



***Chapelgreen Primary
School & Nursery Class***



***October 2015
Newsletter***

Dear Parent/Carer,

Welcome to Term 2 and thank you for returning your child/ren to school after the holiday looking so smart in their uniforms. It would really be appreciated if children could continue to wear their school jumpers underneath any fleeces/zipper jackets they might wear in the colder weather so that when they are indoors these can be removed.

Chapelgreen Blog/Communication

I have been working on our blog and will use this to share regular news about what is happening in the school and the nursery. Photographs will also be on the blog provided you have granted permission for this. If you have an email address you will be able to comment on the posts too. All posts will be checked before they go live. To protect children on the blog and websites, we will never put a child's name next to their photograph. Others who comment might name your child for example, "Well done Jemima, I am so proud of you." I would need to remove the name from a comment like that therefore, it would be helpful if you could explain this to family members.

Our blog is part of the Glow website. You can google 'Chapelgreen Primary Blog' to find it or use the address <https://blogs.glowscotland.org.uk/nl/chapelgreen/>

All pupils will be issued with a glow email address and this will allow them to comment too.

Harvest Assembly & Gifting

All pupils shared their learning about the Harvest during this Assembly. We were delighted that so many people came to see this and I'm sure you will agree that the presentations from our Nursery children, Primaries 1-3, Primaries 4-5 and Primaries 6-7 were fantastic. You can see some photographs on our blog. We would like to thank Stuart McDonald MP, Jean Jones Depute Provost, Doreen Reid (Tesco) and Aileen Fleming (Chaplain from KCC) for coming along.

Thank you for your contributions to our harvest table. Many senior citizens in our community benefited from this. With donations from our business partner Tesco and from our very generous staff, we were able to include fresh vegetables too. The parcels were delivered by some of our pupils and staff just before we finished up for the holidays.

If we missed anyone out, please help us to get it right next time by sharing this with us. Alternatively, if you would prefer not to receive a parcel next time, please let us know.

Partnership Schools

Being in a partnership with Banton Primary is working out very well. There have been competitions in the past that our pupils haven't been able to compete in because of numbers. We are hoping to join together with Banton Primary pupils to create more opportunities for pupils in both schools. Two great opportunities are happening this week.



What's happening this week?

Monday

Our Active Schools Coordinator came in to speak to our pupils about Race to Rio. This is a fun activity where pupils record their walking on a chart. We will give you more information when we are ready to start it. Ask your child about it.

Tuesday

Primary 1 & 2 pupils are off to Tesco in Craigmarnock to take part in their 'Farm to Fork' project. They will find out about where some of our foods come from. Check our blog later in the week to see how they got on. Pupils from Primary 1 in Banton will also be going.

Wednesday

Active Schools run a number of festivals each year encouraging pupils to take part in fitness activities and sports. There is a football festival (7-asides) at St Patrick's Primary this Wednesday and we have managed to make a team between ourselves and Banton Primary. Although each school has their own football strip I have made the decision for all pupils to wear our strips on this occasion. As this partnership is the way forward for our pupils, we will be asking them to come up with a strip that brings the colours of both schools together. We wish our team the best of luck!

Thursday

Parent/Teacher consultations will take place in the hall starting at 3.10pm until 5pm and then 6.10pm until 8pm. If you did not manage to return your preferred appointment slip you will be given a time to meet the teacher. If you cannot make this time, please contact the school office to let us know. Thank you. More information about the format of the evening can be found below.

Friday

Some 4th Year pupils from Kilsyth Academy and Magi Hamilton, the High School Partnership Officer will offer some games for P6/7 pupils during the lunch-time interval.

The Fundamentals After-School Club will be on from 3-4pm for Primaries 1-3.
Nursery Parent Workshop in the school hall at 11.15am.

Looking ahead....

The Halloween Disco is on Thursday, 29th October. It will be £2.00 which will include a drink and a snack. As our Primary 1 pupils will be at the disco, I would ask older pupils not to wear something that would be too scary. More information will follow.

Our nursery children will have a dress-up day on Friday 30 October. This is a Halloween type occasion but we prefer to keep it low-key because young children can feel quite strange when everyone 'looks different'. Dressing up in usual play clothes, such as people who help us, heroes and heroines will allow everyone to have a lovely morning and no one will be upset by scary masks.

Parent/Carer/Teacher Consultations

When you come into school, please sign in and then enter the hall. You or your child can collect their tray/folders of work for you to have a look at while you are waiting to speak to the teacher. Please return your child's work before leaving the school. Tea and coffee will be available and donations will be welcomed to help cover our costs.

The appointment time lasts for up to ten minutes. It is important to keep within the time allocation to prevent delays for other parents. Some parents like to involve their child in the consultation but I would prefer, on this occasion that your child remains in the waiting area inside the hall.

I will be in the hall too and would be happy to answer any questions you might have or even show you how to access and comment on our blog. I am hoping some of our Parent Council members will also be available to tell you about the good work they do and how you could help.

