

Stepps Primary & Nursery Class

November Newsletter 2022



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

Tel: 01236 632 148

Twitter: @SteppsPrimary

@LearningSteps

Email: enquiries-at-stepps@northlan.org.uk



In-Service Day

Just a quick reminder that the school and nursery will both be closed for pupils on **Monday 14 November** for the November In-service Day. The school and nursery will reopen at the normal times on Tuesday 15 November.

Poppy Week Collection



Our annual Poppy Appeal collection will take place during the week commencing Monday 7 November. Pupils will be able to make a donation until Friday 11 November.

Parent/Teacher Consultations

We are delighted to welcome parents/carers back into the school this year for our parent/teacher consultations. Our first set of parent/teacher consultations will take place on Tuesday 15 November from 3.30 pm – 6.00 pm and Thursday 17 November from 3.30 pm – 7.00 pm. Details about how to book your online appointment were issued on Friday 28 October. The system is currently live and will be open to take your bookings until **Thursday 10 November**. **If you are unable to book at home, please call the office between 10.00am and 2.30pm and speak to Mrs Gibson, or email Mrs Gibson on nigibsonm1@northlan.org.uk**

Please note, appointments for nursery pupils will be organised individually by our Nursery Team.

World Mental Health Awareness Day



Well done to P5A & P5B, who raised a fantastic **£321** for the Young Minds UK charity on World Mental Health Day. The children thoroughly enjoyed organising the event and would like to extend their thanks and appreciation for your generosity and continued support.



Anti-Bullying/Respect Me Week – 14-18 November 2022



This year the theme in Scotland is "Listen Up! Respect our Rights". Unfortunately, the children are off on Monday 14 November for the In-service Day, but we will incorporate as many activities into the four remaining days as possible. Our Diana Award Anti-Bullying Ambassadors will be planning our focus week along with Mrs Jeffreys and Mrs McLeod. We work hard to develop a strong positive ethos in our school. Our core values are key to this and we encourage all members of our community to uphold these values, namely: Respect, Honesty, Trust, Kindness, Confidence and Fairness. Our Diana Award Anti-Bullying Ambassadors will issue further details about the activities planned.

Mobile Technology

We have a clear mobile phone policy in Stepps Primary that we enforce to keep all of our pupils safe, and to avoid the many issues with social media that children encounter outwith school. We have noted an increase in pupils coming to school with 'Smart Watches' which are capable of making calls, sending and receiving text messages as well as taking photographs. Class Teachers have reported a number of occasions where pupils have received text messages and calls from parents/carers while they have been in class or in the playground. As you can imagine, this can be extremely distracting and disruptive for the rest of the class. We would remind all parents/carers that the same mobile phone rules apply to these devices, in terms of calls, text messages and photographs, in school. Pupils with wearable technology such as 'Smart Watches', should not be using these to take photographs, or to send/receive calls or text messages at any time during the school day. If you need to get a message to your child, please call the school office and a member of staff will pass it on.

The school and Council will not be able to accept liability for the loss or damage of a phone/smart watch in the school or school grounds.

PTA Christmas Fayre

The PTA Christmas Fayre will take place on Saturday 26 November. This is the first time since 2019 that we have been able to hold this event. **Friday 11 November** is the PTA Dress Down Day for the school. Instead of donating the usual £1.00, we would request that children bring a donation for the Christmas Fayre to school. This can be anything from a chocolate bar to a bottle of bubbly! Other suggestions include: Gift sets or gift items (for men or women) bottles, chocolate, selection boxes, sweets, new toys. Alcohol donations can be handed into the office directly.

We still need more people to help us on the day – please do consider supporting the school with a few hours of your time and help to make the Fayre a great festive family event. It's a fun way of getting involved and your help really could make all the difference to the success of the day. If you would like to help at the Fayre, please click on the link below and complete the form <https://forms.gle/H5pGp8xJZGfYdopz9> or alternatively, you can contact the PTA using the following email address ptasteppsprimary@gmail.com.



Attendance & Late Coming

We fully appreciate and understand that, on occasion, pupils may be late in the morning due to unforeseen circumstances. A child will never get into trouble for being late as we are always glad to see them and know that they are safe and well. While this is the case, we have noticed an increase in the number of children being dropped off after 9.00am on a daily basis. We would ask all parents/carers to ensure that children are in school for the start of the school day at 9.00am, unless a special arrangement has been made with the school. Attendance registers are completed immediately the children enter the building at 9.00am to ensure that we are able to identify and account for any absence. Lunch orders are also taken at this point. It is important that all children are in at the correct time to enable these procedures to be carried out quickly and accurately. As noted earlier, a child will never get into trouble for being late, however, consistent lateness can impact on your child's learning and the learning of all the children in their class.

