

Welcome to our first newsletter of the new term. It was lovely to welcome everyone back to Lochfield but it was especially nice to welcome our new Primary Ones! They were so shiny and gorgeous in their uniforms! They had a fabulous day – we were so impressed with how well they behaved and how quickly they settled into the routines.

Ms Macgregor Duncan



Free School Meals / Clothing Grants

If you feel you may qualify for free school meals, please apply **EVEN** if your child automatically gets a free school lunch (P1-5). This is because you may also then be entitled to other grants to help with finances. All information is available on the Renfrewshire Council Website. Please use the link below for information.

PLEASE REMEMBER THAT IF YOU ARE A P6 or P7 PARENT YOU WILL NEED TO APPLY FOR FREE SCHOOL MEALS AS THEY ARE NOT UNIVERSALLY FREE FOR P6 AND P7

<https://www.renfrewshire.gov.uk/article/3338/Free-school-meals-and-clothing-grants>

Classes for August 2024

Our wonderful teachers are listed below – we are very lucky to have each and every one of them.

P1a	Miss Dickson
P1b	Miss Crew
P2	Mrs Kinney - Tue-Friday Mrs Logan - Monday
P3/2	Mrs Chambers
P3	Miss Clark
P4	Miss Ritchie
P5/4	Miss Smith
P5	Miss Bell
P6	Miss Gormal (Monday -Thursday) Mrs Wilson (Friday)
P7/6	Mrs Campbell
P7	Ms Hughes
NCC	Miss Magee (various classes)
Depute Head Teacher	Mr Brown

Non-teaching staff

We are lucky enough to have a wonderful team of people working to ensure your child has a very positive experience of school and this goes well beyond just the class teacher.

Office

The office staff will be the first people you speak to when you call the school and the first people you will see when you come into the school. You will always be guaranteed a warm welcome and they go above and beyond to help you at all times. Mrs Campbell is the Office Manager and Miss Hodgkins is her right hand woman!

Support Staff

Support staff are worth their weight in gold! They provide support in classrooms and in the playground. Classroom assistants generally provide support for the majority of children who require this whereas ASNAs provide more specific support such as one to one with a child who requires this high level of support. Our support staff are as follows:

Classroom Assistants

Mrs McLean
Mrs Purcell
Mrs Illingworth

ASNAs (Additional Support Needs Assistants)

Mrs Kennedy
Mrs Rough
Mrs Sloan
Mrs Lomas

Catering staff

These ladies work in our dining hall. They are a wonderful group of people who are always there with a smile for your child as they serve them lunch! Joanne is the person who works out-with the kitchen. She helps the children with every aspect of lunchtime from cleaning tables to opening packets and cutting up food! She knows the children very well and is brilliant at encouraging children to eat. She also knows who tries to throw lunch in the bin and keeps an eye out for them! Our catering staff are as follows:

Angie McIntosh
Barbara Harkins

Carly Garrett
Joanne McCann

Siobhan Kelly

Senior Facilities Officers (AKA The Jannies)

Mr Milton and Mr Pearson work 7-2.30 and 11-6.30pm respectively. It is their responsibility to oversee all the catering and cleaning in the school as well as keep the ground litter free and tidy. You will see Mr Milton welcoming the P1 children at the Infant gate in the morning and Mr Pearson will lock up the gates at the end of the day. Both SFOs work in the dining hall as well as doing playground duty. They are a very big part of the school!

Parking

Please avoid parking in Quarry Road during drop off and pick up times. We have seen a huge change for the better when people don't park there. It is much safer for our children and you just can't argue with ensuring children's safety. Thank you so much to those who never park in Quarry Road. If someone is parked illegally – eg on the zig zags please take the registration number and we will report to the Wardens.



SHOW YOU CARE AND PARK ELSEWHERE

NUTS

PLEASE REMEMBER WE ARE A NUT FREE SCHOOL DUE TO CHILDREN HAVING SEVERE NUT ALLERGIES. PLEASE REMEMBER THIS WHEN GIVING CHILDREN PACKED LUNCHES AND SNACKS. CHICKEN SATAY, NUTELLA ETC CAN BE LIFE THREATENING TO SOME CHILDREN IN THIS SCHOOL.



