

St Gerard's Primary School Parent Newsletter September 2013



Dear Parents/Carers

I hope all your children have settled into school life particularly the new P1 pupils. It has been a strange start to our year with painting and carpeting starting when it did and still carrying on in the school while we support learning & teaching at the same time. It is hoped that 90% of the work will be completed by the end of the October break; fingers crossed. I would like to thank the teachers, staff & pupils for their patience and cooperation during the decoration programme. When it is completed our school should look bright, fresh and clean.



Annual Feast Day Mass

Please come along to our Feast Day celebration at 2pm on Friday 11th October at St. Gerard's Church. We traditionally celebrate St. Gerard's Day on the last day of term. His actual feast day is the 16th October but we are always on holiday for this date. As you know our school will be celebrating its 40th anniversary this year so please try come along if you are able. We are but The Diocese have informed us that hopefully Bishop Devine will be able to join us for the mass.



Halloween Family Disco

We will be celebrating our annual Family Disco on Friday 1st November. Please come along and have a great time. Tickets will go on sale from Monday 7th October and can be purchased from the school office. £1.50 per adult & 50p for each child.. Please bring along a pumpkin for our Halloween Pumpkin competition. Please remember to bring along your own refreshments for the evening.

Parent Council

Our AGM will take place on Monday 28th October at 6.30pm. Please come along and participate in the Parent Council.



PTA

Our PTA will be meeting on Thursday 3rd October at 6.30pm. Please come along and help out as we plan our Christmas Fayre and other events. Miss Manley will be supporting the PTA and has organised cakes & biscuits for the meeting so please come along and enjoy.

Parents' Evening

Our parents evening is on Wednesday 9th and Thursday 10th October 2013. Appointments will be sent out on Tuesday 1st October. It will be accompanied by a letter explaining a new Parents' Evening format so please check at the bottom of bags for the information.



Going Home Arrangements.

Please make sure your child is fully aware of their home time arrangements before they come to school especially if there are changes to their regular routine.

Car Park

I have on numerous occasions informed parents that the car park is for North Lanarkshire employees and should not be used as a drop off or collection for children. I fully understand that the surrounding area is difficult for drivers but yesterday we had serious situation with a little one involved in a potential accident. A few weeks ago a colleague reported damage to her car during the school day and no one reported hitting a car to the office. Health & Safety is of paramount importance and I need your support in this matter. Any parents who have access to the disabled area should continue to use it as agreed.



Carfin Mass

P7 & S6 pupils in the Motherwell Diocese gathered at The Carfin Pilgrimage Centre for Mass with Bishop Toal on Friday 13th September. The annual occasion commemorates the visit of Pope Benedict to Scotland and the UK in 2010.



4⁰**th Anniversary Photograph**

John Wilson will be in to the school on Thursday 28th November to take a whole school photograph to celebrate our 40th anniversary. Please have your child in full school uniform for that day. School uniform for the anniversary photograph should be school shirt and tie, grey skirt/trousers. John will also be taking individual and family photographs on this day.

Uniform and clothing

Many thanks for all your support in maintaining a high standard of school uniform. Almost 90% of our children are in shirt and tie, which looks great. Can you please continue to support the uniform by making sure that your child is not wearing inappropriate jackets or jumpers? These can be purchased at Bambinos and La Mirage. Our uniform is an important unifying symbol for our school and is much envied by other establishments. Please maintain your full support for it. Please label your child's clothing.



Snacks, Lunches, Drinks

I have mentioned before the importance of a child's diet and the impact of foods on their learning. High sugar foods are detrimental to your child's ability to concentrate and while a small treat is ok as part of their lunch box a large chocolate bar will impact negatively on their learning and the learning of their classmates. Children should have water throughout the day (not diluting juice). Any child with inappropriate sugar snacks and sugary drinks will have them removed and returned at the end of the school day.



