

WATER HAZARD IN PENTLAND ROAD

I have been contacted on two occasions about the presence of lying ground water in Pentland Road near the school gate and more recently about the fact that it had turned icy. I have contacted the council previously about this and am led to believe that it is some kind of water table issue. However I have contacted them again and have been assured that they will look into it again. I understand that there is a grit bin in place at this location and given that we are coming into the winter, would ask that if you notice the pavement becoming icy that you use the grit provided.

PLAYGROUND UPDATE

I am happy to report that the council have agreed to tarmac the area next to the new huts to provide a waiting area for parents of children who leave school by the Pentland Road gate at three o'clock. In the meantime, parents should continue to wait on the path or just outside the gate at three. If your child leaves by the front gate you should continue to collect them at the designated dots just outside the front gate. If you have older children at the high school collecting younger siblings, I'd ask you to remind them of these arrangements.

The new system is working well but does rely on parents being on time. We understand that sometimes people get held up, if they are running late they can call the school and we can keep the child at reception for pick up.

DOGS IN OR AROUND SCHOOL

I have had a number of calls from parents who are concerned about the presence of dogs around the school gate at the start and end of the day. As you know, I am a big fan of dogs but this is not the case for everyone. Please either carry or keep your dog on a very short lead when dropping or collecting your child from school to avoid any unnecessary upset to anyone.

PARENT EVENING QUESTIONNAIRE

Could anyone who took a questionnaire home from the Parent Evening please return the completed form to the school. Your comments are important to us and help us to collectively plan for continuous improvement.

PAPERLESS UPDATE

You will be aware that we are currently trying to implement a paperless communication system through email. This is so far proving problematic due to a number of factors. Some people's email addresses are receiving the emails from the school in their junk mail and some are not receiving them at all. I have also sent out paper communications to say we have sent test emails with a tear off slip so that you can let us know if the test email was received or not and there were quite a few not

returned. I will do this again before the Christmas holiday, please check your child's bag. It is crucial that you return this simple tick sheet to the school so that we may determine where there are gaps in our communication system.

Sending out paper communication to the whole parent body is very costly and we are looking at ways to save money which could be better spent elsewhere in the school. Your co-operation in this matter is much appreciated.

SCHOOL FUND

We are now collecting school fund on a Friday. We are only looking for loose change, anything from 5p - 50p, and any family with more than one child can just donate once. There is no tracking system for this and it is purely to boost school funds, which are pretty low. We use school funds to supplement in-school events such as the pantomime, school trips, bus costs, etc. Anything you can give is much appreciated. One parent suggested allowing their child to collect pennies in a jar or in a Smarties tube and handing it in when it's full. If your child would prefer to do this then that's fine. I'll let you know how we are getting on with it in the January/February newsletter.

THURSDAY 1ST DECEMBER

The Christmas Fayre will be held in the school hall from 5.30-7.30pm. Donations of home baking, raffle, tombola and teddy tombola (soft toys) prizes would be much appreciated. We will sticker the children's diaries nearer the time, and we will also send out a flyer.

MONDAY 5TH DECEMBER

P7 will attend the pantomime at Chryston Primary School in the afternoon. A group of P7 children will also attend a drama workshop in the morning. Those involved in this will be lettered.

TUESDAY 6TH DECEMBER

Christmas Lunch. Order forms will be sent as lunches need to be pre-ordered for this. There will be no Snack to Go available on this date.

CHRISTMAS CONCERT

The **Christmas 50th Anniversary Concert** will take place on the following dates:

Tuesday 13th December (10am and 6.30pm)
Wednesday 14th December (1.15pm).

Each show is expected to last about 90 minutes, and the capacity for each show is 180. Tickets, £3 each, will go on sale between Tuesday 22nd November and Monday 5th December. Tickets will initially be strictly limited to two per family to allow all families a chance to see the show, and will be sold on a first come, first served basis.

On Tuesday 6th December all remaining tickets will go on sale, again on a first come, first served basis. Tickets can be bought from the school hall between 8.45-9.15am on these dates and from the school office after 6th December. Entrance to the hall can be gained from the fire door in the hall on these dates. Tea and coffee will be available at each show and there will also be two small hampers for raffle. There will only be a hot Snack to Go option for lunch on 14th December as we will need to have the hall prepped for the concert in the afternoon.

CHRISTMAS JUMPER DAY

Christmas Jumper Day is on Friday 16th December. All children should wear a Christmas jumper or T-shirt on that day and can also wear tinsel deelyboppers, etc. if they wish. They each will pay £1, which will go to a range of children's charities, featured on the advert.

CHRISTMAS PARTIES

Christmas Parties will take place in the school hall from 1.15-3pm between Thursday 15th and Wednesday 21st December. There will also be a hot Snack to Go option for lunch on the 15th as that is the day of the P7 party and I want to make sure they get the maximum time in the hall. We cannot have their party in the evening this year as I cannot ask staff to work two evenings in December due to the Working Time Agreement, and of course it's a busy time of year and they all have families of their own.

PARTY DATES:

Thursday 15th December: P7
Friday 16th December: P5 and P6
Monday 19th December: P3/4 and P4
Tuesday 20th December: P2 and P3
Wednesday 21st December: P1.

CHRISTMAS SERVICE

The Christmas Service will take place on Thursday 22nd December. In order to accommodate everyone, I have made arrangements with Chryston High School to use their assembly hall. I would much rather have gone to the church but I am worried about the weather and we can no longer accommodate all of the school plus parents, grandparents, etc. at school events. The service is at 11.15am, and the High School have asked that no one arrives before 11am, so that pupils can get to their classes.

CHRISTMAS DISMISSAL

The school will close at 2.30pm on Friday 23rd December and re-open on Monday 9th January at 8.50am.

AND FINALLY...

May I wish all of you a very happy and peaceful Christmas to enjoy time with friends and family and a prosperous, happy New Year.

Audrey Burke

CPS PARENT COUNCIL SUPPLEMENT

THE MERGER

The Parent Council recently merged with the Parents' Association. The Council gives parents a say in issues concerning the day to day running of the school, while the Association raise funds for the school through discos, fayres, etc. There's always been some confusion about the difference between the two organisations.

The new, improved Parent Council is working really well, and it's really good to see so many parents and carers getting involved.

RECENT EVENTS

We've really hit the ground running. The Dress Down Day in September made £229, and we raised another £210 from the Christmas cards and mugs which the children drew themselves. The Halloween Disco was another great success, with a profit of £261. Thanks to everyone who helped – all the children had a great time.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Our '**ANY-EXCUSE-FOR-A-PARTY**' PARTY is being held this Saturday (19th November) in Chryston Bowling Club. Tickets, £5 each, are available from the office. This is an over-18's evening, with bingo, raffle, free buffet and loads of fun for the grown-ups.

Our **Christmas Fayre** is being held in the school on Thursday 1st December, 5.30-7.30pm. As always, we're looking for home baking and prizes for our raffle/tombola. Leaflets will be going out soon. And we've got a special visitor all the way from the North Pole!

LIKE US ON FACEBOOK

We want to be able to update you on the events we're planning and issues we're working on. Please like our Facebook page: 'Chryston Primary Parent Council' or email us at parents@chryston-pri.n-lanark.sch.uk
Thanks, and have a very merry Christmas!

Lisa Carle & Jen Troup, Chairs, CPS Parent Council