



## Greengairs Primary School and Nursery Class October Update 2022

### **Dear Families,**

We are now entering the winter months of this school year, time really does fly. Children are well settled into classes and routines and all are working hard to achieve their very best. We were delighted to welcome so many families to our STEM learning sessions to meet staff and enjoying learning with your child/children. We are all very much looking forward to welcoming parents and pupils into school for our first Parent Teacher Interviews on Thursday the 10<sup>th</sup> November.

### **School Day - Reminder**

**All children will attend school from 9am-3pm** We no longer require staggered start and end times across the school.

Rooms 2 and 3 should enter the playground via the infant gate and Rooms 5 and 6 should enter the playground via the senior gate. This is not a change. Room 2 children will continue to use the red dots to gather in the morning. Room 3 children will now gather to the left of the classroom entrance in the morning. Staff will be on hand to support children with this.

**Our school gates will opened at 8.45am. Please do not bring your children to school earlier than this as the gates will be locked.**

### **Breakfast Club Provision - Reminder**

Breakfast Club will be open from 8.15am-8.45am. Children wishing to attend should enter the Dining Room through the side door. Please walk towards the main entrance and follow the path to the left (towards staff car park), the entrance is on your right. Mrs Reilly will greet children here for breakfast. **Please do not park in the staff car park when dropping children off at Breakfast Club.**

**Only foods served from the Breakfast Club can be consumed at Breakfast Club. Please do not provide your child with foods to eat during Breakfast Club as they will not be permitted to eat them at this time.**

### **Break Time and Lunch Time - Reminder**

Break time for the whole school will be from 10.30am-10.45am

Lunch Time for the whole school will be from 12.30pm-1.15pm

We are no longer required to stagger break time and lunch time.

### **School Lunches - Reminder**

Reminder - School lunches are available and are free of charge to children in P1-P5 this session.

### **Assembly**

Assemblies are well underway now and the children are thoroughly enjoying working together at this time. Our weekly assemblies are ran by Mrs Sneddon (Principle Teacher) and during the 45minute session she celebrates pupil achievements, and delivers learning around many key areas. Graeme Patterson (Minister) supports her once per month to ensure aspects of religious observance are delivered. Children are welcome to bring in trophies and news of their achievements outside of school to share with the whole school during assembly time.



### Every School Day Counts – Attendance

North Lanarkshire’s Managing Attendance Policy for schools is based on the Included, Engaged and Involved Part 1: Attendance in Scottish Schools document originally published in 2007 and updated in 2019. It draws together advice on good practice, working in partnership with pupils, parents/carers and partner agencies and establishes requirements regarding classifying and recording attendance and absence. The policy stresses that parents/carers have a legal responsibility to ensure their child attends school until he or she reaches school leaving age (section 30, Education (Scotland) Act 1980). As we are only too aware, absence from school, whatever the cause, disrupts learning. It is important that parent/carers encourage their children to attend school and arrange family holidays during the holiday period. **Family holidays will not be recorded as authorised absence, except in exceptional domestic circumstances.** Although we have only returned to school following the summer break, we have already had a significant number of children off due to term-time family holidays. Every effort should be made to avoid family holidays during term time as this both disrupts the child’s education and reduces learning time.

**Parents/Carers should inform the school by letter of the dates before going on holiday.** Due to the way work for pupils is now planned and introduced, teachers are unable to provide work in advance for pupils being taken out of school for family holidays during term time. It is important that parents/carers liaise and communicate with the school when there is an indication that attendance at school is becoming an issue. This will allow any issues to be dealt with promptly and to allow the right support at the right time and to remove barriers to non-attendance as quickly as possible. **Parents/carers should continue to inform the school of absences on the first day and indicate when their child or young person is likely to return to school.**

The table below has been developed by the Council to illustrate the impact non-attendance can have on a child’s development during a normal school year.

<i>If your child’s attendance during a school year is .....</i>	<i>Your child would have lost/missed approximately .....</i>	<i>Result of absence</i>
100% Attendance	0 Days missed	Gives your child the best chance of success and ensuring their full potential is achieved.
95% Attendance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 9 Days of Absence</li> <li>• 1 week and 4 days learning missed</li> </ul>	Makes it harder to achieve full potential and secure the best possible outcomes.
90% Attendance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 19 Days of Absence</li> <li>• 3 weeks and 4 days of learning missed</li> </ul>	
85% Attendance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 27 Days of Absence</li> <li>• 5 weeks and 3 days of learning missed</li> <li>• <b>Almost half a term missed</b></li> </ul>	Impacts significantly on learning and progress which can lead to poorer outcomes in achievement, wellbeing and social and emotional development.
80% Attendance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 36 Days of Absence</li> <li>• 7 weeks and 3 days of learning missed</li> <li>• <b>Half of a term missed</b></li> </ul>	
75% Attendance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 45 Days of Absence</li> <li>• 9 weeks and 1 day of learning missed</li> </ul>	



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Almost 1 whole term missed</b></li> </ul>	
<p><b>If your child has 90% attendance, they will have the equivalent of</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>½ a day off per week</b></li> <li>• <b>19 days off per year</b></li> <li>• <b>247 days off over their school career of 12 academic years, equivalent to over 1 year of lost education.</b></li> </ul>		

Did you know .....

