



Barsail Primary News



August 2016

Dear Parent,

We hope that you had a fantastic summer. The children have made a great start to the new term and they all look so smart in their uniform.

We are delighted to welcome our new Primary one pupils and parents to the Barsail family. They have settled in to the full days with ease and are already proving to be 'Barsail Standard!'

It is with great pride that I undertake my new role as Acting Head Teacher at Barsail Primary. Mrs Cochrane is delighted to be Acting Depute Head Teacher. We are joined this session by Miss Byrne (P1), Mrs Gooding (P4/3), Mrs Napier (P7) and Mrs Paton (Classroom Assistant). Miss Brown is also joining the team each Monday and Mrs Smithsimmons has returned from maternity leave. Staff, pupils, parents and the wider community working in partnership is an integral part of the culture in Barsail Primary. Together, the Barsail family can make a difference.

Emma Mavers

Erskine Gala Day

Thank you to all of the pupils who took part in the Gala day parade. Our Olympic country was China and the children looked amazing. During week one, classes made flags, pom poms, lanterns, masks, posters and a Chinese dragon. Our parent volunteers all entered into the spirit of it. We sang the Barsail Smile while walking from St Anne's to Park Mains.

Well done to Kian Holmes, Lewis Robertson, Harris Cameron and Alex Maclachlan who came first in the relay race during the Erskine Gala day. They were competing against other local schools. Alex also won the 400metre race. You all showed determination and sportsmanship. You made Barsail proud.

Junior Citizen of the Year

We were elated when we were informed that Mackenzie Hope (P7) was chosen to be the Junior Citizen of the Year in Erskine! Mackenzie has raised £1500 so far by 'Braving the Shave' and he also donated his hair to be made into a wig. This recognition is well deserved and the whole community is delighted for Mackenzie.

Playground Markings

Our playground now looks much brighter thanks to the work of a group of parents over the summer holidays! We cannot thank the families involved enough. Mrs Baldacci also worked hard on this initiative which was funded by a grant from Intu Braehead and Parent Council funds. The children

love the new playground markings and they support our outdoor learning at Barsail.

Vision, Aims and Values

The vision, values and aims were created by staff, parents and pupils. We regularly discuss the school values - Barsail Standard. The P4-7 children are currently creating a child friendly version of the school vision and aims during assembly time.

Vision

Our vision in Barsail is to work together to prepare children for the future in a safe, challenging and motivating environment where they are nurtured, valued, respected and supported to reach their full potential, enabling them to have the skills and confidence to succeed in today's society.

We aim to do this by:

- Creating a welcoming, inclusive ethos which encourages, challenges and supports all learners to realise their potential
- Providing an environment where pupils, parents and staff are respected and valued, partnerships are fostered and success is celebrated
- Supporting and encouraging high quality leadership at all levels ensuring forward thinking, creativity and innovation through a shared vision of excellence
- Creating a safe, stimulating learning environment which is well resourced and organised with skilled, motivated staff who have high expectations and standards for all
- Providing a broad, balanced, coherent and progressive curriculum which offers challenge and enjoyment appropriate to each learner's needs
- Developing confident, resilient, independent thinking learners who can work effectively on their own and in a team using effective Literacy, Numeracy and IT skills
- Ensuring high levels of attainment and achievement

Values
In Barsail Primary School we follow the Barsail Standard which underpins the values in our school community.

We are gentle	PEACE
We are kind and helpful	COMPASSION
We listen	RESPECT
We are honest	HONESTY
We work hard	PERSEVERANCE
We look after property	RESPONSIBILITY

Parking

I would like to remind parents who drive their children to and from school that they should not park in the school car park. The turning bay before the entrance to the car park should remain clear. Please be considerate towards residents living in the access roads.

Bike racks

Our bike racks are sited outside the Primary 7 classroom. Cycling is a great way to get to school both in terms of encouraging an active lifestyle and also as a way of helping the environment. We are happy to encourage children to cycle to school. For safety reasons, all children should dismount before entering the playground and should walk their bikes out of the playground at the end of the day. Helmets should be worn. Scooters can also be chained to the racks.

Homework Packages and Ties

We are encouraging all pupils to have a homework package. Durable material homework bags with the Barsail badge can be purchased for £5. Plastic document wallets are 50p. School ties are available from the front office priced £4.

Tuck

Primary 6 run a tuck shop every morning where pupils can buy water (20p), crisps (40p), pencils (5p), rubbers (10p) and sharpeners (10p).

The Big Friendly Read - Reading Challenge

Well done to all of the children who took part in this initiative. When you receive your certificate we will celebrate this achievement at assembly and issue house points.

