



# Eastfield Primary School & Nursery Newsletter



## January/February '16 Newsletter



Eastfield Primary School and Nursery Class, 23 Cairntoul Court, Cumbernauld, G68 9JR

Tel: 01236 632106

[www.eastfield.n-lanark.sch.uk](http://www.eastfield.n-lanark.sch.uk)

Twitter- eastfieldschool

Dear Parent/Carer,

### What a busy start to the Year!

The school has been incredibly busy since its return in January with a flurry of events taking place! We have tried to capture as many of these as possible within this newsletter whilst being mindful on its length.

- Since December, the transition programme for Primary 6 and 7 pupils has been taking place with various trips to Greenfaulds High School (GHS). Across the senior stages of the school, all pupils have had the opportunity to meet various staff from GHS and participate in a wide variety of learning workshops. These will continue for the rest of the term.
- In January we completed the enrolment process for Primary 1 children who will start school in August '16. This year we witnessed an increase in our Primary 1 enrolment numbers and I am delighted that we will be able to form three classes next session. At this moment in time we are unable to confirm if one of these classes will form a composite 1/2 class or all three will be straight Primary 1 classes. Further updates on arrangements will be shared with Primary 1 & 2 parents/carers following completion of our formal infant transition programme.
- Following a review of our school budget after careful spending this session, we managed to purchase (much needed) new classroom furniture for all our classes from Primary 1 through to Primary 5 (Primary 6 and 7 benefitted from new furniture being purchased during the building of the senior extension). As a result all ten classes from Primary 1-5 now have new pupil tables and chairs to replace the previous furniture that was more than 25 years old. The new furniture has already made a huge difference to the learning environments within each class and pupil feedback has been extremely positive.

### Parent Council Donation

Following a very successful year packed with various fundraising events (including the amazing Summer Fete!), the Parent Council (on behalf of the Parent Forum) recently presented the school with a cheque for **£5000.00**. This is a remarkable contribution to our school funds and we would like to thank everyone from the school community for supporting the Parent Council with fundraising throughout the year. During very difficult financial times this funding will be used effectively to update curriculum resources linked to our school improvement plans.

Already the pupil forum led by the Pupil Council are considering ways to best spend these funds whilst taking into account feedback from the parent, staff and pupil questionnaires that were conducted by the Parent Council. The results of these questionnaires and information on the intended spending areas can be accessed via the Parent Council display wall that is situated within the school reception area. Our sincere thanks to the Parent Council for their continued support, time and efforts.





### **'Getting it Right for Every Child' Across Scotland**

From August 2016 key parts of the 'Getting it Right for Every Child (GIRFEC) approach, including the availability of a Named Person and the Child's Plan comes into effect. Information on how this legislation is delivered within Eastfeld Primary School was shared with parents/carers during the 'GIRFEC/ Additional Support for Learning Open Event' that took place in November '15. A further event will take place early next session. In the meantime information regarding the national implementation of GIRFEC can be accessed via this link, <http://www.gov.scot/Topics/People/Young-People/gettingitright> Should you have any questions about the approach then please just contact the school.

### **Cumbernauld Burns Federation, Verse Speaking & Singing Competition- 20<sup>th</sup> February 2016**

A huge congratulations to all our pupils who participated in the Cumbernauld Burns Federation, Verse Speaking and Singing competition this year. This is the third year that we have participated in this event and the standard of entries this year was very high. We are incredibly proud of all our children, from those who put themselves forward as a school representative to those who were selected to showcase their talents on the day.

I am delighted to report that our talented children were awarded a number of bronze, silver and gold awards within a variety of areas such as essay writing, art work and verse speaking.

This year we had a smaller group of children participating in this event and Primary 2, 3, 4 and 5 were mostly represented due to the curricular links that the competition had to their class learning. Despite their numbers the children collected two golds, one silver and three bronze prizes at the event.



