

# 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 November:

- **Article 29** - your education should help you use and develop your talents and abilities.

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 hope everyone had a lovely, restful October break. We have a busy term ahead and the diary is packed with lots of events coming up. We have launched our new website this month and we hope that you find it useful. We welcome any suggestions about the type of information that our school community would find helpful and hope to keep the website updated on a regular basis. We value strong communication and have an open door policy where parents are welcome to pop in or call the school at any time. We encourage any comments on school improvement with regards to what we are doing well and what we can improve upon.

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## 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 am reflective....I know what I am good at and what I need to do to get better.**

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 to recognise that they have gone 'above and beyond'.

## Hallowe'en Parties

Our Hallowe'en parties took place on Thursday, 31<sup>st</sup> October and everyone had a great time! It was great to see so many creative costumes. The children had many treats which were purchased from school funds. Thanks also to everyone who bought a PC raffle ticket, as all money raised goes to support a range of activities in school.

**Lyle P7**

I love the 'body matters' topic because I love science.

**Harris P1**

I love playing outside in the playground with my friends.....we play 'Avengers'

**Katherine P3**

I love to add and take away in maths as it's really fun to do



**Here's what our pupils have loved about their learning this month...**

**Mairi P6/5**

I love learning about natural disasters - there are so many types. I really enjoyed everyone's PowerPoint presentations.

**Maysie P3/2**

I love art with Mrs Mullan, especially painting the 'Seasons'.

**Rory P2/1**

I love to do my artwork. My self-portrait is finished now and it's mind blowing!

**Cameron P6**

I love our space topic because it is cool how space looks and I like learning about black holes.

**Zoe P4**

I love literacy. Nouns and adjectives are my favourite because they help you to make up good sentences of your own.

## Infant Nativity

The boys and girls of P1 & P2 will be performing 'The Sleepy Shepherd' on Wednesday, 11<sup>th</sup> December. There will be two performances - one in the morning and one in the afternoon. More information will be sent to P1 & P2 parents at a later date.

The children of P4 and P6 will perform in our Christmas service on **Thursday, 19<sup>th</sup> December at 1:45pm** in Old Gourock and Ashton Church.



## Christmas fete

This year's Christmas Fete will take place on **Saturday, 30<sup>th</sup> November from 10:00am - 12noon.**

As usual, we would ask you to donate a gift for a boy and a gift for a girl, at a cost of approximately £1 each and write on the parcel 'boy', 'girl' or 'either'. (These are for the Lucky Dip at the Fete.)

The children are asked to bring these into school on **Friday 29<sup>th</sup> of November** and therefore may come dressed in casual wear - "Come As you Please".



## School Uniform Clothing Bank Recycle, Reuse, Reduce

Our Eco Committee will organise a uniform bank once we have enough donations.

So far we have only had a few donations but are hopeful that, as the school year progresses and our children outgrow uniforms, we will have more donations!

This is a perfect opportunity to drop off any uniform items that your child has outgrown and allow another family to make use. A great way to play our part for the environment and also reduce the cost of the school day.

We are appealing for donations to be dropped off at any point this term to the school office area where we will leave a donation box.

All clothing should be freshly laundered. If you have a lot of items to donate, it would really help us if it was sorted and bagged by size and gender.



## Nut Free Zone

We would like to remind you that there are a few pupils in Gourock 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.



## School Gate

We would appreciate if P3-P7 parents collecting their children from the school gate at 3:15pm would arrange with their child to meet them further along the pavement. This would allow P1 and P2 children to safely make their way out of the gate to meet their parents and ease congestion.

We continue to encourage 'safe parking' outside the school as this is an ongoing concern. This is a collective responsibility and needs everyone in our school community to put the safety of pupils first.

## School Fund

Thanks to all who have donated to our school fund so far this year. We are grateful to our school community and are happy to receive donations if or when families are able to contribute.

This is on a voluntary basis and parents are under **no obligation to donate**. We had previously requested 50p a week (some parents preferred to give a lump sum rather than weekly). We will happily accept **any** donations that people feel able to give.

School fund money pays for additional 'treats' such as visiting theatre groups together with coach hire for curricular activities/events.



## Head Lice

We have recently been informed of a few new cases and ask that you be vigilant in checking your child's hair. If necessary, you can buy the appropriate treatment from a local chemist and treat as soon as possible.

## Macmillan Coffee Morning

A huge thanks to our P5 pupils and Mrs Workman for organising such a worthy event. Thanks to everyone who came along to support us. We raised over £900 which is an incredible amount!

## P1 Tooth Brushing

Thanks to Laura McCluskey who came along to speak to our P1 pupils about the importance of brushing their teeth and eating healthy snacks. They loved the crocodile puppet and asked some super questions.



## Parents' Evening

Thanks to all who came along to our Parents' Evening. It was lovely to share all the fabulous learning that has taken place so far this session. The children have been working hard on their targets.

We welcome all feedback and remind parents that we have an open door policy and are happy to meet with parents at any time throughout the year.

