Dear Parent/Carer,

It was lovely to welcome all of the children back to school this week. While I certainly enjoyed my week off with my boy, I could liken coming back to school this week to getting a metaphorical hug; the children are such a joy, the staff are so caring to them and to each other and it is also lovely to see our families at the gate at the start and end of the day.

A primary 1 child asked Joanne a couple of times this week to ‘tell your friend, the headteacher…’ and that has stuck with me this week; I love that we are modelling positive, caring, friendly adult relationships to the children!

**Learning through Play/Creativity**

As I mentioned in a previous email we have been looking at how we can develop Learning through Play and Creativity across the school, in just in Primary 1/younger classes. We have set up a classroom and the lower hall downstairs to be a play/creativity area and all of our classes throughout the whole school are now starting to access this. We are looking at how we can develop our curriculum coverage and the children’s metaskills through this method of learning.

So even children in Primary 7 may come home and say they were playing; but they are learning at the same time and it is something we are all very keen to keep developing. Miss Reid and I were at a Glasgow City Council play conference yesterday and the learning that we took from that matches with what we have been starting to develop across the school.

**Resources**

Related to what I was saying above we are on the lookout for some resources to help us with play and creativity. If you have anything in the house that your children are finished with and we could use we would be very grateful! I often bring in things from my house that my boy has finished with but I’m at my limit just now of what he is willing to part with!

Things in particular that we are looking for are:

* **Small world people** such as Lego or duplo figures and small people/chararcters of any sort e.g. playmobil/superheroes/wooden characters/knights/pirates etc
* **Small world furniture** for dolls houses
* **Small cars** (and a road mat or similar would be amazing!)
* **Small animals/dinosaurs etc**
* **Role play items** such as toy food/cutlery/plates/cups/kitchen items or any other type of role play items such as doctors kits/hairdressing items/shop etc
* **Doll’s clothes and accessories**
* **Dress up items** or just materials that could be used for the children to make their own costumes with or used for a creativity/arts and crafts area

No pressure for anyone to hand anything in, but if you were about to give items to a charity shop for example, especially if you are doing a clear out before Christmas we would take it off your hands instead. As we build our use of the area and the children come up with their own ideas their may be other stuff we ask for particularly around junk modelling/creativity/arts and crafts.

**Halloween**

While in some recent years, due to Covid and the restrictions on children doing other things out of school, we have done some sort of activities/dressing up/dressing down for Halloween this year we will not do dressing down/up within the school day. Not everyone celebrates Halloween, costumes are not always age appropriate, items can easily get lost/broken and children are not restricted anymore in going to other parties/trick or treating etc if they celebrate Halloween.

Some teachers may choose to mark Halloween in their class with an activity and Primary 5 and Primary 6 are working together on Film Literacy related to *El Dia de los Muertos* (The Day of the Dead).

**Parents Evening Appointments**

We will shortly put out the parents evening appointments on Parent Portal for you to sign up for a time for Wednesday 15th November.

We know that sometimes some appointments can be running very late. A suggestion has been made of ringing the bell every 10 minutes to signal the end of appointments to try to help everyone keep to time so this is something we are considering trialling. If anyone has any strong opinions/suggestions on this either way, then please do let me know.

**Primary 1 Enrolment Week**

If you have a child due to start Primary 1 in August 2024, or know someone else who does, then enrolment week is 6th – 10th November. You should complete an online application at:

* *Glasgow City Council website - Schools and Learning – Enrolment*

If required paper applications can be requested by contacting Glasgow City Council on 0141 287 8000.

I hope everyone has a lovely weekend.

Best wishes

Caroline