



Springside Primary and Early Years Class September, 2023



Dear Parents and

Welcome back to our new school term. Thank you for making sure the children are all beautifully turned out in school uniform and ready to start the new session. However I have noticed a few children opting to wear hoodies instead of school jumpers. Hoodies are not part of our school uniform. Please speak to me if there is an issue with providing a school jumper for your child.

Staff Update

We welcome Miss Nolan and Mrs Findlay to our school this session. Miss Nolan will be teaching P6/7 and Mrs Findlay will be our Raising Attainment Teacher for this session.

Names on Uniform

Can I please ask that you label all items of school wear and shoes with your child's name? Many of our younger children have the same clothes and shoes and this is causing some confusion when children leave their belongings in classrooms and in open areas.



School Car Park

Can I remind you that the car park at the front of the school is for school staff and deliveries only? Children should not be in the car park at any time. Please help us keep our pupils safe.

Rag Bag

We continue to have our Rag Bag recycling bin in the playground. Any unwanted clothes can be placed in this bin during the day when the school gates are open.

Rag Bag now only want the following items: clothes, shoes, belts, bags.

Any payment from Rag Bag goes into school funds and will be put to good use. Thank you for supporting the ragbag scheme as this supports all our eco work in school and makes money for our school fund.



School Clubs

We are looking to start introducing after school clubs in our school after the October holiday. The clubs on offer will be:

Monday – Football for P5-7 (outdoors)

Tuesday – Dance for P5-7

Tuesday - Football for P3 and 4 (outdoors)

Wednesday – Multi-sports for P3 and 4

Friday – Multi-sports for P1 and 2

More details will be sent out nearer the time.



Healthy Eating

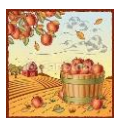
As we are a Health Promoting school can I request that we consider healthy options for children's tuck. Please also be mindful of how much tuck you are giving your child as some of our children are taking a while to eat their snack and then do not have much time for playing with their friends.



Drop off/Pick up times

There has been some confusion and congestion caused at pick up and drop off times. Please ensure your child is dropped off and picked up at the correct gate unless you have discussed with me a different option. P1-3, the side gate and P4-7 the main gate.

Harvest Service Friday 13th October at 9.30am



This year we will be having our Harvest Festival Service at the end of this term with parents. We will be collecting items for the local foodbanks. We realise that the cost of living is rising but if you wish to contribute then the items needed by the foodbanks are: tinned meat, tinned vegetables, long life milk, pasta, rice, tinned rice pudding, custard and cereal. I am sure any other foodstuffs will also be gratefully received. All those who can manage will be made most welcome.

Safety at Main School Entrance

There are still a lot of cars parking close to the school main entrance at drop off and pick up times. This is causing congestion and is becoming dangerous to children, particularly when cars are reversing in the narrow street. Can I please request that you drop off and pick up children further away from this gate to ensure our children's safety?

School Starting Times

I have noticed that quite a few children are arriving at our school gate very early each day, some at 8.10am. Whilst I am delighted that children are keen to get to school, I am a bit concerned that the children are playing on bikes, doing cycling tricks and wheelies with no supervision. School staff are in the playgrounds from 8.50am each morning so please encourage your children to come to school at this time to ensure their safety.



Pupil Equity Fund (PEF) for Closing the Poverty Related Attainment Gap

This year our Pupil Equity money we have been given by Scottish Government is £44,280. As a staff, we agree that the best use of this money is to buy in more staff as this has the biggest impact on raising pupils' attainment. As well as this, the money is used for Education City, Nesy for reading and spelling, iPads, and a bus for school trip and also for topping up resources. If you have any ideas or comments, on how to use the PEF money then I am more than happy to discuss this with you or feel free to give your ideas to Parent Council members.

School Improvement Plan

Our priorities for this session 2023-2024 are:

- To further develop literacy and numeracy, embedding new policies and resources and continuing to raise attainment across all stages.
- To explore and develop opportunities for effective pupil participation and leadership.
- To improve digital technology skills across the school and Early Years Class to enable learners to transfer skills for learning, life and work and develop high quality moderation across the school and cluster.



