

Making Friends	Eco Friendly	Responsible	Respect	Yes we can!	Learning Outdoors	Enjoy a healthy lifestyle
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August 2021

Dear Parents/Carers,

I would like to take this opportunity to welcome all of our children back to school after the summer holidays. As you will be aware, many of the restrictions are remaining in place for schools for six weeks but hopefully we can look forward to a gradual return to normal. I will continue to keep you updated with the current guidance for schools as and when things change.

All classes have a designated meeting area in the morning on the pitch or outside their classroom door and are already becoming confident with the routines and procedures. Children can enter the school by the gates at the far end of the pitch beside the tennis club car park or by the lane. May I respectfully remind you to leave the school grounds and surrounding area immediately after dropping off and picking up your child as it becomes congested very quickly. Please do not linger to chat with other parents as it is difficult for some of our children to make their way safely through to the playground. Merrylee staff are present in the morning to assist children in getting to class so you can leave safe in the knowledge that your child will be looked after. Our Primary 7 pupils are also looking forward to some buddying responsibilities and will be on hand to support our new P1s. Parents should continue to wear a face covering if you are coming into the school grounds or are waiting to collect your child.

Please be aware that there are traffic restrictions in place outside the school at drop off and pick up times as part of Glasgow's safe travel to school programme. Please encourage your children to walk or cycle to school. The bike shed is opened at 8am and locked at 9.10am each morning. It is opened again between 3 and 3.30pm each day. The head of the after school care in Merrylee has access to the code should your child be in attendance there. As there are times when the shed is open and unattended I recommend that your child uses a bike lock. The school cannot be held responsible for any loss or damage to property.

Each class continues to have a designated entrance and exit, stairs and toilets. Breaks and lunch times are also staggered. Good hygiene habits continue to be in place with handwashing etc. Pupils are permitted to bring a school bag and personal items such as stationery to use in the classroom. Please ensure your child comes to school with everything they may need, including a waterproof jacket. All school uniform and personal items should be clearly labelled with your child's full name and class. Please encourage your child to take responsibility for their belongings. Lost property is stored at the community entrance.

Staff News

We are delighted to welcome back Mrs Yacomine (formerly Miss Mellon) following her successful secondment to Glasgow's Improvement Challenge team. Mrs Yacomine will be working in P2a with Miss Queen for part of the time and also supporting many of our pupils and classes across the school.

Mrs Whyte (formerly Miss Shearer) is working in collaboration with Mrs Timoney in P1c for part of the week. Mrs Timoney is our Digital Leader of Learning and provides valuable support for our teachers and pupils in using digital technologies to enhance teaching and learning.

Mrs Mort is looking forward to getting to know many of our pupils in her role to support health and wellbeing across the school. She will be working with groups of children in a variety of creative ways to develop a wide range of skills and a sense of wellbeing.

I would also like to extend a very warm welcome to Miss Imray who is covering Mrs Williams' maternity leave. Miss Imray will be working across P1-3 and is looking forward to getting to know our Merrylee pupils and families.

In personal news, congratulations to Mrs Scott who had a little baby girl during the holidays. Both mum and baby are doing well. Congratulations also to Mrs Whyte who is expecting a baby in December. Lovely news for both families.

Home and School Communication

Please ensure you have downloaded the Seesaw family app. Seesaw allows teachers to share information with you about your child's learning and experiences in school as well as class information. Please note that as Seesaw is an online app, any communication you send appears as a notification so please always try to do so within working hours. Teachers will endeavour to respond to any communication during working hours if needed, but please be aware that there may be times when no response is required. Our preferred communication for your child's class teacher is through Seesaw as teachers, like many other professions, already receive a vast amount of information (and junk mail) by email and it is very easy to miss an important communication. Seesaw is much more accessible and streamlined.

Any information about absences or appointments should be directed to the absence line or school office as appropriate. If you have concerns about an aspect of your child's learning, progress or wellbeing, please email myself, Miss Kirk or Miss McElhone for advice. We will also be able to arrange telephone appointments if required. Any school procedural enquiries should be directed to me.

Our school catering Fuel Zone offer a choice of three options each day and menus run on a three-weekly cycle, allowing pupils to experience a variety of meals. They can also cater to specific dietary requirements including Halal, vegetarian (by request) and special medical diets (please inform catering staff). All primary 1-4 pupils can enjoy lunch absolutely free, while primaries 5-7 can receive a three course meal with a drink for £1.90. This can be paid to the catering manager in advance or brought in daily by your child.

Fuel Zones also provide a **Breakfast Club** from 8am where pupils can start their day with cereal, toast with spread and/or jam, a piece of fruit and fruit juice. For those not currently entitled to a standard free school meal, including P1 to P4, there is a small charge of £2 per day. For siblings, the charge is £2 for the oldest child and £1 for subsequent children. This is a drop in service so advance booking is not required.

Your child may be **entitled to a clothing grant and or free school meals**. Please do not hesitate to apply. Information can be found on Glasgow City Council website. Not only will families benefit from any grants received, but the number of successful applications by families also benefits school staffing and budgets.

Snacks/water Please ensure that your child has a **water bottle**; clearly marked with their name. This should be taken home at the end of each day for cleaning. The water can be topped up with fresh drinking water from the taps in every classroom. Please do not send juice as an alternative to water. Your child is encouraged to bring at least one piece of fruit each day and many classes will stop for a fruit break. Snacks for interval times should also be healthy.

Allergies Please note that snacks containing nuts are not allowed in school. This includes Nutella spread, peanut butter and many snack bars. Please check labels carefully.

Medication If your child requires prescribed medication during the course of the school day, please contact the school office. You will be required to complete a form giving us permission and instruction. Non-

prescribed medication cannot be administered by staff. No child should carry medication in their bag, with the exception of inhalers.

Outdoor learning and play In Merrylee we strongly believe in the huge benefits of being outdoors. Every class will have an identified outdoor day. The teacher will share this with you as soon as possible. There will also be other occasions when your child will learn outdoors including outdoor PE. Please ensure your child has a warm rain jacket as play will also be outdoors in all weathers unless it is deemed unsafe.

I hope that the information in this newsletter is helpful. I will continue to communicate any changes or updates to guidance for schools as it becomes available.

Thank you, as always, for your continued support. Please do not hesitate to get in touch if you have any concerns or wish to discuss any matter.

Colette Haddock

Head Teacher

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Miss Kirk (DHT P1-4)

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Miss McElhone (DHT P5-7)

gw14mcelhonejulianne@glow.ea.glasgow.sch.uk

School office

0141 637 6798 (office hours 8am-4pm)

Absence line

0141 287 0039



MERRYLEE