## Library Visits

Our P4 class enjoyed a recent visit to the Library. We are keen to promote a strong reading habit and would encourage all pupils to join the library. Borrowing books is a free resource and research shows that reading daily can have a huge impact on attainment.



## Committee Groups:

Our Healthy Bodies and Minds Committee group will be coming along to our next Parent Council meeting on Monday 11<sup>th</sup> November at 7pm. They are hoping to pitch for some additional playground equipment and replenishment of some of our athletics kit. Fingers Crossed!

## The Stork is coming....

We are super excited to announce that Mrs McKellar is expecting her first child which is due early February. We are over the moon and can't wait to welcome her new baby into the Gourrock Primary family.



## P7 Maths Transition

P7 enjoyed a visit from Mr Connelly (Principal Teacher of Maths) from Clydeview Academy. He was super impressed with the positive attitude from our P7's and enjoyed getting to know pupils. We hope to have more visits from the Maths and English departments to P7 as part of our transition activities.



## Parent Council Dates for the Diary

We are looking forward to our Christmas fete on **Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> November**....save the date.



## Fruit for Schools

We are happy to announce that funding for 'fruit for schools' has started again. We receive fruit on a Monday and each class is given a tray of seasonal fruit to eat at break time.



## Walking bus

'Walk on Wednesdays' continues but we will be restricting our numbers to ensure a 1:10 adult/child ratio for safety purposes. Each week we will take 10 pupil volunteers from breakfast club, leaving plenty of room for pupils to join us along the way. 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.



## Hopscotch Theatre

We are looking forward to a visit from Hopscotch Theatre Group on **Friday, 13<sup>th</sup> December** who will be performing 'Mother Goose' to the whole school.

## Late-Coming

Please ensure your child is in school before the bell rings at 9 o'clock. This gives them the opportunity to play with their peers, line up with their peers and be ready for the day ahead. **It is important all pupils are in school for 9 o'clock start!**

Please also remember on very wet days pupil entrances will be unlocked at approx. **8:45am** to allow them into school where they will be monitored by SMT and the janitor.

## House Party

A huge thanks to the Parent Council for replenishing our treat box. The children were over the moon and have had a ball picking from a lovely box of goodies! The winning house for term 1 was **MacIntosh** and they had a fun-filled pyjama party to celebrate.



## November/December Class Assemblies

Assemblies this month are:

- 1<sup>st</sup> November: Primary 7 class assembly
- 8<sup>th</sup> November: Primary 6 class assembly (Remembrance)
- 15<sup>th</sup> November: Awards assembly
- 29<sup>th</sup> November: P6/5 class assembly (St Andrew's day focus)
- 6<sup>th</sup> December: Awards assembly
- 19<sup>th</sup> December: Christmas Service (1.45pm at Old Gourock & Ashton church)

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



## School Website

We are excited to announce that the new school website is now live! Please take a look and familiarise yourself with the new layout. This website has been developed to improve communication and we value your views. If there is any information that you would like to see included, then please get in touch with your suggestions. We welcome all feedback.



## Choir

Our Choir will be singing at:

**Community Concert:** Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> November at 1.45pm. (Tickets will be issued to older members of our community via the local churches as part of an inter-generational focus, this is **not** open to our parents/family. However, the choir will perform the same songs at our Joint Ecumenical Christmas Service where everyone is welcome to attend.)

**Joint Ecumenical Christmas Service:**  
Sunday, 8<sup>th</sup> December at 6pm

## School Extension/Parking

Our school extension continues to make progress. The building work is behind schedule but we are hoping that we will be nearer completion towards April/May time. (Subject to updates from contractors). We would like to thank everyone for their support and co-operation while work is taking place. We just keep focussing on the new building/space that we will have once the work is complete!



## P5 and P6/5 College Visits

Our P6 and P6/5 pupils have been focusing on a variety of science activities and we are delighted they have been asked along to participate in two workshops with West College Scotland in Greenock. It is lovely to develop these community links and inspire our future generation of Scientists.

## School Parking

We urge parents to park sensibly when dropping off and picking up children. Congestion is at an all-time high due to cars double parking along Davidson Drive. This endangers our pupils and makes the area outside our school unsafe.

We await delivery of some child friendly cones that will be placed along key areas of the road to discourage parking during busy drop-off and pick-up times.



Our Community Wardens and Community Police Officers will carry out regular spot checks and drivers parking irresponsibly will be spoken to and appropriate action taken i.e. a possible ticket issued.

Unfortunately, we still have a number of parents who are putting the lives of our pupils in danger by double parking. We urge parents to park further away from the school and encourage pupils to walk part of the way.



## 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 ...

**Monday - P5-P7 Basketball (6 wks)**

**Tuesday - P4 Hockey (4 wks)**

**Thursday - P3 & P4 Dance (6 wks)**

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 ....

**Wednesday - P5 Athletics (4 wks)-**

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.

## 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



We had lots of award winners this month for our learner quality - 'I am motivated and hardworking.... I want to do my best'. Well done everyone! We have also had many children receiving positive praise notes home as well for 'going above and beyond'.