Pupil Voice

Listening to our young people is of paramount importance. Our pupils have an important part to play in school life. Research shows that pupils who participate in decision-making report that they enjoy enhanced self-esteem and motivation, gain important personal, social and organisational skills, and become familiar with group and democratic processes. With this in mind, we have decided to further improve the pupil groups in Barsail. This session, as a pilot, P4-7 pupils will all be involved in a pupil group. The children have been asked which groups they are most interested in and the groups are currently being formed based on their choices. Options included Pupil Council, Eco, Talent Team, Barsail Bloggers, Rights Heroes, Fairtrade Friends and the Sport and Health Team to name but a few. Each pupil group will lead initiatives and make a difference to the school. All groups will meet once a month and will be assigned a member of staff as a facilitator / supporter. P1-3 will continue to have representatives on the Eco group and Pupil Council.

Barsail Bloggers

After the success of the Loch Insh blog last session, we are planning to utilise blogs as a means of communication. 'Barsail Bloggers' (a new pupil group) will take and upload photographs and write posts. More information to follow.

House System

We are in the process of appointing new Captains and Vice-Captains.

Well done to Mull who won the 2015-2016 overall house point total. They enjoyed a fun outing to Pandamonium at the end of June.

We would like to encourage our pupils to wear their house badge with pride. We do badge counts at assembly periodically and allocate house points. Metal badges are £1 and plastic ones are 35p from the school office.

Water Bottles

Pupils are encouraged to bring a full water bottle to class each day and they can drink plain water throughout the day. Diluting juice, flavoured water and fruit juice can be consumed at break and lunch.

No dogs in the playground please

Some of our pupils are scared of dogs and we have had issues with dog fouling.

Achievements and Assemblies

Should your child win a medal, compete in a tournament or competition, move up a grade in a hobby or learn a new skill, we would like to hear all about it. The children can tell their class about their achievements outwith school. Teachers will record major achievements in the achievement book and they will be celebrated during assembly which takes place each Thursday. Medals, certificates etc can be shown at the assembly. The children can choose whether to announce their achievement themselves or if they prefer, Mrs Cochrane or I will read it aloud.

Ragbag Collection - 13th September 2016

We would appreciate if you could fill a bag with unwanted textiles such as clothes, bags, hats, belts, towels, bed linen, curtains and shoes (laces tied in pairs). The heavier the better as the school gains money based on the weight of the collection. 10 Eco House Points are allocated per bag. These are added to a house chart and are not recorded on the individual child's chart. They do still make a big difference to the term totals! Please send bags into the school at 9am on 13/9/16. This Eco recycling scheme generally earns the school £800+ per year. Thank you for your support.

Wet Mornings

If the weather is unsuitable for pupils to remain in the playground (heavy rain, snow etc) then the children will enter the building via the front entrance at 8:55am.

Reporting to Parents

We will be sending Maths, Language and Writing jotters home each term. We would ask that jotters are returned the following day along with the feedback sheet provided at the time.

Parents' nights will be on Tuesday 11th and Wednesday 12th October 2016 from 4:30pm - 7:30pm.

Homework diaries are a key 2 way communication tool.

Look out for stickers and awards which recognise progress and effort.

Interim reports will continue to be trialled this session with the first one being issued in term 2.

As always, if you have any concerns or queries, please contact the school. You can write a note in the diary, send in a letter or call the school to arrange to speak to the class teacher or management team who should be able to help you. We pride ourselves on our positive relationships with our families. We politely request that you do not use social media as a means of complaining. Instead we have an open doors policy to address concerns promptly and proactively.

Meet the Teacher, Primary 7 Trip Information Evening and Parent Council -5th September

We are keen to hold an informal drop in session for P2-7 parents to meet their child's new teacher (P1 information evening for parents is 25/8). It will run between 6pm and 7pm on Monday 5th September. You will be able to go in to the class, look at wall displays, view resources and activities and chat to the teacher about the new school stage. If you have more than one child in the school you can visit each of their classes. If you wish to seek clarification on homework or expectations, then this is a good way of doing so. We hope this event is well attended as it is a great way to start building positive relationships. This is a trial and if it is popular with parents then we can look to offer this opportunity next session.

N.B. This will not be an opportunity to discuss individual pupils' needs.

P7 parents can also hear about the residential trip on this night between 6:30 and 7pm in the gym hall. You can visit the P7 classes from 6-6:30pm as part of meet the teacher.

The Primary 7 trip to Loch Insh is provisionally booked for 8th-12th May 2017. In order to keep the costs as low as possible, Primary 7 will be raising money throughout the year this session. The saving scheme started last session and Primary 7 pupils can pay in money each Friday. A savings book is issued once money has been handed in.

To round the evening off, the Parent Council AGM then starts at 7pm for those who are interested. All parents are most welcome to attend. We look forward to seeing some new faces.

Damaged or Lost Reading Books

We have spent a considerable sum of money on new class novels, reading books and library books. There have been occasions where books have been lost or damaged. We encourage pupils to use homework packages to protect their books. Accidents do happen but the school has had to pay for these books to be replaced. If a book is lost or damaged we ask that you either replace the book or pay a £5 donation to the school to allow us to order a new copy. Thank you for your understanding.

