

Making Friends	Eco Friendly	Responsible	Respect	Yes we can!	Learning Outdoors	Enjoy a healthy lifestyle
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March 2023

Dear Parents/Carers,



Staff News

I am delighted to inform you that Mrs Mort had a baby girl last week, just in time to enjoy their first Mothers' Day. Both mum and baby are doing well. Congratulations to Mrs Mort and her family and we look forward to meeting baby Anya in person soon. A warm welcome back to Merrylee to Miss Georgia McArthur who has taken over as class teacher for P3/2 while Mrs Mort is on maternity leave.

I am also delighted to inform you that, following recent interviews for the role of Acting Principal teachers, Miss Murray (P4a class teacher) and Mrs Timoney (P1c teacher) were successfully appointed. Congratulations to both Miss Murray and Mrs Timoney who are looking forward to their new roles.

What's on at Merrylee?

It has been all things digital at Merrylee this term. Mrs Timoney has been instrumental in the i-pad roll out across the school following an initial delay across the city. As Digital Leader of Learning, Seesaw certified Educator and Apple Coach, Mrs Timoney continues to share her expertise and knowledge to lead Merrylee's Digital Strategy. Mrs Timoney and her team of pupil digital leaders manage and organise the allocation of ipads across the school which are used in class to enhance teaching and learning. Mrs Timoney has also organised some in school training for teachers and pupils supported by XMA, Apple authorised Education Specialists.

Parents are key partners in supporting the use of digital technology and in ensuring our children use this safely and responsibly. Mrs Timoney has organised a parent workshop led by NSPCC which I am sure will provide useful guidance and information for parents. Parents can sign up for free workshop on Parentpay.

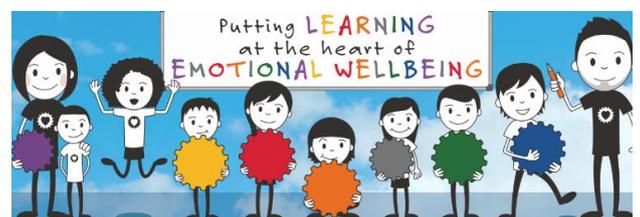
World Book Day was a great success. Thank you to everyone who took part in dressing up, reading stories and creating Potato Superheroes! We had lots of fun seeing all the creative entries to the competition. Well done to everyone who took part. The online Bookfair was well supported too. Thank you to everyone who made an order.



Fairtrade Fortnight Miss Dorward and the pupil Eco Committee successfully led and organised a variety of Fairtrade activities and learning including a Fairtrade banana hunt around the school and lots of Fairtrade cooking during Fairtrade fortnight. Primary 6 presented at the school assemblies and made some delicious Fairtrade chocolate crispy cakes to raise funds for Fairtrade. As a school, we have successfully achieved the 'Fair Achiever' Award which is the highest award we can receive. Many thanks to Miss Dorward and the Eco Committee for their continued efforts in achieving this award and ensuring that we maintain our status.

Emotionworks Parent Workshop Thank you to all parents who were able to attend this recent workshop organised and presented by Miss Kirk. Miss Kirk has also shared a variety of helpful resources on Seesaw which you can use at home. You can also see a selection of resources on display during parents' nights.

We use Emotionworks at school to help our children develop their emotional wellbeing and the language and understanding they need to be emotionally literate. If you need any further support or guidance in supporting your



child's emotional wellbeing please don't hesitate to get in touch with any of the school leadership team.

Big Walk and Cycle to School 20-31 March We are taking part in Sustrans Big



Walk and Wheel challenge. Sustrans Big Walk and Wheel is a great way to build physical activity in children's daily routine which is important for their physical health and mental wellbeing and I hope you will encourage your child(ren) to walk, scoot or cycle to school on as many days as possible during the event (and beyond). This also supports initiatives we already have at Merrylee including the



School Streets Zone and the Merrylee Bike Bus. On each day of the challenge, our P7 Junior Road Safety Officers will collect the data which is logged online to see which school can record the greatest number of pupils walking, cycling/scooting to school. Schools at the top of their leaderboards will receive certificates and entered into daily prize draws, including accessories and equipment to help travel actively to school.