Exceptional Closure Days

Now that winter is well and truly on the way, can I please remind all parents/carers to keep the school informed of any changes to their contact details, and in particular home/mobile phone numbers. During periods of severe weather over the winter months please check our Twitter feed, school website and North Lanarkshire's website for updates on possible school closures or disruption to the normal level of service. During exceptional school closure days, parents/carers will be able to access activities in their child's class Team on Glow. We will also post suggested activities on the school website. The activities will be designed to reinforce the work carried out in class and promote creativity and investigation. All pupils also have access to North Lanarkshire's Virtual Classroom through their Glow account. The classroom is updated fortnightly and contains a range of cross-curricular activities. The work is colour coded and your child's teacher will be able to direct you to the most appropriate set of activities for your child.

Toys in School

We know that our pupils enjoy bringing personal items such as small toys and football/Pokemon cards to school. While these items help to keep the children amused and occupied during breaks, teachers are reporting that some children are becoming distracted by these items in class and need to be reminded to store them in their school bags until break times. Support staff are also having to spend a disproportionate amount of time dealing with occasions where children have swapped, or given away toys and cards, and then asked for them back. This is causing a lot of upset and impacting on the targeted support staff are trying to provide for identified pupils. If your child is bringing personal items to school, we would ask you to reinforce that they should not swap, or give their personal possessions away. The school is unable to accept liability for toys/cards which are lost, damaged or intentionally swapped. If your child has a possession of significant financial or sentimental value, we would strongly suggest that they do not bring it to school.

O.S.C.A.R.s - Outwith School Certificate of Achievement & Recognition



We will be continuing our O.S.C.A.R awards this session, giving you the opportunity to nominate your child for something that they have achieved or succeeded in outwith school. Your child will be presented with an Achievement Certificate (**O.S.C.A.R.**) during one of our assemblies. If you would like to nominate your child for an O.S.C.A.R. please use the link below. O.S.C.A.R.s will be issued monthly. <https://forms.office.com/r/di24ejTiVT>

We look forward to hearing all about the children's achievements over the coming weeks and months.

Birthday Cakes

Whilst we appreciate the kind gestures of our parents/carers who send in sweets and birthday cakes, due to the increasing number of children with severe allergies, we are no longer able to issue these items to the children in school. This reduces the chances of severe allergic reactions and means that children who have allergies do not feel left out. Thank you for your support with this request.

School Communication

Thank you to the parents/carers who completed the survey link contained in our last newsletter regarding the use of a Stepps Primary School App. We had 54 responses, with 98% (53) of respondents indicating that they would definitely download and use a school App. Due to the overwhelming positive response, we will now begin investigating options for this new initiative.

Sharing the Learning Events 2022/2023

As part of our Enterprise programme, P2-P7 year groups in the school will organise a special event for parents/carers at some point throughout the session. These events will be designed to enable the children to share their learning in school with you. The children will have responsibility for leading these events. The dates for all the year group events have been noted below for your information. Each class will issue further information on their individual event closer to the date noted. Our Primary 1 classes will be staging a special nativity performance for their parents/carers and we will issue dates and ticket information of this event separately.

DATE	CLASS
27 January 2023	Primary 4A & 4B
3 February 2023	Primary 2A & P2B
10 February 2023	Primary 7A & P7B
24 February 2023	Primary 6A & P6B
3 March 2023	Primary 5A & P5B
28 April 2023	Primary 3A & P3B

For safety and security reasons, we would ask all parents/carers attending these events to enter through the Cultural Centre doors. **Doors into the school hall will be opened approximately 10 minutes before the event starts.** This enables staff to set up the hall for the event as well as allowing the children some additional rehearsal time. We look forward to welcoming you into school to share in the work your child has been studying in class.

We will do our best to ensure that all the events go ahead as planned but please be aware that circumstances beyond our control may result in changes to these arrangements at short notice



KEY DIARY DATES

Further Information to Follow



Friday	11 th	November	PTA Dress Down for a Donation Day
Monday	14 th	November	In-Service Day – School & Nursery Closed for Pupils
Tuesday	14 th	November	Start of Anti-Bullying/Respect Me Week
Tuesday	15 th	November	Parent/Teacher Consultations
Thursday	17 th	November	Parent/Teacher Consultations
Friday	18 th	November	Children In Need (Information to follow)
Thursday	24 th	November	P7 Nil by Mouth Workshop
Saturday	26 th	November	PTA Christmas Fayre – 10.00am – 12.30pm
Thursday	22 nd	December	School & Nursery Finish for the Festive Break
Monday	9 th	January	School & Nursery re-open for the Spring Term



Festive dates will be included in our December update.