Thank you to all the parents/carers and family members who came along to the event to support the children and school. In addition I would like to thank to Mrs Duddy (Class Teacher & School Active Literacy Coordinator) and Mrs Gillian (Class Teacher), for all their hard work 'behind the scenes' in supporting the children with their preparations. This was a fabulous opportunity to share the talents of our children and showcase their achievements in learning. ☺

### **Parents/Carers 'Maths & Numeracy Open Evening Event'- 18<sup>th</sup> February '16**

Thank you to those parents/carers who managed to join us on the 18<sup>th</sup> of February for our 'Parent/Carers Maths & Numeracy Open Evening Event'.

This evening provided an opportunity for parents/carers to hear about the way maths and numeracy is taught throughout the school and directly engage in active 'table top' games and activities that were lead by the children. The feedback from the evening was once again very positive and will remain as an annual event as per parental request. A particular thanks to Miss Cameron (Class Teacher & School Numeracy Co-ordinator) and our pupil 'teachers' for their hard work in preparing the showcase of class learning and leading the activities on the evening. ☺

### **'Let's Talk about Maths'**

Whilst on the subject of maths and numeracy, I have been asked to draw your attention to some development work that the Scottish Government (together with Education Scotland) is completing to assist with the challenge of negative attitudes towards maths. In doing so the government is keen to hear the views of parents' and young people.

The 'Making Maths Count' expert group, established by Education Secretary Angela Constance, has launched a short online questionnaire to find out how people feel about maths and how they use their maths skills. The group, which brings together expertise from industry, academia and science, has been tasked with identifying which factors can create negative attitudes towards maths, before making its recommendations on how to improve the nation's enthusiasm for and participation in the subject. Teachers, parents, carers and young people are all encouraged to contribute their thoughts as part of the group's call for evidence. Further information and the online questionnaire can be accessed via this link. [www.gov.scot/makingmathscount](http://www.gov.scot/makingmathscount).

### **Enterprise Spotlight Events (February- March '16)**

The Enterprise, Fairtrade and Charity Committees have all been working very hard over the last few months preparing for the variety of extra curricular events that are taking place within the school and authority during the months of February and March.

You will have already received communication from the committees listing the variety of exciting events that are taking place and we look forward to sharing the success of these events at the end of March '16. Thank you for all your support in making these events a success.



### **School Communication Channels- Twitter & Website**

I am delighted to announce that our website counter is close to hitting the 10,000 visitor mark. As we continue to develop and refine the site and build upon our class and committee blogs, we are keen to hear your views on anything that you would like to see added to the site that is not already listed. If you have any ideas on how to further enhance the site to improve home/school communication then please let us know by returning your suggestions via the comments slip at the end of this newsletter. ☺



In addition to the increased use of our website, the school Twitter account has also seen an increase in followers following its recent relaunch. Currently we have 449 followers and our tweeting has gone beyond the 1100 counter! The school Twitter account is now being managed by the Class Teachers in addition to the management and administration teams, therefore you will now be able to receive a variety of information via the feed.

Please note- whilst the school welcomes your feedback in terms of any questions, concerns or complaints that you wish to raise and discuss, these should come via the Parent Council, the school's enquiry or Head Teacher's email address or alternatively by telephone.

The twitter feed should not be used for this purpose. Further information regarding this matter can be accessed via the Parent Council's minutes from their meeting in January '16.

### **School Primary 1-3 & Nursery Open Door 'Come Play & Learn with Me' Event, 29<sup>th</sup> January '16**

Once again, thank you to those parents/carers who managed to join us on the 29<sup>th</sup> of January for our 'Parent/Carers Open Door 'Come Play & Learn with Me' event.

This afternoon provided an opportunity for parents/carers and family members to informally drop into the school and nursery to play and learn alongside their children as part of a normal school day.

Similar to last year, the feedback from the event was once again very positive and as such it will remain as an annual event as per parental request. ☺





## Eastfield Primary School- On their Journey to become a Rights Respecting School

As noted within previous communication, one of the school's improvement targets for this session is to enhance pupil voice within the school whilst raising awareness of children's rights. As such we have been working very hard with Unicef to become a Rights Respecting School.

I am delighted to announce that last week, the school received their 'Recognition of Commitment' award from Unicef. This is the first official step to becoming Rights Respecting School. We are delighted by this news and look forward to progressing to the next step later this session. Watch this space ☺!