Nursery News

Welcome

We would like to welcome our new Early Learning Practitioner Ms Claire Macpherson who is covering for Mrs McTaggart. I'm sure you will make her feel very welcome.

We also have two new children who started just before the holiday. Welcome Emilie and Robbie.

Play on Pedals

All the nursery staff will be attending training this week on a project called 'Play on Pedals'. This will help staff support your child as they learn to go a 2-wheeler bike. We will get a balance bike and helmets plus access to a set of bikes when we are working with our children. This is fantastic and funded by NLC. Mrs Henderson will attend training on Wednesday, Ms Macpherson on Thursday and Mrs Tang on Friday.

Parent/Carer Nursery Workshop

There will be the second of our parent/carer workshops this Friday starting at 11.15am. The next two will take place on Friday 6 Nov and Friday 20 November. Please come along. The meeting is very informal and you can get some helpful ideas to use with your child/ren as well as a chance to meet some of the other parents.

Can you help?

We have been working hard with the children to tidy our outdoor play area and would like to start growing herbs, and planning some other exciting areas for the children to explore. We need some help to re-establish/fix our plots and move some pots. Would anyone have an hour or so to spare? As the nursery children are only in on mornings then any afternoon would be ideal. Please speak to the nursery staff if you are able to help.

We would also like to start using our Family Fun Bags which have a story and some activities and a game. To do this, we would need a helper to check the bags when they return to make sure everything is there and replace any sheets before re-issuing. This would probably need one hour per week for a set period of time. You would

need to get a PVG check to be in the nursery at the same time as the children. Please speak to the nursery staff if you are interested.

Parent Council

I had sent out a text message letting everyone know when the Parent Council meeting was taking place. Some of you expressed an interest in this but weren't sure because your child hadn't started school. I mentioned this at the last parent council meeting and they have requested that I invite you again to join them and we would add nursery items to the agenda. The next parent council meeting will be on Monday 9 November at 6.30pm. If you would like any further information, please ask or email me on ht@chapelgreen.n-lanark.sch.uk

Safety



Please remember to use the pedestrian gate when entering and leaving the school/nursery building. When your child no longer needs to be brought into the playground we need to know they are able to come in the correct gate, away from the car park. Please support us with this and set our children a good example. Thank you.

Reminder!

I thought it might be helpful to explain some of the procedures we use in school and nursery to help us work in partnership.

What should I do when my child will be off school/nursery?

If your child is unable to come to school/nursery, we would appreciate a phone call as soon as possible but before 9.20am. If your child doesn't attend school/nursery we will contact you to check your child is safe. North Lanarkshire has very clear guidelines for absence monitoring. As Head Teacher I may need to speak to you about your child's absence record, which can also include late-coming.

Do I need to send in a note if my child is absent?

Even though you have spoken to us about why your child is absent, **we still need a note** telling us when your child was absent and the reason for this. For example, 'Jemima was off school on Mon 19.10.15 because she was unwell.'



Please note, in line with advice from Health Services, children who are absent due to sickness and diarrhoea should not return to nursery/school until there have been no episodes of sickness or diarrhoea **for 48 hours**.

My child has an appointment/I have an appointment, what do I do?

Pupils often miss part of their day at school to attend appointments. It would be very helpful if you could **send in a note or phone the school office** to let them know when the appointment is and when you will be collecting your child. This will help us to get your child ready on time. If possible, please try to make appointments after the school day so your child is not missing their teaching and learning time. If you have an appointment which makes it difficult to collect your child at home time please try to plan ahead and make an arrangement, if possible for another family member to collect your child or choose a more suitable time.

After-School Clubs

I am delighted to say that some of our staff and the After-Schools Coordinators have organised clubs for children to attend after school. Your child may come home with a letter saying they are interested in joining a club. The letter will tell you the times and date of the club and any special requirements. This usually consists of a PE kit or Outdoor Clothing and a bottle of water. Please return the permission slip as soon as possible.

- *Fundamentals for P1-3 will begin this Friday from 3-4pm. We would expect that every child will be collected by an adult at 4pm.*
- *Athletics for Pr5-7 beginning on Thursday 29th October at 3pm. The permission slip asks you to let us know if you are collecting your child or if they can walk home.*
- *Netball for P4-5 on Wednesday 28th October at 3pm. This information has still to be confirmed.*

Contact Details

It is your responsibility to keep the school/nursery informed about any change of details. This might be a change of address, or a new/temporary mobile phone number. We need to be able to contact you if your child is unwell, or in severe weather when there may be an early closure. Thank you.

Home Time Arrangements

Sometimes arrangements need to be changed, especially at the end of the day if you are held up. Try to contact the school before 2.45pm to give us time to pass your message on. Prepare your child about what they should do if you are not there. For example, we would always say that if no one was there to collect you at home time, always come back into the school.'

And finally...

Is there anything else you would like information on? Please let us know.

I hope you have found this newsletter informative. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to ask.

Kind regards,

**Mrs S McLeod (HT)
& the Chapelgreen Team**