

**Barsail Primary News**

**Term 2 2016**

**A**

We have been incredibly busy over the last term and have many exciting contexts for learning coming up! I am continuing as Acting Head Teacher this term and Mrs Cochrane as Acting Depute Head Teacher. As always, we advocate an open doors policy. If you have any queries or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact the school. Class teachers are always keen to help and Mrs Cochrane and I are committed to strengthening the positive relationships we have with our families.

Mrs Mavers

**Meet the Teacher**

This new initiative at Barsail was a huge success with excellent feedback provided. 100% of responses stated it was worthwhile!

**School aims reworded by P4-7**

The August newsletter outlined the vision, values and aims which were created with pupils, parents and staff. Last term P4-7 were involved in rewording the vision and aims to create a child friendly version. Here is what they decided:

Vision

* All of the Barsail family help us to try our hardest, reach our goals, look after each other and make the world a better place.

Aims

* Work to our limits and beyond, having fun as we go.
* All of the Barsail family get involved and when we do well we share and celebrate our achievements.
* We can lead and improve our school.
* Everyone and everything in our classrooms and playgrounds should help us do our best.
* Learning should be fun and just right for each one of us.
* We can work together or on our own using skills we are learning.
* All of the boys and girls should have a go and reach for the stars.

Our values remain unchanged – they are based on the Barsail Standard.

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

**Pupil Groups**

What a successful start to the new format for Pupil Groups! All of P4-7 are in a pupil group which meets once a month to lead and make a difference! The Pupil Council, Captains and Vice Captains and JRSO have already presented to the whole school. The Barsail Bloggers take photographs at each assembly and update the achievement blog on the school website. We have lots of exciting projects to come, all organised and led by the children of Barsail.

**Winning House**

Term 1 winners are Jura. They are having an own clothes day on Tuesday 8th November as a reward. The Captains and Vice Captain will arrange some fun activities for Jura on this day.

**Achievements and Assemblies**

Please continue to share achievements which take place out with school with us. Younger children may want you to write a note in their diary to tell the class teacher. Some achievements are celebrated in class and many are shared at assembly through the achievement book.

**Improvement Plan and School Priorities**

As a staff we are committed to moving the school forward. Every teacher is involved in a working party. We are currently focusing on Reading and Numeracy. Mrs Cassells is the Literacy Champion and Miss Morrison is the Numeracy Champion for Barsail. They attend training events and report back to all staff. Distributed leadership is a strength of the school and staff willingly lead initiatives, extra curricular activities and Pupil Groups.

**Transition**

We are having a Tour and Open Afternoon for parents and nursery children who will start Barsail next August. We welcome all catchment area families as well as people living out with the catchment area who are considering making a placing request. Please spread the word! All local nurseries have been contacted. It is a drop in event on Wednesday 23rd November from 1:30 – 3pm.

**A reminder - we are aiming to be a NUT FREE school. This includes conkers.**

**School Sport Award**

Mr Shearer, our Active Schools Co-ordinator, nominated Barsail for a Renfrewshire wide School Sport Award. We were short listed and I attended an awards ceremony where I was delighted to accept the award on behalf of the Barsail family! Thank you to all of the volunteers who lead Barsail After School Activities (BASE), many of whom are parents. The award also recognises our partnership working with Active Schools and commitment to sending teams to compete in a variety of sporting events.

Our football team, led by Mr Pullar, now compete in a local league with all of the cluster schools.

Forty of our P6 and P7 pupils are taking part in a Road Race event on Thursday 10th November. We wish them the very best of luck.

**Class Dojo and House Points**

You may have heard your children discuss Dojo. Dojo is an electronic means of recording points. The points they record are House Points and they count towards term and yearly totals.

**New website**

Mrs Smithsimmons has created a new website which allows us to blog and therefore communicate more regularly with parents. Please sign up for emails to alert you to new posts. The information leaflet and PowerPoint at Parents’ Evenings provided information about the new site. We hope you like it as much as we do! Visit us at [www.barsailprimary.co.uk](http://www.barsailprimary.co.uk)

**Parent Council Fundraising**

As I am sure you are aware, the Parent Council are fundraising for iPads! To kick start this, Joanne McDowall ran the Amsterdam marathon, the children are running a collective class marathon on Monday 31st October (they can wear sports clothes to school) and then Mrs Napier will run the New York marathon in November! You can donate here:

<https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/BarsailPC>

**Poppy Appeal**

Primary 6 pupils will talk to the school at assembly about this appeal. Poppies will be sold for a small donation e.g. 20 pence from Tuesday 2nd November.

**Social Media**

Some of our pupils are accessing social media sites, using facetime and getting involved in online gaming on PS4, Xbox etc. Online activity has at times had consequences for friendships within the school. Please help to keep your children safe online and ensure that their online conduct is acceptable. The Thinkuknow website is a source of excellent advice.

Keeping safe online is also part of our school Health and Wellbeing programme.

**Educational Eggs**

Pupils in P2-5 are learning about life cycles in an innovative, hands on manner. We are looking after chicken eggs. This project will allow the children to care for eggs and watch as they hatch and become chicks! It is incredibly exciting! The incubators will be based in P4/3 and P4. Watch out for blog posts!

**Wormery**

P4-7 had a presentation called ’Worm Inspectors!’ P5/4 are now responsible for looking after our wormery which is situated in the quadrangle (middle of the school).

**Supporting Charity**

Our chosen charities this session are:

Team Mila – a local charity raising money for Cystic Fibrosis

Save the Children – a global charity

British Heart Foundation

The Captains and Vice Captains will arrange fundraising events for these charities. Team Mila are hosting a Christmas Shopper Day/ Coffee Morning on Saturday 5th November in Bargarran Community Centre 10am – 2pm. We are supporting this event by creating items to sell. Community involvement is extremely important and we are delighted to help make a difference.

