Good afternoon,

I hope everyone had a lovely break and enjoyed time with family and friends. I was definitely ready to come back to school for some routine again…and to stop snacking!

**Clubs**

Robbie, our active school’s co-ordinator has done a great job organising a number of clubs for us for this term. I am detailing these below and I will talk to the children about them in assembly this afternoon.

We will organise the lunch time ones and the after school ones will open on Parent Pay on Monday. The exception to this is the Determined to Dance lunchtime club as families need to commit to taking your child to the heats at Holyrood Secondary School at 5pm on 11th March for this. We will ask the children who are interested and then confirm with yourselves. The children need to commit to sticking at this one as it then effects the group if children drop out due to choreographing the dance for the competition.

Please talk to your child first about what they would like to sign up for and only sign up for one after school club at first until we see how they fill up. We may then need to pull names out of a hat and/or may be able to widen others out to more children.

* Monday Lunchtime – P1/2 Multisports 20th Jan – 10th Feb (4 weeks)
* Monday Lunchtime – P3/4 Multisports 24th Feb – 31st March (6 weeks)
* Monday Afterschool – P3/4 Multisports 20th Jan – 10th Feb (4 weeks)
* Monday Afterschool – P5-7 Volleyball 24th Feb – 31st March (6 weeks)
* Tuesday Afterschool – P4-7 Karate 21st Jan – 4th March (6 weeks) off on 18th Feb
* Wednesday Afterschool – P1-3 Football 22nd Jan – 5th March (6 weeks) off on 19th Feb
* Thursday Lunchtime – Determined to Dance 16th Jan – 6th March (8 weeks)
* Thursday Afterschool – Multisports P3-5 6th Feb – 27th Feb (4 weeks)

**Scots Poetry Competition**

Every second year now we are running our Scots Poetry competition and the children will be bringing home a Scots Poem to learn. This is part of the curriculum and all of the children should endeavour to learn it. As with other aspects of the curriculum like solo talks, the teachers will support children with reciting this if required e.g just to the teacher/a small group/another member of staff if they cannot do it in front of the class. Each class will hold heats by Tuesday 21st January, with finals on Thursday 23rd January, with impartial judges. We will then invite the winner’s parents in to assembly on Friday 24th January to hear the winning poems being recited.

**Accessories**

Some children are coming in to school with accessories that can be impractical in school, as well as potentially a health and safety risk. These includes false nails and very dangly earrings. These should be avoided where possible. We also consider make up unnecessary in school and not aligned with the message we try to give children about body image and being themselves.

**Social media/WhatsApp**

Consistently this session we are having to work through issues children are having with the use of social media, in particular WhatsApp and the negative use and effects of groups within WhatsApp.

The NSPCC has useful information if you wish to keep yourself informed:

<https://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/>

As part of our curriculum we do teach the children about online safety but this teaching does not seem to be filtering through in their use of WhatsApp groups. I think the children are more aware of the online/social media dangers with regards to strangers etc than they see the consequences of messages/ photos/videos within groups they are in with people they know.

**Family Partnership**

The family partnership are holding our AGM on Wednesday 29th January 2025, at 5pm, in the school.

All parents/carers are welcome to attend. We would love to see you there!

**Diary dates**

I gave these out at the end of last term but just in case you need them again:

* Friday 17th January – Equalities house afternoon for the children
* Tuesday 21st January – Scots Poems heats in classes
* Thursday 23rd January – Scots Poems competition finals
* Friday 24th January – Family Café at morning drop off
* Friday 24th January – Committees for P3-7
* Friday 24th January – P7 transition event to Kings Park Secondary
* Friday 31st January – P2 assembly at 2.00pm, with tea/coffee in the library from 1.30pm
* Friday 7th, Friday 14th, Friday 21st, Friday 28th February – pupil masterclasses in the afternoon. Please let me know if you would like to help with one or offer to teach a group of children a skill (with support from school staff)
* Thursday 13th February – Share the Learning family invitation into school – pm
* Monday 17th and Tuesday 18th February – school holiday
* Wednesday 19th February – in-service day
* Friday 21st February – Family Café at morning drop off
* Thursday 6th March – Parents Evening
* Friday 7th March – World Book Day celebrations
* Friday 14th March – P3a assembly 2.00pm with tea/coffee in the library from 1.30pm
* Friday 21st March – Family Café at morning drop off
* Friday 21st March – Committees for P3-7
* Friday 28th March – P3b assembly 2.00pm with tea/coffee in the library from 1.30pm
* Tuesday 1st April – Sports Day at Toryglen Football Centre (let just to be confirmed)
* Wednesday 2nd April – house term reward
* Friday 4th April – Winning sports house group reward
* Friday 4th April – school closes 2.30pm for the spring break

I hope everyone has a lovely weekend.

Best wishes

Caroline