| Monday 30 November | St Andrew's Day – pupils may wish to wear something tartan |
| Week beginning 7.12.20 | Online Theatre Production for P1, P2 & P3/2 Special visitor for P1 classes |
| Wednesday 9 December | School Christmas Lunch |
| Thursday 10 December | Flu Vaccinations for pupils |
| Friday 11 December | Save the Children Christmas Jumper Day (pupils/staff are invited to wear a Christmas jumper for a small donation, details to follow) |
| Week beginning 14.12.20 | Christmas movie/party afternoons * |
| 18.12.20 | Christmas Hamper Prize Draw |
| Tuesday 22 December | School closes at 2.30pm for holidays |
| Wednesday 6 January | Pupils return |

* Depending on the latest government guidelines for schools, classes will make their own individual arrangements. We will provide some treats such as popcorn, funsize sweets and juice for the movie afternoons. If you would prefer to provide your own alternative treat, please let me know.