BASE (Barsail After School Events)

Taking on board feedback from our questionnaire, we changed the procedures for informing you about available clubs last year. Feedback from parents was very positive so we will continue to use the same format. The letter provides dates, times and costs (where applicable) so please keep a copy for your records and only return the consent form section. Places are limited so not all children will get a place in every club they want to attend. We will notify you via text to say if your child has a place. We use the number provided on the annual EV5 form so please ensure the school office has your current mobile number. If you have more than one child in the school, please keep a note of which clubs each child is applying for. If you wish siblings to attend the same club, please indicate this using the code (S). We have a wide variety of sporting clubs and are looking for parent volunteers to run other clubs e.g. chess, lego, games. If you are interested please contact the school office this week.

Sport

The Primary 7 football team will compete in a cluster schools league this session.

In association with Active Schools, we are aiming to enter teams in to various sporting competitions e.g. Netball, Basketball, Badminton, Hockey and Running.

Absence Procedures

The safety of our children is paramount. We would like to remind you of our absence procedures. Please phone the school office before 9.15am to inform us of your child's absence. If we have not been informed then an SMS text message will be sent to your contact number. If we do not have an explanation for the absence it will be logged as an unauthorised absence. We also appreciate being informed of doctor or dental appointments. Please remember that all holidays taken during term time are categorised as unauthorised.

Both absence and late coming are monitored continuously. We have a system of issuing letters and arranging meetings if attendance falls below 90% and if late coming is an issue.

Pupil Safety

Unless pupils are having a home lunch, we do not allow them to leave the school grounds at lunch time. We would like to thank parents for their support on this matter.

Home Lunch

If your child is a home lunch, please collect him/her from the school office at 12pm. Older pupils can sign themselves out to go home. All pupils must be signed back in when they return.

Adults in the playground

Should your child forget a book, their snack or anything else necessary for their day in school, please hand it in to the school office and a member of staff will ensure that it is passed on. Please do not come into the playground to pass on items to your own or anyone else's child.

Internet Safety and Media Permission

Renfrewshire Council have new guidelines within their Media and ICT Acceptable Use Policy. We are following these new guidelines. Last year all pupils received a consent form which had to be signed and returned for filing. The form is now only issued and signed in P1 (to be signed by parents) and re-issued in P4 (to be signed by pupils and parents). Please contact us if the preferences you specified have changed.

Reminders to Pupils

- Always do your best and 'Have a go Joel'
- You should be Barsail Standard at all times.
- Come to school ready to work with a sharp pencil and a rubber.

Reminder to Parents

- Credit Union runs on a Tuesday. Thanks to Caroline Cairns, Kim Clark, Helen McKay and Svetlana Senior. If your child wishes to join, a form can be issued by Mrs Mavers.
- Book club runs on a Wednesday and the pupils can save multiples of 50p towards a book. Thanks to Jaqui Ferguson and Svetlana Senior.
- Please help us to return lost property to the rightful owner by having names on your child's uniform.
- As the children are coming into school in the morning, the teacher has to attend to their class therefore this is not always the best time to discuss any queries.
- We continue to endeavour to be a nut free school as some of our pupils have nut allergies which cause **serious reactions**.

Extended Support Team

As a school, we continually monitor your child's progress through formal and informal assessments, evaluations, pupil discussions and staff discussions with the Senior Management Team. Throughout the school year there are also Extended Support Team meetings (ESTs) which involve the school working with agencies such as Home Link, School Nurse and Educational Psychologist. These meetings focus on how to best support and / or challenge pupils.

Should any matter be raised by class teachers that parents need to be aware of then we would contact you immediately. If you have an objection to your child being discussed at an EST, please contact the school.

Save the date

Mon 5th Sept 6-7pm Meet the teacher P2-7. Pupils welcome to show you around or come on your own.

Mon 5th Sept 6:30-7pm P7 Information Session re Loch Insh in the hall

Mon 5th Sept 7pm Parent Council AGM

Mon 12th Sept P1 photograph for newspaper - wear shirt and tie

Tues 13th Sept Ragbag collection

Wed 14th Sept First lunch time P7 football team game at Park Mains

Mon 19th Sept Barsail after school events (**BASE**) starts this week

Wed 5th Oct P7 football team game at Park Mains

Tues 11th and Wed 12th Oct Parents' Evenings

Wed 2nd Nov P7 football team game at Park Mains

Thurs 10th Nov P6-7 Road Race event

Thurs 15th and Fri 16th Dec Nativity and Pantomime shows both days - extra day to ensure we can accommodate more of our families

Mon 19th Dec Christmas parties for the whole school.

Upcoming Holiday Dates

September Weekend	Friday 23 September 2016 and Monday 26 September 2016
In-service Day	Friday 14 October 2016 (IS)
Schools closed	Monday 17 October 2016 to Friday 21 October 2016 (inclusive)
Schools re-open	Monday 24 October 2016
St Andrew's Day	Wednesday 30 November 2016
Schools re-open	Thursday 01 December 2016
Christmas / New Year	Wednesday 21 December 2016 to Wednesday 04 January 2017 (inclusive)

