

Dear Parents/Carers

We begin 2013 with a great degree of optimism as it marks the 40th anniversary of the opening of our school. St. Gerard's opened in August 1973 so we hope to celebrate this over the course of the year. Many of our children are dressed in anniversary uniform and I would encourage you to purchase school ties and jumpers as and when you need them.

We have a busy term ahead of us and I have already impressed upon the pupils the need for hard work and continued endeavour in all aspects of life at St. Gerard's. I am sure you will support the school in reinforcing this message with your children.

Snacks & Packed Lunch

The connections with food and mood, motivation and concentration levels are scientifically well established. We encourage pupils to bring a filled water bottle to school as the link between hydration and concentration is clear but not to bring in fizzy drinks or sports drinks. So too with sugary sweets and snacks that are inconsistent with learning and impact negatively on concentration levels as well as childrens' long term health. Far be it for me to tell you what your child can and cannot eat but the impact of sugary sweets and treats on behaviour and learning can be detrimental to your own and other childrens' learning. I would encourage you to save these treats to after school and weekends. With your support I will approach children and ask them to take inappropriate drinks and snacks home and encourage only what will help their learning as well as their Health & Wellbeing during school time.

After School Clubs

Many of you will be aware that we have started a few after school clubs.

Brilliant Bloggers	Wednesday lunchtime
Netball Club	Tuesday lunchtime
Athletics	Tuesday 3 – 4pm
Arts & Craft P4	Tuesday 3 – 4pm
Badminton P6/7	Wednesday 3 – 4pm
Homework Club P1, 2	Tuesday 3 – 4pm
Guitar Club P7	Thursday 3pm -4pm

Holiday Dates

North Lanarkshire holidays for next year can be found on the following website -

<http://www.northlanarkshire.gov.uk/index.aspx?articleid=26094>



Hattonlea P7

Well done to Miss Manley and P7 who visited Hattonlea Nursing Home residents on Tuesday. The told stories and sang songs to the residents. I would like to extend a thank you to the staff and residents of Hattonlea who always make us feel very welcome.

Clyde in The Classroom

Mrs calendar and P6/7 have just returned from the Glasgow Science Centre where they have been Learning about the River Clyde and the wildlife of the river. They will be taking part in the "Clyde in The Classroom" initiative and we are waiting on the

delivery of 250 brown trout for the children to look after before they are returned to the river nearer Easter. We wish them well.

Mass Behaviour

Lent

During Lent Fr. Brown will be celebrating Mass on Monday and Wednesday from 8.30am. Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament will take place on Tuesday & Thursday from 8.30pm. Please encourage your child to make an effort to attend St. Gerard's Church during this time.

Parking Concerns

I have recently received complaints from local residents concerning individuals parking on the pavement and/or driving too fast on Kelvin Road. Please follow the following advice and help make the area as safe as possible.

- Allow your child to walk/cycle to school if this is safe and sensible.
- If using the car, drive and park appropriately.
- Do not use the school car park for dropping off and collecting unless previously arranged with the school.

Fr. Brown has kindly made the church car park available for dropping off and collecting children to avoid congestion on Fleming Road.

While I appreciate the traffic problems in the area, our concern will always be for the safety and welfare of our children. Your help would be greatly appreciated.

St. Gerard's School Blog

Our Blog has been in operation now for a few months and we are getting visitors from parts of Europe and North America. Please log on and keep up to date with the school news. This newsletter will also be available on the Blog. A big thanks to Mrs. Clarke and her Blogging Club for all their dedication and enthusiasm.

Dates for Diary

Partners in Learning day

Parents Evenings

18th March First Reconciliation

11th May First Communion

Many Thanks for your continued support

Ian G Conaghan
Head Teacher