Cost of the School Day/Sustainability Strategy At Merrylee we are committed to sustainable goals and are very grateful for all ideas and initiatives to support this such as:

- Preloved Uniform
- Themed and seasonal clothing rails
- Merrylee Bike Bus
- Walk to School weeks
- Recycling
- Merrylee garden



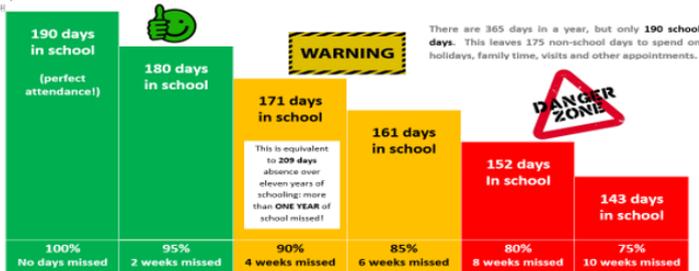
Many thanks to the PA for the recent outdoor clothing rail. The preloved clothing rails are always well supported and a great way to give good quality preloved clothing a new home and contribute to the sustainability agenda.

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.

Ramadan 22 March-21 April Please note that there is a designated space available for any pupils who wish to take part in daily prayer in school.

Pupil Attendance Good attendance at school is a key factor in the success and progress of our children. We appreciate that sometimes your child does have to be absent from school due to ill health or personal reasons.

Understanding your child's attendance percentage



As parents and educators, we all recognise the value of our children attending school and the impact frequent absences may have. The infographic demonstrates the relation between absence and time lost at school. The attendance rate at Merrylee is currently 94.3% which is one of the highest across Glasgow Primary schools but this is a 1% decrease from the previous year. As

you can see from the infographic, even 95% absence equates to 2 weeks of school missed. Children who do not attend school regularly may struggle to keep up with school work as well as missing out on the social aspect of school. If you are concerned about your child's level of attendance, please don't hesitate to get in touch for advice and support.

Thank you to parents I would like to take this opportunity to thank our parent community for the amazing support you offer the school on a daily basis. It has been lovely to see so many of you at recent parents' nights. You support our school in so many ways and we appreciate the time you give to accompany class trips; visit classes to share your knowledge and skills; support our paired reading programme and PA events; tidy up lost property and so much more. I would also like to acknowledge the continued work of the Parent Council and Parent Association for their support and commitment to Merrylee and our school community.

Please do not hesitate to get in touch if you have any concerns or wish to discuss any matter. May I respectfully remind you to direct any absences or appointments to the absence line or school office as emails to myself, Miss Kirk or Mrs McLaughlin may not be picked up in time due to other commitments. You can telephone the school office between 8am and 4pm (Mon-Thurs) and between 8.30am and 3.30pm on Fridays.

Colette Haddock

Head Teacher

chaddock@merrylee-pri.glasgow.sch.uk

Miss Kirk (DHT P1-3)

gw15kirkcatriona@glow.ea.glasgow.sch.uk

Mrs McLaughlin (DHT P4-7)

gw10mclaughlinlynsey@glow.ea.glasgow.sch.uk

School office

0141 637 6798 (office hours Mon-Thur, 8am-4pm & Fri 8.30am-3.30pm)

Absence line

0141 287 0039

Dates for your diary

Tuesday 21 March

Parent/teacher consultations 4-7pm

Wednesday 29 March

9.15am – PA meeting in school

Thursday 30 March

9.30-10am Easter Service at Cathcart Trinity Church (parents welcome)

Friday 31 March

Jeans for Genes day – P5 are organising this fundraising event, pupils are invited to 'dress as you please' and make a small donation on Parentpay

School closes at 2.30pm for holidays

Monday 17 April

Pupils return

P6 Residential trip to Lockerbie Manor (17-19 April)

Thursday 20 April

P6 Bikeability training (further information to follow)

Thursday 27 April

School discos P1-3 @ 6.15-7.15pm & P4-7 @ 7.30-8.45pm (tbc)

Monday 1 May

HOLIDAY

Monday 8 May

HOLIDAY

Wednesday 10 May

6-7pm Parent Workshop – online safety NSPCC (sign up on Parentpay)

2-12 May	School Photos (details to follow)
Monday 15 May	P7 Residential trip to Galloway (15-19 May)
Thursday 25 May	IN-SERVICE
Friday 26 May	HOLIDAY
Monday 29 May	HOLIDAY
Thursday 1 June	P7 – Hillpark Induction day
Friday 2 June	P7 – Hillpark Induction day
Saturday 3 June	PA – Summer Fair 10-12
Friday 9 June	Sports day (details to follow)
Wednesday 14 June	P7 Leavers' Assembly @ Cathcart Trinity Church 10am (details to follow)
Thursday 15 June	P7 Leavers' Ceilidh 7-8.30pm (details to follow)
Friday 23 June	School closes at 1pm for Summer holidays



MERRYLEE