Attendance and Late Coming

Just a reminder about how important it is for children to attend school regularly and on time. We would ask that you don't keep children off because it's their birthday or because they slept in. It would also be appreciated if you tried to make doctor and dental appointments for after school. I understand some appointments such as hospital and orthodontist cannot be changed.

When children are late, they often miss the teaching of the lesson. This can cause anxiety for some children. It also means that the teacher has to leave the rest of the class and explain the work to your child. Therefore, your child's late coming can also affect the entire class.

It is your duty as a parent to support your child to attend school. If these good habits are not developed now at the Primary School stage, then they will never develop, and your child will have poor attendance their entire school career. This will have a direct impact upon their attainment.

Attendance Matters



Every Day Counts....

Holidays During Term Time

Please avoid removing your child from school during term time. They miss a great deal of work and often it can be the teaching of a new concept that they miss the teaching for. This means when they return, they do not know what to do as they haven't been taught. We do not have the extra staff for pupils to be 'caught up' after a holiday. Also, we have over 60 children across the school who have a targeted intervention for either Reading or Numeracy. These interventions take place three times per week and evidence has shown that it is helping to raise attainment for these targeted pupils. Holidays and poor attendance hugely affect the pupils chances of improving their attainment.

Attendance Safeguards

The safety of your child is our utmost priority. We are therefore requesting that if your child is absent from school please contact the school before 9.30 am each and every day your child is absent – unless you have informed us on day one of the duration of this absence. After 9.30 am we will follow up all unreported absences. We will send a text out informing you that your child is not in school. If you do not reply to this, we will then phone you. If we are still unable to get you on the phone, we will then call the emergency contacts. This is simply for safety so that we know your child is safe. There have been occasions (not in our school thankfully) when parents have sent their child to school and they have not arrived. The school has assumed the child is at home and the parent has assumed the child is at school. This is why we are very diligent about following up absences.

Prepared for School

Please ensure your child comes to school each day prepared for class. A pencil case containing sharp pencils, a ruler, rubber and sharpener are all essential items. Crayons, coloured pencils and felt pens are also very handy to have. A water bottle is essential - **please ensure your child has a water bottle with a drinking cap as this avoids spillages onto books and jotters.** Please do not put juice in water bottles as if this spills it can damage books and jotters.

Your child will be notified of PE days via the class newsletters and they should come equipped with suitable clothing and gym shoes. These can be kept in a gym bag in school. This saves your child from forgetting their kit and missing out on a valuable part of their education. Classes will be issuing their own newsletters over the next couple of weeks to give you more detailed class information.

Please remember to label all clothing, lunch boxes, packed lunch bags and water bottles if possible –we cannot get lost property back to children if there are no names on items – this is still advisable at upper school level too - not just the little ones!

We are endeavouring to encourage healthy snacks as we are a health promoting school. Please have a think about replacing sugary foods with a piece of fruit. Could you also please limit the amount of snacks children have as they are eating lunch an hour and a half after playtime? This can affect them eating their lunch, especially the infants.

Many thanks for your support in this matter.



Macmillan Coffee Morning

Unfortunately, too many of us have either had personal experience of Cancer or we know someone close to us who has been affected.

As always, we will be hosting the Macmillan coffee morning on Thursday 19th September. Over the years we have raised over a couple of thousand pounds for this cause thanks to the generosity of our families. We will, once again be asking for donations of home baking. For those like myself, who are absolutely hopeless at baking then feel free to buy something from the shops and donate! Please remember to label all Tupperware etc so we can return this to you. We hope to see you all there! More info to follow.

Diary Dates

Tues 20th August	Tempest Photographer in – individuals and families
Thurs 29th August	Parent Council AGM - all welcome
Thursday 19th September	Macmillan Coffee Morning
Friday 27th September	Pupils off for September Weekend
Monday 30th September	Pupils off for September Weekend
Tuesday 1st October	Pupils return



OUR SCHOOL MOTTO - WHERE EVERY CHILD MATTERS AND EVERY MOMENT COUNTS



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