



Eastfield Primary School & Nursery



Newsletter

September/October '15

Newsletter



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

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Dear Parent/Carer,

Mrs Steel's News- Beautiful Baby Jennifer!

As most of you will be aware Mrs Steel went on maternity leave in June '15 to have a baby. We are delighted to let you know that she gave birth to a beautiful and healthy baby girl named Miss Jennifer Steel on 12th of August '15. Baby Jennifer weighed 8lbs 6ozs and both mummy and baby are doing well.

Mrs Steel and baby Jennifer were able to visit the school a few weeks ago and the staff and pupils were delighted to meet Mrs Steel's new bundle. We look forward to Mrs Steel returning to school at the end of her maternity leave however in the meantime we would like to wish her a restful break with her husband, son Jack and their new family addition. ☺

Permanent Class Teacher Appointment- October '15

Following a lengthy recruitment process, I am delighted to announce that a further permanent Class Teacher has been appointed at Eastfield Primary School & Nursery Class. Miss Jennifer Nicholson (currently a Class Teacher at Carbain Primary School) was the successful candidate to be appointed and will take up her position on Monday 16th November '15 following completion of NLC's transfer process. We are delighted that Miss Nicholson will be joining our team and bringing with her an array of skills to her new role and our school.

I also wish to inform you that Mrs MacIndoe was successful in her application for a permanent Class Teacher post at Glenboig Primary. Mrs MacIndoe has always desired a position within a small rural school and we are delighted that she was successful in securing a permanent post. Since her short time at Eastfield Primary, Mrs MacIndoe's contribution to the school has been vast. Her energy, commitment and innovative teaching and learning approaches will be greatly missed. We wish her every success in her new role.

Miss MacIndoe will take up her new post on Monday 16th November '15 on the same day that Miss Nicholson joins the school. In order to ensure minimal disruption to pupils and classes, Miss Nicholson will take over the post of Class Teacher within the School Nursery Class for the remainder of the session.

'Meet the Teacher' event 16th September '15

Thank you to the parents/carers who managed to join us for the 'Meet the Teacher' event on the 16th of September '15. Please note- that due to a slight change in the working time agreement for teaching staff this year, the school was only able to host one drop in time for parents/carers this session. For any parents/carers that were unable to make the 'Meet the Teacher Event', please be aware that a variety of parental reporting events take place throughout our school's academic year.

Therefore if you were unable to make this particular event you will have the opportunity to meet your child(ren)'s new class teacher(s) during other school and class events planned throughout the year.

Similar to last year the 'Meet the Teacher' event was a success and the feedback that we gathered from our parents/carers, staff and pupils was very positive. This event will now become a permanent event within our annual calendar.

'Active Literacy Open Evening' 1st October '15

As noted within the annual calendar of events (distributed to all parents/carers in August '15), an Active Literacy Open Evening was intended to be held for parents/carers on 1st of October '15. Unfortunately due to unforeseen circumstances, this event had to be rescheduled. Whilst the need to reschedule events rarely happens, as noted at the foot of each newsletter, dates for planned events may be subject to last minute change. Whilst we do try to avoid this from happening, a variety of factors can mean that we cannot proceed with initial plans. Please accept our apologies for any inconvenience that the change of this date may have caused.

Please note that the new date for the Active Literacy Evening, will be on **Tuesday 10th of November '15 at 6pm**. The GIRFEC/ ASfL Evening that was planned for Tuesday 10th of November '15, will now take place on **Thursday 26th of November '15 at 6pm**. Both events will take place within the school.

Promotional flyers for both events will be distributed to parents/carers over the next few weeks.

We look forward to seeing you there. ☺



'Getting it Right for Every Child- Helping our Children Achieve' through Additional Support for Learning (ASfL)

'GIRFEC/ ASfL Open Evening Event' 26th November '15

As mentioned above, this event will provide parents/carers with the opportunity to hear how Additional Support for Learning is being delivered to learners across the school this session.

