



Dear Families,

We are all working exceptionally hard within the school at this time. Very soon we will hit the Spring Break and then enter the final term of this session. It is true what they say 'time flies when you are having fun'.

You will have noticed that all of the old and rotten playground equipment has been removed from the playground. The wooden equipment was posing a risk to our pupils and was beyond the point of repair. Trim trails and playground structures are extremely expensive and at this point we are not in a position to replace these. We have however ordered a range of toys and games for the playground and these will be made available to the children very soon. Our pupil voice groups have been working with myself to plan for the playground and order resources that the children have stated they would like. All children had a voice in this. Many thanks to the Parent Partnership for part funding the new equipment.

Breakfast Club Provision

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.

When dropping children off for breakfast club please use the parent parking area opposite the school. Please do not enter the staff car park to turn and drop off.

School Lunches

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 45 minute session she celebrates pupil achievements, and delivers learning around many key areas. Children explore Health and Wellbeing via the SHANARRI indicators and work within family groups sharing ideas and feeding back on tasks carried out. 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">• 9 Days of Absence• 1 week and 4 days learning missed | Makes it harder to achieve full potential and secure the best possible outcomes. |
| 90% Attendance | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 19 Days of Absence• 3 weeks and 4 days of learning missed | |
| 85% Attendance | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 27 Days of Absence• 5 weeks and 3 days of learning missed• Almost half a term missed | 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">• 36 Days of Absence• 7 weeks and 3 days of learning missed• Half of a term missed | |
| 75% Attendance | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 45 Days of Absence• 9 weeks and 1 day of learning missed• Almost 1 whole term missed | |
| If your child has 90% attendance, they will have the equivalent of <ul style="list-style-type: none">• $\frac{1}{2}$ a day off per week• 19 days off per year• 247 days off over their school career of 12 academic years, equivalent to over 1 year of lost education. | | |



Did you know

| If in a school year your child is late every day by | Your child would have lost approximately |
|-----------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------|
| 5 minutes | 3.5 days from school |
| 10 minutes | 7 days from school |
| 15 minutes | 10 days from school |
| 20 minutes | 14.5 days from school |
| 30 minutes | 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.**

Red Nose Day 2023

Friday 17th March

Come to school either wearing red, as a superhero, with crazy hair or even a mixture of them all. This is not compulsory and if a child wishes to not take part they can come to school in their uniform. A small donation can be made to Comic Relief within the school on this day.

Sharing the Learning Events

Each class will host a 'Share the Learning' afternoon before the Spring Break. Please see dates below. Two adults per child may attend. During the event you will have the opportunity to learn with your child and they will showcase to you their ongoing learning taking place at school.

Parent Teacher Consultations (Parents Evening)

These will take place on Thursday 16th March. A previous letter was issued in regard to this. Please book your appointment online. An online booking closes on Wednesday the 8th March at 10pm. If you need any help/advice



with this, please call the school office. These meetings will take place in the school hall face to face with your child's class teacher.

Water Bottles

Reminder - We actively encourage pupils to drink water throughout the day. Please ensure your child brings their water bottle to school every 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.

Snack for Playtime

Lot's of rumbly tummies around playtime (10.30am). Please ensure your child brings a snack and if they wish a small drink to school for the break.

Uniform

Uniform can easily be left behind or mixed with another child. Please help us to keep the correct items with the rightful owner by labelling all items with your child's name and class. If your child misplaces an item it is much easier for everyone to find it if it is clearly labelled.

Indoor shoes

Many of the children have out grown their indoor shoes. We will send these home with your child and ask that you replace them when you can.

School resources

A number of infant reading books have gone home with children and not been returned to school. If you have any of these sitting home please send them in and we can then issue the text to another child. Some of our titles are now limited and we have insufficient copies to issue to a reading group. This also applies to class novels.

Reading books and novels should come to school daily with your child.

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.

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. **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



Greengairs Primary School and Nursery Class February/March 2023

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 Teacher Consultations | Thursday 16 th March | Appointments to be booked online. The booking system closes on Wednesday 8 th March at 10pm. Please call the school office if you need an assistance. |
| Red Nose Day | Friday 17 th March | See above |
| Share the Learning Room 2 | Tuesday 21 st March at 2pm | Come along and enjoy |
| Share the Learning Room 3 | Wednesday 29 th March at 2pm | |
| Share the Learning Room 5 | Thursday 23 rd March at 2pm | |
| Share the Learning Room 6 | Tuesday 28 th march at 2pm | |
| Parent Partnership Meeting | Monday 17 th April | |
| Spring Holiday, Last Day | Friday 31 st March, School closes at 2.30pm | |
| School Reopens | Monday 17 th April | |
| May Holiday | Monday 1 st May | |
| In-service Day | Tuesday 2 nd May | School closed to pupils |
| May Weekend | Friday 26 th May – Monday 29 th May (inclusive) | |
| P7 Leavers Day | Monday 26 th June | Activities and Party |
| Summer Holiday, Lat Day | Wednesday 28 th June, School closes at 1pm | |