### School Uniform

Following parental feedback, requesting the formal endorsement of a consistent school uniform throughout the school, the school and Parent Council would like to highlight the following guidance.



Parents have given the school wholehearted support on the matter of our school uniform. We are most grateful to parents/carers and hope that their continued support will be forthcoming in what we consider to be a most obvious and important factor in maintaining our positive school ethos.

All pupils are encouraged to take a pride in their appearance, setting high personal standards. Pupils are expected to use sound judgment and reflect respect for themselves and others in their dress and appearance.



**Eastfield's Primary School's policy is that all our pupils are required to wear the school uniform.**

1. This is a sign of the pride pupils take in their school and reflects their commitment to and identification with Eastfield Primary School.
2. It encourages school attendance.
3. It encourages good order and conduct
4. It improves school security
5. It reduces the pressure to compete wearing 'designer' clothes and the financial pressure on parents/carers

### **The School Uniform consists of:**

1. A **white** school shirt / blouse, and school tie which is visible at all times
2. A **white** school poloshirt complete with the school badge or alternatively a **white** poloshirt complete with a school tie
3. Dark **grey** 'smart' trousers, skirt or pinafore (leggings, jeans, denim and track suits are not acceptable, under any circumstances)
4. Dark **grey** tights should accompany a skirt or pinafore
5. **White/grey** socks can be worn during warmer seasons
6. A **navy** school jumper or cardigan complete with the school badge or a plain **navy** jumper or cardigan (No hooded tops)
7. Sensible plain **black** shoes.
8. Girls are permitted to wear **blue gingham dresses** during warmer weather.



Copies of the school uniform order forms are available from the school office and school website. Orders can be made at any point throughout the session. Further information regarding our school uniform can be found within the uniform section of our website <http://glo.li/1gZ41xS>.

Please note- For anyone who has lost or damaged their sweatshirt or polo-shirt, we have a number of good quality second-hand items available in school in return for a very small donation to one of our school charities.

Alternatively, should you have any good quality items that your son/daughter has outgrown and wish to donate these to our school uniform recycling committee, then please hand these into the school office. Thank you for your continued support.

### School Crossing Patrollers Wanted

As you will have probably noticed via Twitter and various North Lanarkshire advertisements/publications, our pupils recently featured (alongside Mrs Bird one of our school crossing patrollers) in an advertisement publicising vacancies throughout the authority. These positions are extremely important for the safety of North Lanarkshire's children getting to and from school. If you are interested in one of these positions, then further information can be accessed via this link, <http://www.northlanarkshire.gov.uk/index.aspx?articleid=32180>





### Eastfield Primary in Finals of Tesco's Bags for Help Campaign!, 27<sup>th</sup> February – 6<sup>th</sup> March '16

We are delighted to have reached the finals of the Tesco's 'Bags for Help' Campaign. We have recently been informed that we have already secured a significant amount of funding by reaching the finals and we now require your support to help our Eco Committee gain a top spot in the finals.

As part of this initiative, Tesco has teamed up with Greenspace Scotland to launch its Bags of Help initiative across Scotland. The scheme will see three community groups and projects awarded grants of £12,000, £10,000 and £8,000 - all raised from the 5p bag charge.

Bags of Help offers community groups and projects in each of Tesco's regions across the UK a share of revenue generated from the 5p charge levied on single-use carrier bags. The public will now vote in the Craigmarloch Tesco store from 27 February until 6 March on who should receive the £12,000, 10,000 and £8,000 awards. Please visit the store and vote for us! ☺

### Eastfield Primary participating in the Strathcarron Hospice Social Enterprise 'Dragon's Den' Event, 29<sup>th</sup> February '16

Primary 5 have been working very hard designing persuasive posters for our Baking Company that will be presented at the Strathcarron 'Dragon's Den' event on the 29<sup>th</sup> of February '15.

Both classes have been very creative drawing upon their awareness of fairtrade and the principles of business to create a pitch that they hope will catch the attention of the Strathcarron 'dragons'. We look forward to letting you know how they get on. ☺



### Monthly Newsletter Comments Slip

Attached to this newsletter is a comments slip that can be used to record ideas or suggestions for further school improvement. Your views and feedback play an essential part in shaping our school improvement agenda and improving the service that we provide to our pupils, parents/carers and wider community.

