

# Gourock Primary School

GPS SCHOOL VALUES: Respect, Honesty, Tolerance, Care & Resilience

## Love Learning.....

Developing skills for learning,  
life and work



## Rights Respecting School

We will be focusing on the following  
UNCRC article throughout September:

- **Article 28** - You have the right to good quality education
- **Article 12**: Respect the views of the child and the right to be heard

We are proud to be a RRS and will continue to encourage and embed all the articles explored throughout the year.

## A busy term ahead...

We are delighted at how well all our pupils have settled into their new classes. Our pupils are already demonstrating so many learner qualities and we are buzzing about the busy term ahead.

Our new School Improvement Plan and Standards & Quality Report is now on our website - please have a read.



Mrs Una Nicolson  
(Acting) Head Teacher  
[ingourock@glowscotland.onmicrosoft.com](mailto:ingourock@glowscotland.onmicrosoft.com)

## Making Learning Visible



At GPS we believe a good learner should **persevere** and be:

- ❖ **Engaged, motivated, reflective, creative and responsible.**

**This Month our focus is: I persevere...I complete tasks and don't give up**

We will present our new 'Learner Qualities' certificates at the awards assembly which will be held every 4 weeks. Children can then select a 'goody' from our awards box in recognition that they have gone 'above and beyond'.

## Breakfast Club

Please note that, due to the renovation works, pupils coming to Breakfast Club will enter **via the senior entrance at the top of the playground**. Our breakfast club runs on a

- Tuesday
- Wednesday
- Thursday

from **8.00am - 8.45am**. The cost of breakfast club is £1 per pupil per day unless you have been awarded the Free Meals and Clothing Grant. Pupils coming to our club and not eating anything will still be charged. Why not come along and enjoy breakie and a blether! A great way to start the day...

## Meet the Teacher

Many thanks to those who attended the "Meet the Teacher" sessions - we hope you found this helpful in supporting your child's education. As you know, "children do better when families support their learning" and your involvement makes a world of difference to your child. We are hoping to offer a number of parent workshops throughout the year and will issue dates as soon as we have confirmed times.

## P7 Buddies

Our P7 pupils have loved getting to know their P1 Buddy and we can already see the 'Buds' of long lasting friendships forming.



## P6 Vice Captains

We are so proud of all our P6 pupils who worked so hard on their vice-captain speeches. A very high standard this year and all delivered with confidence. They certainly made it a tough decision for our school community to vote on. We are delighted to announce we have four new vice captains who are super excited about the year ahead....



## Absence from school



If your child is absent from school please ensure that you contact the school office on **01475 715824** before 9am if possible to ensure your child's safety.

If the school has not received a telephone call by this time, we will telephone you. Please ensure that your child returns from an absence with a note so that the absence can be recorded as authorised.

If you require an extended period of absence from school please email/write to Mrs Nicolson. A copy of the 'Attendance Matters' leaflet is on the school website. If a child's attendance falls below 90% an attendance letter will be issued. Thank you.

## P.E.

All children **must bring** appropriate clothing for P.E. on days allocated. It is **vitaly important** they all participate in this curricular area. Healthy bodies, healthy minds!

Inverclyde Council's Policy is that no jewellery is worn during P.E. lessons. Your child will not be permitted to participate in the gym lessons if their jewellery cannot be removed.

## PARENTPAY

A huge thank you to all the parents/carers who have signed up for Parent Pay. If you have not yet activated your account, please contact the school office as soon as possible to request an Activation Letter. If you have any questions or need help with this, please speak to Mrs. Sweeney/Mrs Dalgleish in the office.

All schools in Inverclyde are now cashless so it is crucial that all families sign up to Parent Pay. Pupils from P1-4 will receive a free school meal. However, please note that Parent Pay will be required throughout the year for things such as school trips/breakfast club.

**Please note that there will be a drop down box that you must select when allocating funds to the appropriate area: Breakfast Club/ School lunch. Other drop down boxes will appear when appropriate e.g. School Trips etc. Our Business manager is working on this as the drop down box may not have appeared yet...we are working to resolve this issue.**

## Hopscotch theatre

We believe that an early engagement with the arts will create confident and creative adults in the future. Our pupils thoroughly enjoyed a visit from Hopscotch Theatre group on Friday 6<sup>th</sup> September who performed a resilience based story called: 'SPRING-Y'. This was a touching tale about friendship, bouncing back and bending with the wind!

## Nut Free Zone

We would like to remind you that there are pupils in Gourrock Primary who have severe nut allergies. Please ensure that you **do not** provide snacks or anything for your child's snack or packed lunch which may contain nuts e.g. Nutella / Nutella products / Kinder Bueno / Kinder Hippo etc.

For this reason we discourage pupils from sharing food and snacks.



## Communication

We have an open door policy and are keen to encourage parents to contact the school office either by phone or by popping in to the office should you have any queries or concerns.

Fostering positive relationships is key at Gourrock Primary and we understand the importance of working together to support our pupils in a solution orientated manner.

Please remember that communication and information will continue to be done through the school website, email and twitter. It is therefore imperative we have your up-to-date email address to ensure you receive all mail communications.

The school website is updated regularly, so you can check the website for notification of events happening or for any changes during the following week. We are hoping to reveal a newly designed website in the near future!

## Flu immunisation

Please note that our date for the Flu Immunisation is the morning of the **12<sup>th</sup> November**.



## Administration of Medicines

Please remember if your child requires to take medication during the school day, this must be labelled clearly with your child's name and an Administration of Medicines Parental Request Form **must be completed**, giving full details before staff can administer medicine. A slip will be sent home if your child has received minor first aid e.g. scraped knee/cut. Our office will contact you for bumps to the head or anything else more serious.