If in a school year your child is late every day by .....	Your child would have lost approximately .....
<b>5 minutes</b>	3.5 days from school
<b>10 minutes</b>	7 days from school
<b>15 minutes</b>	10 days from school
<b>20 minutes</b>	14.5 days from school
<b>30 minutes</b>	22 days from school

Where the school has a concern surrounding a pupil's attendance, we will issue an attendance letter which reflects the Council's attendance policy. The letter will be issued when a child's attendance falls below 85%. We fully appreciate that children do get ill, and that there are understandable reasons for extended absence, such as a family bereavement, recovery from surgical procedures, diagnosed medical conditions etc. We will continue to be sensitive and supportive, where we know these factors exist.

### **Absence**

Reminder - Please phone the school before 9.15am on the first day to report an absence. You will be asked to give an indication of how long the absence may last. If we are not informed of the absence we will contact either yourself or the emergency contact to confirm that your child is at home. The school office will be open from 8.30am to receive calls (Teaching staff are not available at this time).

### **Medicine**

If your child requires medicine during school hours, please deliver it to the school office **and complete a consent form**. Children who have asthma should have an inhaler in school – parents should bring this to the office and again complete a consent form. Children should not carry medication, including inhalers, in their school bags. **No medication can be administered unless the relevant forms have been completed and signed by parents.**

### **Water Bottles**

Reminder - We actively encourage pupils to drink water throughout the day. To ensure that there are no spills, a bottle with a sports top is preferable for classroom use. Pupils may still bring cartons or plastic bottles of juice for packed lunch and playtimes, however, **only plain water is allowed to be consumed during class time**. Fruit juice or diluting juice should be kept for morning interval and lunch. Fizzy drinks such as Coke and Irn Bru **should not** be brought to school.



### Nut Free

Greengairs is a nut free school/nursery. **We have a number of children who have nut allergies and any product containing nuts should not be brought to school.** This includes Chocolate spreads, peanut butters and cereal bars/chocolate bars containing nuts. Nutella contains nuts and therefore Nutella products are not to be brought to school. Thank you for your support with this.

### Annual Flu Vaccination – catch up

The Flu vaccination team will be in school on Friday 18<sup>th</sup> November for a catch up visit. It is important that as many children as possible take up the opportunity to receive the flu vaccine. The visiting team will only be able to administer the vaccine if you have returned the permission form.

### Keeping in Touch

Text messaging will continue to be used to inform parents/carers of emergency information and attendance only. Our main method of communication will continue to be Newsletters, Twitter and the school blog. The Twitter account can be accessed at [www.twitter.com/GreengairsPS](http://www.twitter.com/GreengairsPS). **It is not necessary to have a twitter account to the view the page.** If you do have a Twitter account, follow us @GreengairsPS to keep up to date with what is happening at school.

If you have any questions, comments or concerns at any time, please get in touch. You can telephone the school on 01236632067 or email [enquiries-at-greengairs@northlan.gov.uk](mailto:enquiries-at-greengairs@northlan.gov.uk)

If you wish to speak to your child's class teacher please phone the school office to arrange a mutually suitable appointment.



### Dates for the Diary

<u>Event</u>	<u>Date/Time</u>	<u>Information</u>
Parent Partnership Meeting	Monday 7 <sup>th</sup> November, 6.30pm-7.30pm	All welcome
MacMillan Coffee Morning	Tuesday 8 <sup>th</sup> November, 11am-12pm	Community welcome
Parents Evening	Thursday 10 <sup>th</sup> November	Parent and Pupil should attend
In-Service Day	Monday 14 <sup>th</sup> November	School closed to pupils
Children in Need	Friday 18 <sup>th</sup> November	Wear Yellow or Pudsey Items. Suggested donation £1 going to Children in Need.
Flu vaccination catch up visit	Friday 18 <sup>th</sup> November	For children who missed the previous visit



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Christmas Fair	Thursday 1 <sup>st</sup> December, 3pm – 5pm	Organised by Parent Partnership
Dress Down December	Friday 2 <sup>nd</sup> December	Wear what you like, Suggested Donation £1
Christmas Jumper Day	Thursday 8 <sup>th</sup> December	Wear Christmas Jumpers/items. Uniform on the bottom half please. Suggested donation £1 going to Save the Children.
Christmas Movie Night	Thursday 8 <sup>th</sup> December, more details to follow	Organised by Parent Partnership
Christmas Nativity/Christmas Show	Thursday 15 <sup>th</sup> December, 2pm in school Hall	Whole School Event. Tickets will go on sale for this event.
Christmas Party	Wednesday 21 <sup>st</sup> December	Party Clothes can be brought to school to change into after lunch.
School Closes	Thursday 22 <sup>nd</sup> December at 2.30pm	School closes for Christmas & New Year Holidays
School Reopens	Monday 9 <sup>th</sup> January at 9am	New Term starts