

August 2022



Dear Parents/Carers,

I would like to take this opportunity to welcome all of our children back to school after the summer holidays.

All classes have a designated meeting area in the morning on the pitch or outside their classroom door and are quickly 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 making it 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.



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 School Streets campaign. 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.

### School Day

We no longer have staggered breaks and lunches. All children can enjoy their breaks together using a variety of areas within the school grounds.

9am start of school day (designated area for lining up)

10.30-10.45 morning interval

12.15 – 1.10pm lunch

3.10 end of school day

- P1 dismiss from the main front door
- P2 dismiss from the community door
- P3-7 are dismissed to the back of the school (please arrange a meeting point with your child)

Each class continues to have a designated entrance and exit, stairs and toilets. 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. We respectfully request that you provide your child with a pair of indoor shoes to change into. This helps to keep our classroom carpets clean and safe for sitting on for class activities. 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 said a fond farewell to Mrs Kidd, Mrs Scullion, Mr McTaggart, Mrs Boyle and Mrs Christie at the end of the summer term. We wish them well in their new roles. A warm welcome back to Mrs Scott following her maternity leave and congratulations also to Mrs Yacomine who is expecting a baby in January. Lovely news for her family.

### **Home and School Communication**

Please ensure you have downloaded the Seesaw app. Seesaw allows teachers to share information with you about your child's learning and experiences in school as well as class information.

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 or meetings 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 1-5 pupils can enjoy lunch absolutely free, while primaries 6-7 can receive a three course meal with a drink for £1.90. All meals are selected and paid for through Parentpay. Meal selections can be made up to three weeks in advance.

Fuel Zone 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 P5, 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** We have a number of pupils and staff with severe nut 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 (see below). 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. Shoes can at times become wet or muddy so please provide a pair of shoes to wear indoors. An old pair of trainers or slip on sandshoes are ideal. Slippers are not suitable.

### Outdoor Days

- Mondays P6
- Tuesdays P4
- Wednesdays P2 P3 P3/2
- Thursdays P5
- Fridays P1 P7

### Mobile Phones

We have made a change to our school procedures in regard to pupil use of mobile phones in school. If your child brings a phone to school, it will be collected at the start of each day and stored safely in the school office. Phones will be handed back at the end of the day. This is in the interests of safeguarding all of our pupils.

I hope that that the information in this newsletter is helpful. Please see below for dates for your diary.

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

[chaddock@merrylee-pri.glasgow.sch.uk](mailto:chaddock@merrylee-pri.glasgow.sch.uk)

Miss Kirk (DHT P1-4) [gw15kirkcatriona@glow.ea.glasgow.sch.uk](mailto:gw15kirkcatriona@glow.ea.glasgow.sch.uk)

Miss McElhone (DHT P5-7) [gw14mcelhonejulianne@glow.ea.glasgow.sch.uk](mailto:gw14mcelhonejulianne@glow.ea.glasgow.sch.uk)

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

Absence line 0141 287 0039

**Dates for your diary** (many more to come!)

Monday 22 August	P7b swimming block to start @ Bellahouston (Mondays)
Saturday 27 August	10-12 PA Summer Fair (more information to come)
Wednesday 31 August	Meet the teacher (details to follow)
Saturday 3 September	Newlands Park fete
Monday 5 September	Hillpark Parent Council
Monday 12 September	Merrylee Parent Council/Parent Association AGM
Wednesday 14 September	P4a visit to Emirates – Tennis, Davis Cup
Friday 23 September	Holiday
Monday 26 September	Holiday
Wednesday 5 October	Hillpark P5-7 Parent Information Evening @ Hillpark Secondary
Friday 14 October	In-service day
17-21 October	Holiday – October week
Tuesday 8 November	Parent/Teacher consultations
Thursday 17 November	Parent/Teacher consultations