**Parent helpers and sixth year assistants**

We currently have parent volunteers who run Credit Union, Book Club and support open area activities in the infant department. If you are interested in being involved, please contact Mrs Mavers. Our volunteers are being PVG checked. We also have Park Mains 6th year pupils who are volunteering throughout the school as part of their community involvement. All volunteers have been briefed on the school, expectations and the need for confidentiality.

**P6-7 Open Afternoon to celebrate their World War 2 topic and raise funds for Loch Insh**

Primary 6 and 7 will be hosting an open afternoon on Friday 25th November from 1:30pm. Parents will be invited to find out about the fantastic World War 2 topic, experience some entertainment from the 40’s, try delicious ration recipes and hear about life on the home front. Recipe cards will be available to buy with proceeds paying for the ingredients the children will use to make the food and then towards Loch Insh.

**Trips**

P6-7 are attending West College for Science. P2-3/2 are visiting the Transport Museum as part of their topic. P1 will walk to the local library this term.

**Edina Trust**

Primary 6 are going to be planting bulbs as part of the Edina Trust Bulb Project. The bulbs will be planted on Thursday the 27th of October with Mrs Sinclair. The Primary 6 children will monitor and care for the bulbs as they grow.

**HT challenge and recognition**

After watching Matthew Fitt (a Scottish author) live, I challenged P4-7 to change a story or excerpt into Scots. Well done to those who took part.

A handful of letters were posted to families to share positive observations about their child. This special recognition award will continue this term along with prestigious Head Teacher certificates and business cards.

**First Minister Reading Challenge**

The booklet and accompanying letter explain how we are driving this national P4-7 initiative forward. Please encourage your child to take part! You can use the information on the letter to buy books with Accelerated Reading quizzes as Christmas gifts. Mrs Cassells and Mrs Cochrane are currently creating a P1-3 Barsail Reading Challenge too – more information to follow!

**Book Donations**

If you have good quality books, comics, magazines or audio books which your children no longer use, we would welcome donations to enhance our school libraries and class reading areas.

**Christmas Fayre**

This annual event is being held on Thursday 8th December from 6:30-8:30pm. To help prepare for the Fayre, we ask that P1-2 bring home baking, P3-5 bring chocolate for the chocolate tombola stall and P6-7 bring a bottle on the 8th December and in return they can wear their own clothes that day. P1 and 2 parents can send in chocolate or a bottle rather than baking if this is easier.

**Pantomime and Nativity**

P7 are looking forward to putting on a West End worthy show! This year the pantomime will be Aladdin! If you have any spare costumes, waistcoats, hats or even wigs suitable for a dame, please contact Mrs Mavers.

The Christmas Extravaganza for parents will take place on Thursday 15th 9:15am P1-3, 10:30am P4-7, 1:15pm P1-3 and 2:15pm P4-7 and Friday 16th December 9:15am P1-3, 10:30am P4-7. We listened to your views last session and have included extra shows. We are also performing for other local Primary 7 classes and nurseries as part of the transition process. These shows will be on the Tuesday and Friday afternoons! Tickets will be issued but there will be no charge. If you wish to pay a donation on the day then this will go towards costume costs and the rest will be split between Loch Insh and school fund.

**Christmas Parties**

All parties will take place on Monday 19th December. P4-5 will have their party in the morning. They should wear their party clothes to school. The P1-3 and P6-7 parties will be in the afternoon. They can either wear their party clothes to school or they can change at lunch time.

**Dogs**

A polite reminder that dogs are not permitted in the playground as many of the children are scared. We have had several issues with dog foul in the school grounds. We appreciate this is unlikely to be a dog belonging to one of our families.

**PACE**

Primary 6 were trained by PACE theatre company and performed a play about Paisley to the whole school on 7th October. They were absolute stars!

**Jewellery and P.E.**

Renfrewshire Council has recently updated the Health and Safety policy advice regarding P.E. and jewellery. “ Watches, rings, chains and belts and other body jewellery must be removed before physical education lessons as these may cause injury to the wearer or others. It is preferred that parents are advised that any child having body jewellery piercing wait until the summer break to allow them time to heal. However, parents wishing children to wear body jewellery during physical education should write to the school expressing their request. Children will be expected to provide tape and cover any such items of jewellery during the activity. Pupils will be responsible for the safekeeping of jewellery.”

**Holiday Dates**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| St Andrew's Day holiday | Wednesday 30 November 2016 |
| Schools re-open | Thursday 01 December 2016 |
| Christmas / New Year holidays | Wednesday 21 December 2016 to Wednesday 04 January 2017 (inclusive) Re-open Thursday 5th January 2017 |

**Dates for your Diary**

* Class marathons – 31st October
* P7 and 7/6 West College trip – 31st October
* Eco show P4-5 in school – 4th November
* Jura House Reward – 8th November
* School photographs – 9th November and possibly 10th November if necessary
* P6-7 Road Race – 10th November
* P6 West College trip – 14th November
* P1 and P7 dental inspections – 16th November
* P1 library visit – 22nd November
* Nursery child and parent Tour – 23rd November 1:30-3pm
* P2-3/2 Trip – 24th November
* P6-7 WW2 event – 25th November
* BASE ends – 25th November
* Flu immunisation – 28th November am
* Christmas lunch in school – 6th December
* School Fayre – 8th December
* Christmas shows – 15th and 16th December
* Christmas parties – 19th December