School Text Messaging System

Our school's text messaging system, – 07860051450, is working well. This system allows you to text in to the school computer to leave a message about a child's absence. Can I please stress the importance of letting us know about a child's absence before 9.15am, as the computer will be checked at this time? Please also note that you should still contact the main school telephone number for all other queries or communication about your child – 01294 211651.

P.E. Kit

We are back to normal for all gym sessions in school. All pupils should have a suitable gym kit with soft soled sandals and shorts. For safety reasons, long hair should be tied back and all jewellery removed. If children are unable to remove pierced earrings then please provide some micropore tape to cover the earrings or for younger children, apply micropore tape before coming to school.



Outdoor Learning Day

Our outdoor learning days have been a big success and of great benefit to the children.

We will continue to have a whole school Outdoor Learning day each term this session. Our Outdoor Learning day this term will be on Wednesday 11th October. Children should come to school on that day

dressed in play clothes and have a suitable jacket/wellies or outdoor shoes in case of rainy weather. This includes all the Early Years Class children.

Captains and Vice-Captains

I am pleased to let you know that our Captains and Vice-Captains have been elected for this session.

Bankhead, Captain – Lexie Wilson, V-Captain – Alfie Seymour
Corsehill, Captain – Mhairi Purdie, V-Captain – Jack Montgomery
Kirkland, Captain – Khaiden Gilliland, V-Captain – Laila Benn
Greenside, Captain – Callum Hamilton, V-Captain – Ryan McMillan
Well done to the pupils who were voted in by their peers. I am sure they will be a great help to me and the staff over this session.



Administration – Any new mobile phone numbers

If there are any changes to a pupil's personal details or emergency contact details please inform the office. This can be the term for coughs, sneezes and illnesses to take hold so it is important we can contact you if your child is unwell.

Food Allergies

If your child has any food allergies then it is important to inform the school office and the catering team. Please contact the school office to let us know.

School uniform

We have a rail in school with many items of school uniform that is either new, or in very good condition. These items are free of charge to anyone who may need it. This is a good way of recycling clothes and it fits in well with our global goals of sustainability. The only sizes we are short of are the sizes 11-12 and 13 and above.

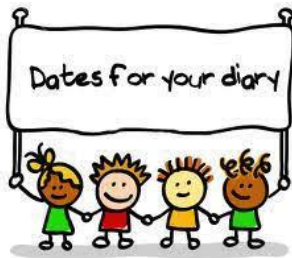


Parent Council -

The next Parent Council meeting will be on Monday 9th October at 7.00pm in the Community Centre.

Parental Holidays

Please contact the school office if you plan to take your child/ren on holiday. These holidays must be marked on the school system to avoid text messages coming out when you are away.



Term 1

Monday 18th September

In-Service Day for staff only

Friday 29th September

Fluoride Varnish EYC, P1-4 for pupils

Monday 9th October

Parent Council meeting in Community Centre, 7.00pm

Wednesday 11th October

Outdoor Learning day for all

Friday 13th October

Harvest Service - 9.30am, all welcome

October Holiday

School closes at 3.00pm on Friday 13th October 2023
and re-opens on Monday 23rd October at 9am.

Term 2 - Dates for your diary

Tuesday 31st October

Flu Immunisations for P1-7

Tuesday 14th November

Primary 1 visit to Dreghorn Library

Friday 17th November

Holiday

Monday 20th November

Holiday

Thursday 23rd November

Parents Evening 3.10pm-8.40pm

Tuesday 28th November

Panto in Kilmarnock, Jack and the Beanstalk

Wednesday 13th December

School Christmas Shows, 7.00pm

Thursday 14th December

School Christmas Shows, 1.30pm

Week beginning 18th December

Christmas Parties

Friday 22nd December

Christmas Service, 9.30am, all welcome

Friday 22nd December

School closes at 2.30pm for holidays

Monday 8th January 2024

School reopens at 9am

Yours sincerely,

M. Shedden

Head Teacher