Information on support agencies who work in partnership with the school and how Additional Support for Learning plays a crucial role in ensuring that we 'Get it Right' for every learner at Eastfield PS & NC will be shared. As part of the Children and Young Person (Scotland) Act, 2014 all children within Scotland now have a 'Named Person' appointed to support their developmental journey. This role will be discussed in greater depth during the GIRFEC open evening event. However, for those parents/carers that are new to the school and may not be able to make the event, I can confirm that the appointed 'Named Person' for all our nursery children is their allocated Health Visitor and the 'Named Person' for all our school children is their Head Teacher, Mrs Pamela Di Nardo.

We hope you will be able to join us for this event and we look forward to seeing you there. ☺

Pupil Voice- Head Boy, Head Girl & House Captain Application Process

Congratulations to all of our senior pupils who have applied for the positions of Head Boy, Head Girl and House Captains this session. The standard of this year's applications has been very high and I plan to share the applications with the Parent Council at our next meeting on the 1st December '15, to seek their support with selecting successful pupils for these important roles. Unfortunately, we do not have a Parent Council meeting in November so this will be the first opportunity for the formal review of pupil applications. Good luck everyone ☺!



Pupil Voice- Pupil Council & Committees

This session, the Class Teacher's will continue to lead the variety of pupil council and committees that are operational throughout the school. Good luck to all pupils who have put themselves forward (or been nominated) as a class Council or Committee representative. News on the formation of these pupil groups will be shared within our next newsletter. Please also keep a look out for Newsflash flyers from the pupil groups in addition to the update of the council/committee blogs that will take place throughout the session.

Harvest/ Food Bank Collection & Celebrations

Similar to previous years, the celebration of Harvest continues to take place within the school throughout the month of October. During the remainder of the month (and the initial weeks of November), we plan to celebrate Harvest by following our tradition of collecting non-perishable food items.

In light of the continuous rise in food banks across Scotland, we plan to donate this year's collection to the Salvation Army to distribute to those in greatest need through their local food bank donation centres.

This year, our school food bank collection will begin on Wednesday the 21st of October and finish on Friday the 13th of November '15. If you have any non-perishable food items that you wish to donate to the school for this collection we would be very grateful. Thank you in advance for your support.

School Gates Incident- Wednesday 30th September '15

As many of you will be aware, there was an incident within the school at the end of the school day on Wednesday 30th of September '15. As a result of this incident the internal school gates were unable to be opened at the end of the school day and as a security measure the children were collected by their parents/carers from their classrooms.

The safety and protection of the children will always be the school's highest priority in situations such as this and whilst the incident regrettably caused inconvenience to parents and carers, the welfare of all children was safeguarded.

As the Head Teacher of the school I am aware of the significant inconvenience and disruption that this incident caused to some of our parents/carers. As such I would like to personally apologise for this inconvenience.

I do however wish to clarify that this incident occurred due to a breakdown in janitorial handover protocol and as such I have requested a full investigation into the incident to be completed by North Lanarkshire Council's Contracts division. This is the department that manages school janitorial staff and arranges the temporary janitorial cover in the absence of school core janitorial staff.

I also wish to inform you that this matter was also discussed at length as part of the Head Teacher's report during the Parent Council meeting that was held on 6th of October '15. Minutes of this meeting will be available from the school website over the next few weeks.

Should you wish to speak with North Lanarkshire Council's Contracts division about your experience or complain about this particular incident then please contact the school and direct contact information can be provided.

October- International Walk to School Month

North Lanarkshire Council supports the international Walk to School initiative that is aimed at schools to try and increase the number of pupils walking, cycling and scooting to and from school. This year our recently appointed Junior Road Safety Officers (together with Miss Wilson, JRSO School Co-ordinator) will be leading this initiative whilst raising awareness of road

safety and healthy living. Pupils who travel to school via school bus or car will also be able to benefit from the initiative as they engage in linked health promoting activities.

