

St Gerard's Primary School Parent Newsletter August 2013



Dear Parents/Carers

Teachers and pupils are already well into their new academic year. Welcome all our children and families back after the holidays with a particular welcome to our new P1 pupils. This is our 40th Anniversary year and we want to celebrate our birthday with activities and events to complement our existing annual calendar.



Mrs M. McCallum (Maternity Leave)

We are all waiting on news from Mrs. McCallum regarding the birth of her baby.



Please keep her in your thoughts and prayers as we await the patter of tiny feet. I will keep you posted re weight, name etc. as I am reliably informed that this information is crucial for mothers to know.

Massai Warriors (Thursday 29th August)

We kick off our 40th celebrations with an African Dance group for our children.

It promises to be exiting as well as educational. The cost of the dance group is a voluntary contribution of £2.00



Pantomime (The Wizard of Oz)

We have arranged in this year a visit to Motherwell Theatre to see the Pantomime "The Wizard of Oz". The cost of the trip including transport and a interval ice cream will be £10.00. Permission slips and information will be sent out after October break.



New Classes

Our new classes for the year ahead are well known by now. Classes are as stated below-

P1	Mrs. Hunter
P1/2	Miss Gizzie
P2/3	Mrs. Brown
P3	Miss. S. Cahill
P4	Miss. L. McEwan
P5	Mrs. C. Clarke
P6	Mrs. C. McAdams
P6/7	Miss C. Lynch
P7	Miss I. Manley
McCrone Cover	Mr. Maxwell



Non Uniform Days

The last Friday of the month will be 'non uniform day'.

Children can come to school in casual clothes (no football colours) for the day and pay £1 to school funds. I have indicated non uniform days on the calendar.



Reading Books

Can you please check behind cupboards, down the sides of beds and the backs of sofas etc for school reading books.



This will be a great help for the year ahead. If you find any please ask your child to hand them to the class teacher.

PE kit gym shoes

PE times for pupils are stated below. Please ensure they have shorts top and shoes for the days stated. Children can come to school in polo shirt and sweatshirt on PE days if this helps with changing for PE.

Mondays P1, P3 & P4
Tuesdays P1/2, P2/3, P6 & P6/7
Wednesdays P5
Thursdays P7

Other PE days will be added and I will inform you As soon as possible.

Throughout the year we will have opportunities for sporting activities and events. We will inform you of such events in order that PE kit can be available for that day.

School Clothing/Uniform

I am delighted with the response to celebrate the anniversary by wearing our school tie and anniversary tie. The children look very smart and this engenders a real pride in our school which can only translate to increasing the positive attitude towards learning. Please be aware as stated previously that polo shirt and sweatshirt can be worn to school on PE days if this helps with changing issues. Please please please put your child's name on all their clothing and on or in their lunch box. Make sure the name is visible where appropriate as avoids any discrepancy about whose jackets belongs to whom.



Earrings /Jewellery

Please continue to support the school in ensuring children arrive at school without inappropriate jewellery, nail varnish and/or make up. School should be a fun but serious place where learning is paramount. Any distraction from this vision hinders our children's progress and development.



Parent Helpers (Trips)

As usual we ask for parent helpers at this time of year, so please consider coming along and helping out with school outings and trips, it is greatly appreciated. Please pass



your contact details to the school office and staff will contact you to find out if you are free when trip dates arise

Parent helpers (In school)

Any parent interested in taking an afterschool club would be greatly welcomed by our children. You may have an interest or a skill that you wish to share with the children and if so I would love to hear from you. In your own busy lives you may only be able to offer a few weeks throughout the year or perhaps a club for a day per week for a block of time. Dads out there may want to pass on their tactical knowledge of the great game? Whatever you care to offer I know our pupils would appreciate your efforts. If you are interested please pass your details to the school office.

Athletics Club

One of our brilliant parents, Mrs. McCluskey has been taking the athletics club with Mrs Lynch is now all alone and would be really grateful if any parents could help. The club operates every Tuesday from 3 till 4pm. Our children are really dedicated and we enter our children into North Lanarkshire Cross Country Competition. If you are free and able to help please contact the school.



Internet Safety

The data check that was sent out last week included appropriate internet use. It has been brought to my attention that children have Facebook accounts and that inappropriate messages have been left on children's sites. Can I advise you that children under 13 should not have a Facebook account. Please be vigilant in keeping your child safe, when using the internet. All social networks have security settings which can be controlled by parents, make sure you check the settings of your child's site.



Parent Council /PTA

All Parents at St. Gerard's are members of The Parent Forum. Our Parent Council is the representative body of the forum and meets about 6 times a year. If you would like to participate in the

Parent Council to help with the smooth running of the school please give your name and contact details to the office staff

Lunch Card

Please put cash onto your child's lunch card from 8.30am until the 8.55am. Please check your child's card regularly and help our dinner staff by being in credit. Parents whose children are entitled to free school lunch should contact the office where appropriate forms and information are available. Please be aware the breakfast service is not a free service and **all** users will be charged 80p per day.



Our Breakfast Club operates from 8.30am and offers cereal, toast, milk & juice. The cost is £0.80. School lunch costs £1.85 and offers a varied menu. The tuck shop at break time offers toast, cakes, crisps, fruit, milk & juice all at reasonable prices.

Attendance

Full attendance is a vital component for success at school. If your child cannot be at school due to illness please inform the school as soon as possible. If the illness is long term and the child is capable of homework tasks, we will be happy to organise tasks as appropriate. If you are removing your child from school for a holiday period your child will be marked as "unauthorised absence". Please inform the school in writing of the dates you will be removing children from the school.

We strive to encourage pupils to be at school on time for the start of the school day. If your child is going to be late or will be absent for that day please telephone the school as soon as possible. It is important you make sure your child is on time for school as it can be disruptive for the child and the class teacher.

Youth club

Pat Foley has informed me that the Youth Club is available for children in P4 – P7
Monday 22nd August. Start time 6 – 9pm
Thursday 25th August. Start time 6 – 9pm
I hope everyone got the opportunity to see the Daily record article where Mr. & Mrs. Foley were nominated for a Scotland Award. We wish them well.

Diary and homework

A school diary will be going home with the children shortly. When it arrives please read it through and use it to check your child's progress on a regular basis. If you are corresponding with the teacher through the diary please prompt your child to show it to the teacher as diaries will be not be checked on a daily basis, especially for children from P4 – P7.



Drop off and collect routines

The main entrance to the school will be open all day. The gates at Bell Street and Fleming Road will be open at 8.45am and closed soon as pupils have entered the building. The gates will be open at 2.50pm for the end of the school day. Can I ask that parents of children in P2 & P3 wait for their children outside of the Bell Street gate. I would be grateful if the parents of P1 children wait for their children at the back of the playground next to the fence. Can I also ask that you try to be in the same place on a regular basis until the teacher is familiar with who is collecting your child?



Please try to stay away from the classroom windows, however tempting; children become distracted and further disrupt the teaching process at a crucial time of the day.

School Calendar

I will send out a school calendar on Monday which will have all the events and holiday dates. Please put this somewhere prominent in your home; the fridge is a favourite place. I hope it is useful for the coming year and as events arise you can add to it.



Thank you to St. Gerard's Staff

We have tremendously hard working and dedicated staff, both teaching and non-teaching at St. Gerard's. Please give them your full support throughout the coming year. Our team will continue to provide our children with creative and innovative learning experiences as part of a Curriculum for Excellence.

Many Thanks

Mr. Conaghan
Head Teacher