Thank you for your continued support.

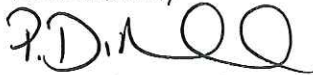
### Diary Dates (January/ February Newsletter '16)

w/b 29 <sup>th</sup> February '16	Parents Evening Invite Letters Distributed (School & Nursery)	
w/b 7 <sup>th</sup> March '16	Science Workshops delivered throughout the school (Pr 4-7)	
4 <sup>th</sup> March '16	Primary 3b Newsletter Distributed	
4 <sup>th</sup> March '16	Primary 5b Assembly	- See class newsletter
8 <sup>th</sup> March '16	Greenfaulds High School, Transition Event (Art & Drama), Individual Pr 7 reps	- Letters issued separately
8 <sup>th</sup> March '16	Greenfaulds High School, Transition Event (French Dept), Individual Pr 7 reps	
8 <sup>th</sup> March '16	Nursery Event- Sharing the Learning, profiling Event (am & pm)	
11 <sup>th</sup> March '16	Greenfaulds High School, Transition Event (Technical), Individual Pr 7 reps	- Letters issued separately
w/b 14 <sup>th</sup> March '16	Parent Evening Appointment Letters Distributed (School & Nursery)	
w/b 14 <sup>th</sup> March '16	Kileva Eastfield/ Global Citizenship Week	-See Enterprise flyer
18 <sup>th</sup> March '16	Primary 3b Assembly	- See class newsletter
24 <sup>th</sup> March '16	School closes at 3.00pm for Easter holiday weekend	
25 <sup>th</sup> & 28 <sup>th</sup> March '16	School closed- Good Friday & Easter Monday. Easter holiday weekend	
29 <sup>th</sup> March '16	School reopens at 9am	
29 <sup>th</sup> March '16	PC Easter Disco, Evening 1 of 2	- See PC flyer for details
29 <sup>th</sup> March '16	Nursery Parents Reporting Appointments	-Individual times allocated
30 <sup>th</sup> March '16	PC Easter Disco, Evening 2 of 2	- See PC flyer for details
30 <sup>th</sup> March '16	Nursery Parents Reporting Appointments	-Individual times allocated
30 <sup>th</sup> March '16	Greenfaulds High School, Transition Event (Technology), Individual Pr 7 reps	- Letters issued separately
31 <sup>th</sup> March '16	Nursery Parents Reporting Appointments	-Individual times allocated
31 <sup>st</sup> March '16	School Parents Reporting Evening	-Individual times allocated

1 <sup>st</sup> April '16	Nursery Parents Reporting Appointments	-Individual times allocated
1 <sup>st</sup> April '16	Primary 6a Newsletter Distributed	
1 <sup>st</sup> April '16	School closes at 2.30pm for Easter Holiday Fortnight	
4 <sup>th</sup> April- 15 <sup>th</sup> April '16 (inc)	School closed- Easter Holiday Fortnight	
18 <sup>th</sup> April '16	School reopens at 9am	
w/b 18 <sup>th</sup> April '16	Enterprise 'World at Work Week'	-Details to follow
w/b 25 <sup>th</sup> April '16	Enterprise/ Fairtrade Week	-Details to follow
w/b 25 <sup>th</sup> April '16	Start of Primary 1 induction visits	-Details to follow

*Please Note- Dates are confirmed at the time of printing and may be subject to change due to unforeseen circumstances. Should this occur and if it is deemed necessary then further notification of amended dates and times will be provided. Parents/Carers can also access electronic copies of newsletters via the school website. For further information relating to events planned throughout the year parents/carers can refer to the annual calendar that was distributed to parents/carers in August '15.*

Yours sincerely



Mrs Pamela Di Nardo  
Head Teacher



January/February '16

## Parent/Carer Comment Slip

### Feedback Questionnaire

What aspects of this newsletter have you found useful?

How do you think we can improve future newsletters? What other information would you like to see within our newsletters?

Thank you for filling in the questionnaire. Your views are appreciated

Name of Parent/Carer \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Pupil \_\_\_\_\_

Please return completed forms to the school office.  
Thank you for your continued support.