School Pitch

Timetables have been in place for a few weeks now to provide all classes with the opportunity to utilise the school pitch during break times. To help us maintain a clean class and school environment, pupils who wish to use the pitch are required to bring a change of outdoor footwear to school on their pitch day such as football boots or additional outdoor trainers. Pupils should bring these to school within a storage bag.



Trim Track Repair Work

Currently the Trim Track is out of order for all pupils due to essential maintenance work being required on the bridge section of the track. Despite previous repair work being completed, the bridge has broken sections again. This has been down to the general wear and tear of fixtures and fittings. The estimated cost of this repair work has been estimated in excess of £2000 and unfortunately the school is not in a position to be able to fund this work independently.

Due to the Trim Track being funded by a National Lottery grant, several conditions are in place which makes the matter of seeking local authority repair work funding difficult to obtain. This matter was discussed at the recent Parent Council meeting on the 6th of October '15 and minutes of this meeting will be available within the next few weeks via the school website.

Furthermore, the local councillor Barry McCulloch is also supporting the school's pursuit to seek clarification of installation conditions. I will update you on the matter as soon as I have further information.

On the same theme, I wish to highlight that the trim track is closed to pupils first thing in the morning before school starts and afterwards at the end of the school day. For the past two years since this rule has been enforced, we have significantly reduced the number of accidents on the track and I wish to thank you for your continued support with this matter.

Outdoor Clothing

The recent variation of weather reminds us that we are now in Autumn and the likelihood of poor weather awaits. To ensure that children benefit from outdoor play and learning during these cooler days I would be grateful if you could ensure that your child(ren) comes to school everyday with their outdoor jacket.

Lunch Money

In the event that your child(ren) requires to borrow money from the school office to purchase their lunch, a receipt will be issued to parents/carers detailing the amount of money borrowed. Unfortunately the school does not have the facility or funds to lend money to pupils on a regular basis, therefore we request that borrowed money is returned to the school office the next day. Should parents/carers wish to discuss support that may be available to them in relation to free school meal grants then please do not hesitate to contact the office.

School Cashless Lunch System

North Lanarkshire Council have organised for our school cafeteria to change to a cashless system on **Thursday 19th November '15**. Children will be issued with lunch payment cards and these cards will be kept in school. Children will be able to load money onto their cards during set timeframes throughout the school day/ week. The cashless machine accepts coins from 10p upwards as well as £5, £10 and £20 notes.

Please read the accompanying leaflet attached to this leaflet for further details.

It is anticipated that parents will be able to pay for school meals via an online payment system. Information about this service will be made available to you once we have been notified of the details.



Breakfast Club Opening Routines

Due to a review of the set up of the school Breakfast Club, the rear (Primary 1/2) doors of the school, which the children currently use to access the club, will now open at **8.30am** and remain open until **8.40am**. After **8.40am**, the Primary 1/2 doors will close and pupils who wish to access the club should enter the school via the main school entrance.

The Primary 1/2 doors will then reopen when the rest of the pupil entrances are opened at 8.50am to enable pupils to enter into the school prior to the 9.00am bell.

Thank you for your assistance with this new routine.

Water is Cool in School

As a certified Health Promoting School, Eastfield Primary School is committed to encouraging healthy choices to pupils on a daily basis. As part of this commitment we continue to highlight the health benefits to children of drinking adequate levels of water regularly throughout the school day.

Drinking water throughout the school day (during learning periods) is proven to improve pupils' mental performance and concentration. If you haven't already had the opportunity to do so, we would be grateful if you could provide your child with a water bottle so they can participate in this initiative. Please be aware that water is the only drink that will be approved for

access during learning periods. Any other drinks can be accessed during pupil interval and lunch breaks. This is part of the school's policy as endorsed by the Scottish Government guidelines. Further information on the Scottish Government and Education Scotland's 'Water is Cool in School' initiative can be found online via Google.