## Water bottles

We are a Health Promoting School where all pupils are encouraged to eat healthy snacks and meals.

Please note that water bottles for class time should only be filled with water. Children may have a separate bottle with diluting juice for break and lunchtimes. Pupils are discouraged from bringing fizzy drinks.

We will tweet the menu for each week and have also attached menus to the end of this newsletter.

## Parent Council Meeting & AGM

Our Parent Council AGM will take place **on Monday 7<sup>th</sup> October at 7:00pm**.

We encourage as many parents as possible to come along and join our parent team. We have such a supportive PC and welcome any new members along. It's a great opportunity to become involved and have your voice heard with regards to our school community.

**Our PC have agreed the annual Christmas Fete will take place on Saturday, 30<sup>th</sup> November, 2019**



## House Points

Our pupils are striving to earn as many house points as they can..... P4 are doing a fab job and have won the class trophy each week (so far!!). We are looking to give out lots of points for our learner quality focus:

I can persevere.....I complete tasks and don't give up!

## Walking bus

'Walk on Wednesdays' starts on the **11<sup>th</sup> September**. Due to a lack of numbers we will only have **one** starting point this session at the corner of King Street/Broomberry Drive. Departure time is 8.40 prompt. Please feel free to join us as this is not only a healthier way to travel to school but is an enjoyable social event.



## School values

Our ethos in Gourrock Primary is built on our values. As you know our values are:

- Respect
- Honesty
- Resilience
- Care
- Tolerance

Our focus value this month is **Respect** and pupils. ??????

## School Website

As we update our school website and twitter account on a daily basis, please view and find out what's happening.

<http://gourock-pri.inverclyde.sch.uk>

Do you know you can now access our website by scanning our QR Code below into your phone?



## Playground Pals

Our P6 pupils have been busy organising our outdoor games/equipment and developing leadership skills to teach the games to our younger students. Our Active School Coordinator is working with our senior pupils to develop their leadership skills and they are excited to launch the new games they have learned alongside our current play equipment in the coming weeks.



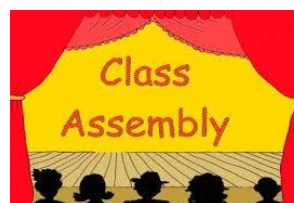
Playground Activity  
Leaders in Schools

## September Class Assemblies

Assemblies this month are;

- **Primary 5: Friday 27<sup>th</sup> September: MacMillan Coffee morning**
- **Harvest assembly: Friday 4<sup>th</sup> October (P2/1, P3 and P6/5)**

Assemblies will start at 9.30am and finish at approx. 10am. Parents are welcome to stay for a cuppa and a blether afterwards.



## Cross country running

A huge well done to our cross country runners who came along to a first rather soggy race. We are so proud of our pupils who competed with a smile despite the weather and mud. Thanks to our parents who came along (and for washing the muddy kit!!)



## Choir

We are extremely privileged to have Mrs Hunter who has volunteered to run our choir group again this year. Mrs Hunter will be starting a school senior choir and will continue to support musical activities throughout the school.

The choir will be organised within the school day and will begin over the coming term. Mrs Hunter will give out letters to any senior pupils interested in committing to the choir. Practice will be on a Friday 2.30-3pm.



## School Extension/Parking

Our school extension is coming along and there has been much excitement on seeing the progression with the steel frame. The project is currently behind schedule but we are hoping that we will be nearing completion towards Spring/Eastertime. However, this is only an approximation at the moment.



## After School Clubs

We are in the process of organising and liaising with our Active Schools Coordinator (Lynne Cooper) re after school clubs. Some letters have been issued and more to come: So far we have...

- P6/7 Football: 3.15-4.15pm 5 weeks from Thurs 12th Sept
- Athletics: day and time to be confirmed
- P4 Hockey: 3.15-4.15pm 4 weeks from w/b 21st Oct - day to be confirmed

As well as Active Schools clubs, we also rely on our staff giving up their personal time to run any after school club. Coming soon we have ....

- Creative drumming
- Reading and Numeracy games
- STEM club

We had a number of parents who supported our after school events.....if anyone has an interest or skill that they would be willing to share with our pupils as an after school club then please do not hesitate to contact our DHT, Mrs McKellar, who coordinates the clubs.

## MacMillan Coffee Morning

Our P5 pupils are developing their skills for learning, life and work by organising and running our coffee morning on **Friday 27<sup>th</sup> September at 2.30- 3pm.**

P5 will be looking for any cake/homebaking donations for the actual coffee morning in the afternoon and will also be looking for cake donations to sell to pupils after their P5 morning assembly.

Let's give the GBBO a run for their money!!



## Greenock Telegraph Souvenir Issue

Please remember that a special Primary 1 souvenir edition will be published on 11<sup>th</sup> September, 2019 which will feature a full colour picture of Gourock Primary School's new P1 pupils.

## Celebrating Success

At Gourock primary celebrating success and wider achievement is really valued. If you would like to share any recent successes outwith school then please remember to return the Celebrating Success form and we will share any successes submitted in the next newsletter.



## Celebrating Success



- Congratulations to this beautiful P4 girl who managed to climb Goat Fell on a recent trip to Arran. What an amazing achievement!



## Awards

Please note we have tweaked our awards system from a weekly issue of golden tickets/celebrating success to an awards assembly every 4 weeks. Class teachers will give out awards monthly tying into our 'Learner Quality Rainbow' and pupils can also share any wider achievement successes at this assembly. We are looking forward to our first award assembly on Friday 13<sup>th</sup> of September.

Pupils receiving an award will be given a certificate to take home stating why they have received the award and they will also be able to select a treat from our 'golden box'.

We will no longer have 'Golden Time' on a Friday afternoon. Each class teacher will timetable this time to develop the learning within the class.

