



ORCHARD NEWSLETTER

February 2017

Pitches & Playground

This is my first chance to wish all members of our school community a Happy New Year! Though it seems like a long time ago now, I hope you were all able to enjoy the festive season. It is hard to believe we are already into February .

The schools have now been given ownership and use of our two pitches. This facility is shared across the campus, with Clyde Valley mostly using the larger pitch and Orchard using mostly the smaller of the two. All classes will now have an outdoor block of PE and letters have gone home regarding this.

Primary 5-7 classes will be timetabled to use the pitch during morning break and for part of lunch, supervised by one of our janitors. We will offer inclusion across the campus for this where appropriate.

This will mean that we will have 4 members of staff in the mainstream playground at morning break. At lunch there will be one member of staff in the playground at all times and the other 3 will come out at 12 o'clock when some children are making their way back from lunch. This will mean 4 staff out from 12 noon. Myself and the leadership team will remain in the dinner hall to support and supervise those having lunch and any children who cannot for whatever reason be outside. If you have any questions regarding breaks or other issues please contact me on 01698 274984

Jill Woodward

Head Teacher



Our Pitches

Parent Council

Meetings

The next meeting of our Parent Council is Tuesday 7th February at 6.45pm in the Primary Staffzone.

The parent Council also have an area on the school website where minutes of their meetings are posted.

LCSC Concert

On Friday 17th February we will have a concert for parents of children who attend our Language and Communication Support Centre.

The performance will be at 2pm in the school hall. More information will come out in the home diaries. All LCSC classes will be involved.



Car Park & Gates

Last week another part of the campus was completed and handed over to the school. The pedestrian path coming from the Gowkthrapple end of Castlehill Road was opened. This means that children and families walking from this side of the campus can now use the safe pedestrian entrance and should not walk up to and in the car park exit. Using the pedestrian paths at either end of the campus is the safest route for anyone walking to school.

As a reminder drop off spaces should be used as drop off and collection and not additional parking spaces. The front two rows of car park spaces outside our nursery entrance have a sign which says for LCSC drop off and pick up. These rows should be kept clear for parents and taxis collecting and dropping children off to our Language and Communication Support Centre. If you have any questions on this please call the school and speak to Mrs Woodward or Mrs Mackenzie.

We appreciate your support in ensuring all children are able to leave the campus safely and would ask that you support our road safety by using the pedestrian crossings.



Translation

Informacja dla Polskich Rodziców. Szkolne publikacje jak newsletter, listy do rodziców, informacje o zajęciach dostępne są również w języku polskim. Jeżeli chcieliby Państwo otrzymać takie tłumaczenie, proszę o kontakt.

Information for Polish parents. School publications like Newsletters, letters to parents or information about events are also available in Polish language. Should you wish to receive such translation, please contact me.



Jill Woodward 01698 274984 ht@orchard.n-lanark.sch.uk

Scottish Opera

Before the summer Mrs Woodward had arranged for the school to be involved with Scottish Opera this term.



Children in Primaries 5,6 & 7 from across the school have been working hard with teaching staff to learn and practice their songs. There will be songs that each stage will sing and some that all year groups perform together.

Scottish Opera was in school in January for an afternoon to practice with all the children and give support to their performances. They will be back in school on 10th February for the whole day to rehearse Tam O'Shanter and in the afternoon there will be a performance for all parents of children performing in P5-7.

Letters will be sent home with specific information to those involved. We are really looking forward to performing this in school. Another first for Orchard Primary !



Clyde in the Classroom

Mrs Woodward had arranged back in June 2016 for one class in the school to be part of the Clyde in the Classroom project. This sees a class work with the Clyde River foundation to care for young trout, checking temperature of water, keeping them clean and adding ice packs to ensure a constant temperature. The project will then see the children release the trout back into the rivers to support the cycle of the trout and keep our rivers healthy.

Primary 6 will be keeping the trout in their room but will be sharing the learning and experience with classes across the whole school. We are very grateful to The Greggs Foundation who are working with the Clyde River Foundation this year and have paid for Orchard Primary to participate. Look out on the Blog for more information.