School Website Class, Council and Committee Blogs

At the time of writing this newsletter, our website and learning blogs have attracted 10,606 visitors. We are delighted by the volume of traffic that our site has achieved and we look forward to further developing the site and its blogs this session. As some of you may be aware, our website is hosted by Glow. Glow is a national server and educational interface that is owned by the Scottish Government, Education Scotland and other stakeholders. Despite a variety of improvements to the national server, it can continue to be difficult to navigate. To ensure that all our parents/carers continue to gain access to their children's class blogs and review their child's learning journey throughout the year, we are currently in the process of creating a 'Glog Blog' access support leaflet for parents/carers. This will be distributed to parents/carers over the next couple of months and we hope you find it useful. Thank you to the parents who suggested this idea ☺.

School Twitter Account

Currently North Lanarkshire Council are monitoring the use of Twitter within all its schools. Hopefully, this audit will enable schools and teachers to gain access to Twitter during normal school hours, whilst accessing the school's wifi. This would assist with the posting of news throughout the school day without staff incurring personal costs.

In the meantime, you may have noticed that our school's use of Twitter this session has reduced slightly. Please be assured that we will continue to utilise this facility in the months and years ahead. However, we are currently as a school looking at ways that we can improve its use in light of current access restrictions. Thank you for your patience during this time ☺.

Primary 7 Transition Programme, Greenfaulds High School Session 2015-2016

A timetable of events that support effective transition to Greenfaulds High School for Primary 7 pupils, has been finalised and separate communication detailing dates, times and types of events will be distributed to the parents/carers of senior pupils by Mrs McPhee shortly.



National Parent Forum of Scotland- Annual Conference, Saturday 14th November '15

The NPFS annual conference is taking place in Glasgow on Saturday 14th of November '15 and I have been asked to bring this to the attention of the Parent Forum by the Parent Council.

This conference is open to all and will provide an excellent opportunity for parents to find out more about attainment and how to support children's learning. The keynote speech will be delivered by the Cabinet Secretary for Education and Lifelong Learning, Angela Constance MSP, and there will also be a panel discussion for parents to put their questions to a range of experts. Delegates can choose from a range of workshops delivered by SQA, Education Scotland, SDS, Scottish Government, Enquire, CALL Scotland, Glasgow City Council, Dumbarton Academy and St Bride's Primary. Children are also welcome to attend and there will be a free creche for under 5s and activities for 5-14 year olds. To book a place, please visit <http://www.npfs.org.uk/conference/> or contact NPFS on conference@npfs.org.uk or 0131 313 8842.

Parent Helpers- Nursery and School Gardeners

We are very lucky to have such a large number of parents/carers who are able to volunteer their time to support the work within the nursery and school. Each group plays an essential role in supporting and shaping our school improvement aims and objectives. This term, I would like to particularly thank Sharon McGrath, Katie McLean, Suzanne Breakell, Karen O'Callaghan, and Sarah Singleton for all their support in developing the nursery garden and assisting with the preparation of some school plots in advance of our Eco Flag Assessment visit. Your time, effort and hardwork is greatly appreciated. ☺

Eco Flag Assessment Visit

I am delighted to announce on behalf of all of the staff and children within the school, that we were successful in our attempts to regain our School Eco Flag last month!

Due to a variety of factors, the school lost its Eco Flag status in 2012 and since that period, the whole school (led by the pupil Eco Committee and Mrs Dickson) have been working tirelessly to regain their status. I am incredibly proud of the whole school community for their efforts in achieving this award this session ☺.

Please look out for information from the Eco Committee that will be distributed over the next few months inviting you to the celebration and launch of the flag in the school. ☺

Ednia Trust 'Super Scientist Competition' 2015

Well done to Mrs Mercer and the pupils within her Primary 6 class last session, for achieving a Highly Commended School Award for their successful completion of the Spring Bulbs for School Investigation organised by Ednia Trust. We have recently been informed of this achievement and it is wonderful to see them being recognised for their hard work and participation in this science project. ☺

Scottish Government Survey: Parents of 3 or 4 year olds, Proposed increase of free childcare hours

The Scottish Government has proposed to increase the provision of free childcare to 1140 hours per year by 2020, for children who are 3 or 4 years old, as well as for vulnerable 2 year olds who are eligible for the 600 hours free entitlement through the Children & Young People's Act 2014. With this in mind they are conducting a survey exploring how parents would wish to use this increase. In order for the survey to produce representative results all schools have been requested to share the link to the survey in order to seek parental engagement and view. Should this proposal affect you then you can access the site via this link <https://response.questback.com/scottishgovernment/childcaresurvey>

Monthly Newsletter Comments Slip

Attached to this newsletter is a blank monthly 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.

