

Westfield Primary Newsletter



Holiday Dates

School closed: Monday 11 February 2019

School re-opens: Thursday 14 February 2019

Easter Holidays

School closes at **2.30pm** on Friday 29 March 2019

School re-opens: Monday 15 April 2019

Easter Weekend: school closed on Friday 19 and Monday 22 April 2019

School re-opens on Tuesday 23 April 2019

Staff News

Ms Coyle has had a lovely little baby boy, Alex. They are both doing well.

Miss Reilly, Principal Teacher, will be retiring at the end of this term after 15 years at Westfield and a career spanning nearly 30 years. We are all going to miss Miss. Reilly as she contributes so much to our school and she has worked tirelessly to support the young people in our school who need additional help and support.

Everyone deserves to retire and we wish Miss Reilly a long, happy and healthy retirement and anyone who knows her will be in no doubt that her retirement will not be about sitting about relaxing with cups of tea – there is little doubt that it will involve the climbing of many, many more Scottish hills and mountains!

Thank you Miss Reilly for all your years' service and dedication to the pupils of Westfield Primary School.

Parents' Afternoon and Evening Meetings

These will be held on Wednesday 6 and Thursday 7 March. Appointments will be issued nearer the time.

Pupil Equity Fund Update

Pupil Equity Fund or PEF for short, is money given directly to schools to use to improve attainment particularly for those children for whom poverty may be a barrier to achievement.

We are allocated the money by a calculation of how many children receive free school meals, therefore it is important that all parents / carers who are entitled to this benefit do apply. The whole school benefits greatly.

We are working with staff, pupils and parents to work out how best to spend this additional money. So far we have been spending it in line with our Improvement Priorities of Family Learning and Improving Attainment in Writing and Numeracy. Two new acting Principal Teachers have been appointed to assist with our plans - Mrs Marshall and Mrs Webster. The whole management team is working hard on securing improvements for all children who attend Westfield Primary and Nursery and especially those who are not on track with their progress.

Uniform

Once again I would like to sincerely thank parents and carers for their support in ensuring all our pupils are appropriately dressed in their uniform. It sets the correct tone for working, creates a strong school identity and reduces peer-pressure.

At this time of the year some of the uniform can become a bit tired so I have attached an uniform order form should you wish to refresh your child's clothing.

Ties can be purchased from the school office for £4.00 at any time.

For parents and carers on a limited budget we can send an order to the Cumbernauld Uniform Bank - it has lots of good quality uniform items free of charge. Please contact the school if you are interested with sizes for sweatshirts, etc.

Attendance and Late-coming

We will be issuing summary attendance reports to all families shortly. I would be grateful if you could look closely at your child's attendance and punctuality. Our target for attendance this year is 96%.

Some children may be below this figure due to unavoidable illness and / or personal circumstances however if your child's attendance is below 90% it could be having a detrimental effect on their progress and well-being.

Late-coming affects not only your child, who may be anxious about coming in to the class after their peers, but it is also disruptive to the smooth running of the class and all that missed time can add up to a substantial shortfall of teaching time.

Term time holidays are as you are no doubt aware are not permitted by the authority and are recorded as **unauthorised** on your child's attendance record except in special circumstances. All requests must be submitted in writing. Holidays during term-time coupled with a period of illness can have a negative impact on your child's learning and create a gap which is difficult to fill. Please think carefully about taking your child out of school whilst others are still learning in class and making progress.

Please do not hesitate to contact the school if you would like to discuss any concerns you may have about attendance and/ or late coming.

Visits, Visitors and Events

- Friday 15th February - French Day – whole school event starting off with a continental breakfast of croissants and chocolate milk. Please advise and if possible send in suitable alternative if your child has allergies. Lessons will be French themed and singing at assembly will be in French. Children can wear French flag colours, striped t-shirts or anything else that evokes France in this non-uniform day.

PTA Disco

Tickets are available at the school office for the Valentine Disco on Thursday 14 February. Tickets cost £2 and include the cost of a drink and goody bag.

Infant disco times are 6.30 - 7.45pm

Senior disco times are 8.00 - 9.15pm

All children must be collected by an adult

Comic Relief

This takes place on Friday 15th March. The Pupil Council will be organising a fun non-uniform day as well as selling the Red Noses at £1.25 per nose. There will be more information to follow nearer the date.

Parent Workshops

Andy Jack, our school CLD (Community Learning and Development) worker will be running workshops for parents and carers here at Westfield on the 18th, 25th Feb and 4th March from 1pm – 3pm and 3.30pm – 5.30pm. Refreshments will be provided.

These workshops are about setting boundaries and routines where parents are invited to discuss and challenge themselves on the subject matter.

If you would like to attend please do not hesitate to contact the office within the school stating your preferred option time to attend. Alternatively, you can call or text stating your preferred option time to attend to the following person:

Andy Jack, CLD Worker Schools North Lanarkshire Council based at Baird Memorial Primary, 6 Avonhead Road Cumbernauld G67 4RA

Phone: 01236 638674

Mobile: 07714136362