Pupil Groups

Since December we have been working as a team of staff to develop learner involvement in the school. We have now established 7 different groups and this week the children have been identifying what their preferred choice of group would be. The Leadership team will now have the job of allocating every child in P2-7 mainstream into one of these groups. We will also plan for inclusion from within our LCSC classes where this is appropriate.

The groups will be: Junior Road Safety, Health, Rights Respecting Schools, Eco, Outdoor Learning, Global Citizenship/Fairtrade and our Primary 1s will have a play based learning approach to some of these areas. Staff have planned goals and achievements for the groups to take forward over the coming term. Children will start in their groups on 17th February for 5 weeks and will have another 5 week block in term four.

Mrs Woodward will also be developing a Pupil Learning Committee who will have class reps from P3-7, we will also have additional P6 & 7 children who will represent P1&2. This group will work with Mrs Woodward to have a say in school improvements to both the environment and the learning. All groups will use the blog and Twitter to share their work.

Rights Respecting Schools

Orchard Primary has started on its journey to gain a Rights Respecting Schools Award (RRSA). After the February break, Mrs McGuire and Miss Gibb will be working with a steering group of pupils from primary two to seven to inform the whole school community and gain their commitment to achieve this award for Orchard Primary School.

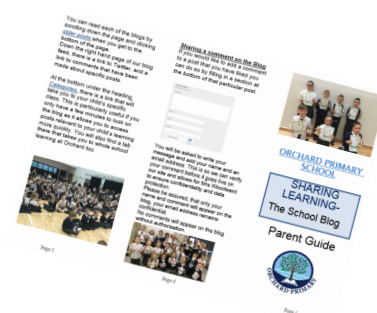
A Unicef UK Rights Respecting School is a community where children's rights are learned, taught, practised, respected, protected and promoted.

Children and young people and the school community learn about children's rights by putting them into practice every day. The Award is not just about what children do but also importantly what adults do – in Rights Respecting Schools, children's rights are promoted and realised and adults and children work towards this together.

Parent Guides

As we develop our policies in the school we will also be writing a set of Parent Guides. These will summarise policy and procedure in the school on a range of curricular areas and approaches. We currently have two guides ready; one for School Blog and the other Twitter.

These are available from outside the Leadership Team Offices.



Below are dates that you will need for term three.

Tuesday 7th Feb	Parent Council Meeting 6.45pm
Wednesday 8th Feb	CVHS Dance Show with associated Primaries in Hall
Thursday 9th Feb	Kilbowie Parent's Meeting 7pm
Mon 13th –Wed 15th	School closed, February Weekend & Inset Day
Friday 17th Feb	Pupil Voice Groups begin LCSC Parent's Concert 2pm
Friday 24th Feb	4th Kilbowie Payment due
Thursday 2nd Feb	World Book Day Learning Event for Parents 1.30pm
Week Beg 6th March	P7 away to Kilbowie
Tuesday 7th March	Parent Council Meeting 6.45pm
Thursday 9th March	New P1 induction
Wednesday 15th March	Swimming starts for P6 (former Castlehill only)
Wednesday 22nd March	Parent's Night - discussions with teachers
Friday 24th March	Red Nose Day
Thursday 30th March	Easter Service 9am
Friday 31st March	School closes at 2.30pm



Kilbowie

All of our Primary 7s will be going to Kilbowie on Monday 6th March for a week. Kilbowie is a great week at North Lanarkshire's outdoor centre. Where children get to experience a range of activities: skiing, canoeing, hill walking, gorge walking and many more.

There will be a meeting for all parents of children going to Kilbowie on Thursday 9th February at 7pm. The meeting will take place in the Primary 7 classroom.

Parents will be given an overview of what the children will experience, staff will be there to answer questions and there will be medical and consent forms to complete.

Staffing

Contact Us

Please call the school if you have any question or concern.

01698 274984

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Visit us on the web at

<https://blogs.glowscotland.org.uk/nl/orchard/>

On Twitter

@primaryorchard