

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



Dear Parents/Carers,

We are looking forward to a busy term ahead with lots of exciting events to enjoy and experience for our whole school community.

As always, we extend grateful thanks to our parent community for all their help and support at Merrylee. Paired reading, fundraising events, accompanying class trips, class talks and support are just a few of the many ways parents help us to be a vibrant and supportive community. The Halloween discos were a great success with record attendance at both discos. Many thanks to the PA and parent volunteers for organising this. The Halloween costume rail was also well supported so thank you to everyone who donated and was able to take advantage of giving a pre-loved costume a new home.

Save the Date – Saturday 26 November

The next big PA event is the Christmas Fair. Plans are well underway and I am sure it will be another success. If you would like to help, please contact the Parent Association. Further information will be issued soon.

Staff News

I am delighted to inform you that we have appointed a new Acting Depute Head. Mrs McLaughlin will be joining Merrylee very soon and is looking forward to getting to know the Merrylee children and families. Miss Kirk and I would like to thank you for your patience and understanding at this time as we have been juggling the DHT remit in Miss McElhone's absence. We have also welcomed Mr George Kidd who has joined us as a Support for Learning Worker. Mr Kidd will primarily be working with our P5 classes and is already feeling very at home at Merrylee. Mrs Yacomine will be leaving at the end of term to go on maternity leave. Mrs Whyte will take over as class teacher for P7b when she returns in December following her maternity leave.

Sadly, we have said goodbye to Mrs Ibraheem, Support for Learning Worker for P5, who has decided to resign from her position due to some health issues. Mrs Ibraheem passes on her thanks to all the children and families she worked with for making her feel so welcome.

Also, after many years at Merrylee, Mrs Macrae, Support for Learning Worker, has officially retired. Mrs Macrae has suffered many years with health problems and made the difficult decision to retire following an extended absence. We wish Mrs Macrae a happy retirement and will miss her at Merrylee.

Merrylee Bike Bus

Don't forget to join the bike bus on Fridays if you can. The 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/JgJp0XgeQg7IGLg6LQubPY>

There is also a Family Cycle Ride event at People's Palace on Sunday for families.



Please continue to 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.

JRSO (Junior Road Safety Officers)

Our P7 JRSO team are organising a competition for the whole school to design a road safety poster for Glasgow Schools Road Safety calendar. This is for all schools in Glasgow and the winning design will feature on the calendar. The closing date is Friday 11 November so please get entries in as soon as possible. More details soon from JRSO.

Cost of the School Day



An area for preloved school uniform is now available at the community entrance. Thank you to the PA for organising. 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. 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.

To support our local community, Primary 5 are organising a foodbank collection. If you have any non-perishable items you would like to donate, there will be a donation box available at the main entrance at parents' nights. Children can also bring items into school. Primary 5 will organise and arrange for collection by the Trussell Trust SE who provide invaluable support for our local community. Thank you to Mrs Coffey and Primary 5 for organising.

Parent/Teacher Consultations

We are looking forward to welcoming you into school to meet with your child's teacher. Parents' nights are on Tuesday 8th November and Thursday 17th November from 4-7pm. Appointments were issued after the October holiday so please get in touch if you haven't received one.

What's On At Merrylee?

It is a very busy term with lots of exciting events to look forward to. This week the whole school has had the opportunity to participate in the STEM showcase organised by Mrs Aitken and the P5-7 classes. Every class has been able to experience this amazing showcase of work led by the P5-7s who have done a great job sharing their knowledge and learning with the rest of the school. Many thanks to Mrs Aitken and the P5-7s for all their hard work in putting this event together and also to our expert parent volunteers for their support. Examples of the children's STEM work will be available for parents to see during parents' nights so please pop into the ICT suite when you are in school.

At Merrylee, we are very lucky to offer a wide variety of clubs and activities, both in school and extra-curricular, for our pupils to take part in, co-ordinated by Mrs Mort. Mrs Mort was successful in her bid for tickets to the Billie Jean King Cup tennis finals at the Emirates next week for P6. Following a few disappointments with events being cancelled because of bad weather, our P6 and P7 Cross Country team are looking forward to the Cross Country finals at Bellahouston next week. Good luck to them and fingers crossed the weather is kind. If your child is taking part in the Cross Country, from past experience, a change of clothes and a towel are recommended.

To give our children the experience of performing and presenting to an audience and in response to feedback from parents, our whole school focus for learning and teaching this term is expressive arts. Miss Murray, our resident drama expert, has organised a programme of learning, staff development and drama playscripts with a festive theme for every class. The children are already auditioning for parts and am sure will enjoy the experience of being able to perform to an audience once again. Having missed out on taking part in nativities for the last few years, all of our P1-3 children are performing together at Cathcart Trinity Church. Shows for P4-7 will be held in the school dining hall. Further information about tickets etc will be issued soon. Please see dates below for your child's class show which I hope you will be able to come along to. To bring real life experiences into school, we have also arranged theatre workshops and visits. Please see dates for your diary below. All events will be available to sign up for on Parentpay. If you have a skill or experience in any area of expressive arts and would like to offer your support and/or expertise, please let me know and we can arrange this.

P1-3	The Nativity	Cathcart Trinity Church	Thursday 15 December @ 10-11am
P4	Traditional Tales	Merrylee School	Wednesday 14 December @ 1.45-3pm
P5a	The Little Drummer Boy		Wednesday 14 December @ 10-11am
P5b	The Emperor's New Clothes		Wednesday 14 December @ 10-11am
P6	The Little Matchstick Girl/The Christmas Child		Friday 16 December @ 10-11am
P7	A Christmas Cracker		Friday 16 December @ 1.45-3pm

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)

Thurs 3 & Fri 4 November	P5-7 STEM showcase event
Friday 4 November	P3 & P3/2 visit to Science Centre New P1 parent open session 2pm
Tuesday 8 November	Parent/Teacher consultations 4-7pm
Wednesday 9 November	P6 to Emirates Arena for Tennis Cup Finals (all day) P6/7 Cross Country Finals @ Bellahouston 9-12 P4 Kings Theatre Workshop 11-12.30pm
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
Thursday 1 December	P4 Visit to Kings Theatre 'Beauty and the Beast' 1pm (details to follow)
Wednesday 7 December	Tron Theatre Workshops for P5 & P6
Monday 12 December	Flu Vaccinations
Wednesday 14 December	P5 show (10am) P4 show (1.45pm)
Thursday 15 December	P1-3 Nativity at Cathcart Trinity Church 10am (details to follow)
Friday 16 December	P6 show (10am) P7 show (1.45pm)
Monday 19 December	P5-7 Christmas Parties
Wednesday 21 December	P1-4 Christmas Parties
Tuesday 20 December	Christmas Service at Merrylea Parish Church @ 1.30pm (all welcome)
Thursday 22 December	School closes at 2.30pm for holidays