Yours sincerely



Mrs Pamela Di Nardo
Head Teacher

Dates for your Diary (September/ October Newsletter)

21 st October '15	'Scotland through the Ages' Interdisciplinary Learning Museum Showcase, Primary 4-7 (morning)	-All parents welcome! ☺
21 st October '15	Visit from Balmalloch Primary School (Active Learning) Primary 1 classes.	
w/b 26 th October '15	Primary 7 Visit to Kilbowie	
27 th October '15	Parent Council Halloween Disco (Evening 1 of 2)	-See PC letter for details
28 th October '15	Parent Council Halloween Disco (Evening 2 of 2)	-See PC letter for details
28 th October '15	Fire Safety Presentation, Fire Scotland, Primary 6 classes	
29 th October '15	Nursery Class, Parent Report Meetings	-individual appointments allocated
30 th October '15	Nursery Class, Halloween Celebrations (am & pm sessions)	
31 st October '15	Happy Halloween! ☺	
1 st & 2 nd November '15	Photographer- Individual & Family Photographs taken (nursery & school)	
2 nd November '15	Nursery Class, Parent Report Meetings	-individual appointments allocated
2 nd November '15	Continuous Improvement Officer (CIO) Visit	
3 rd November '15	Whole School Parent Report Meetings	-individual appointments allocated
4 th November '15	Primary 2b, Visit to Tesco Craigmarloch 'Farm to Fork' initiative	
5 th November '15	NHS Flu Vaccinations Completed (Primary 1-7)	
5 th November '15	Nursery Class, Parent Report Meetings	-individual appointments allocated
w/b 9 th November '15	Primary 2a Newsletter distributed to parents	
10 th November '15	'Active Literacy Open Evening Event'	- 6pm, see promotional flyers
10 th November '15	Boots Pharmacy Visit 'Healthy Presentation', Primary 4 Classes	
11 th November '15	Boots Pharmacy Visit 'Healthy Presentation', Primary 7 Classes	
12 th November '15	GHS Information Evening for P7 Pupils & Parents	- 7pm at Eastfield Primary
w/b 16 th November '15	Primary 7a Newsletter distributed to parents	
16 th November '15	Inservice Day- School Closed to Pupils	
17 th November '15	Primary 2a, Visit to Tesco Craigmarloch 'Farm to Fork' initiative	
19 th November '15	Canteen Cashless System starts	
19 th November '15	GHS Open Evening for P7 pupils & Parents	- 7pm at Greenfaulds HS
20 th November '15	Primary 2a Assembly	- See P2a Newsletter for details
w/b 23 rd November '15	Primary 7b Newsletter distributed to parents	
23 rd November '15	Boots Pharmacy Visit 'Healthy Presentation', Primary 1 Classes	
24 th November '15	Boots Pharmacy Visit 'Healthy Presentation', Primary 3 Classes	
26 th November '15	'GIRFEC/ ASfL Open Evening Event'	- 6pm, see promotional flyers
27 th November '15	Primary 7a Assembly	- See P7a Newsletter for details
1 st December '15	Parent Council Meeting, 7pm in School Hall	- All Welcome ☺

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



September/October '15

Parent/Carer Comment Slip

Please use this slip to provide us with your views and comments. Your views are valued and appreciated.
To find out how your feedback is used to support and inform school improvement, then please review the 'You Said, We Did' display within our school reception and also our comments/ feedback folders.

Name of Parent/Carer _____
Name of Pupil _____

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