

Making Friends	Eco Friendly	Responsible	Respect	Yes we can!	Learning Outdoors	Enjoy a healthy lifestyle
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October 2022



Dear Parents/Carers,

It is hard to believe we are already approaching the end of the first term and looking forward to the October break. It has been a busy term with lots of trips, clubs and exciting learning opportunities being enjoyed. We enjoyed a fantastic Summer fair which was so well attended by our school and local community. Thank you to the PA for organising and to everyone who came along to enjoy a great event in the sunshine! Plans for the Christmas Fair are already underway so please save the date in your calendar.

Our P7 buddies continue to do an amazing job getting to know and supporting our P1s; meeting them every morning and enjoying time with them at breaks. All of our children are enjoying our fabulous school grounds at break times and during outdoor days. It is lovely to see how busy and vibrant our school environment is. The pitch, as always, continues to be the main focus but children can also enjoy the Trim Trail and garden area as well as the quiet area beside the Urban Jungle. Please remember to make sure your child always has a warm, waterproof jacket, labelled with their name, so that they can continue to enjoy the outdoors in all weathers. Shoes can become wet or muddy so please also provide a pair of shoes to wear indoors. An old pair of trainers or slip on sandals are ideal. Slippers are not suitable.

Staff News

There have been a few changes to our staff team since we returned in August. We welcomed back Mrs Scullion who was successfully appointed as a Support for Learning Worker following Mrs Kidd's retirement. Miss McElhone took up her new post last week as Acting Head Teacher. Her position at Merrylee has been advertised and we hope to appoint a replacement for Miss McElhone soon. We are also looking forward to welcoming back Mrs Whyte in December following her maternity leave. Congratulations also to Mrs Mort who is expecting a baby at the end of March; lovely news for her and her family.

Merrylee Bike Bus

The bike bus to Merrylee Primary is on! Many thanks to parents for organising a bike bus to school. This encourages safe and sustainable travel to school and I hope that many of our pupils will be able to take advantage of this opportunity. The initial travel route meets on Fridays at the gate of the play park in Newlands Park at 8.30am with an additional route from Old Castle Road to be added soon. If you'd like more information contact merryleebikebus@gmail.com and/or on WhatsApp <https://chat.whatsapp.com/JgJp0XgeQg71GLg6LQubPY>



Please respect the traffic restrictions in place outside the school at drop off and pick up times as part of Glasgow's School Streets campaign and 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.

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.

Cost of the School Day

You will see from the presentation shared at the Parent Council AGM that there are a number of school initiatives to support our school community in managing the cost of the school day which is particularly relevant in the current challenging financial climate. For example, the Parent Association organise regular themed clothing swaps such as the recent outdoor clothing rail which was very successful. Thank you to everyone who organised and donated. A Halloween costume rail is coming soon so if you have any outgrown costumes or are looking for a costume for your child, please check out the rail at the main entrance where you can leave donations or pick up a preloved costume, perhaps in preparation for the first school Halloween disco since 2019!

We also have lots of good quality, preloved school uniform that we are in the process of organising to be available all year round. Please help us to be eco friendly and take advantage of this to reuse and recycle school uniform before going out to buy anything new. An area will be set up soon at the community entrance. Please do not confuse with lost property which is also located there!

We value opportunities to get out and about but are aware that the cost of trips can be challenging. We use the PA and school funds to subsidise all trips as much as possible. It is a challenging time for us all at the moment so please if, for any reason, you need some help paying for any school trips etc, do not hesitate to get in touch. All requests are handled with the utmost confidence and discretion and we would never want any child to be disadvantaged for financial reasons. This includes our P6 and P7 residential visits.

Your child may also be **entitled to a clothing grant and or free school meals**. Please do not hesitate to apply. All children in P1-5 receive free school meals but it is also worth applying if you are eligible as grants are often given for the school holidays. 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 the budget we are allocated for school.

All schools have been provided with a range of period products as part of the Period Poverty campaign. These are easily accessible in the general school and accessible toilets and are regularly replaced.

If you have any other ideas about ways we can help with the cost of the school day, please get in touch.

Parent/Teacher Consultations

I am delighted that we will once again be able to offer in person meetings with your child's teacher to discuss your child's progress and learning. Further information and appointments will be issued after the October holiday.

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

Miss Kirk (DHT) gw15kirkcatriona@glow.ea.glasgow.sch.uk

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

Absence line 0141 287 0039

Dates for your diary (supporting information about upcoming trips and events will be posted on Seesaw as appropriate)



Wednesday 5 October Hillpark P6-7 Parent Information Evening @ Hillpark Secondary

Friday 7 October Selected P6 & P7 Cross Country event at Hillpark (details to follow)

Monday 10 October P6 Visit to Whitelee Windfarm (sign up on Parentpay asap)

Wednesday 12 October P1 visit to Pollok Park (sign up on Parentpay)

P2 & P3 Reading Workshop for Parents 6-7pm (sign up on Parentpay)

Friday 14 October In-service day (school closed to pupils)

17-21 October Holiday – October week

Wednesday 26 October Parent Association meeting 7pm

Thursday 27 October PA Halloween Disco (details to follow)

Friday 28 October Fit and Fruity Friday

Thursday 3 November P5-7 STEM showcase event (details to follow)

Friday 4 November P3 & P3/2 visit to Science Centre (details to follow)

Tuesday 8 November Parent/Teacher consultations 4-7pm

Thursday 17 November Parent/Teacher consultations 4-7pm

Monday 21 November Parent Council meeting 6.30pm (Zoom details to follow)

Friday 25 November Fit and Fruity Friday

Saturday 26 November PA Christmas Fair 10-12 (details to follow)

Wednesday 30 November Parent Association meeting 7pm

Monday 12 December Flu Vaccinations

Thursday 15 December P1-3 Nativity at Cathcart Trinity Church (details to follow)

Tuesday 20 December Christmas Service at Merrylea Parish Church @ 1.30pm (all welcome)

Thursday 22 December School closes at 2.30pm for holidays