



Wallace Primary School

January 2018 Newsletter

Dear Parents and Carers,

What a great end to 2017 and a wonderful start to 2018 we have had at Wallace Primary! Our children continue to demonstrate themselves as confident individuals in everything that they do! I hope you enjoy reading about the goings on in the school and nursery.

Christmas Activities

Our Christmas celebrations were wonderful at Wallace. Primary 1-3 entertained us by taking us on a "Magical Christmas Journey" for their nativity. The children were excellent, well done to all of them and special thanks to the staff who supported them in delivering such a fantastic performance.

Our choir was also very busy last term entertaining at Asda, The Paisley Centre and many local community venues. I was so proud of them at Johnstone Town Hall as part of the Brass and Voices concert. Well done to all choir members and thanks to Mrs Wilkie for her hard work. Thank you also to Mrs Montgomery and Mrs Davies for standing in during Mrs Wilkie's absence. We held 2 successful community cafes and a whole school Christmas service led by Mr Allison.

Staffing Update

We will be delighted to welcome Mrs Brooker to her new post as Depute Head on Friday 9th February. She has already spent time visiting the school and supporting our infant registration process. I know she will be warmly welcomed to Wallace and will be an asset to our team!

We were sorry to see Miss Marcos, our Inclusion Support Assistant, leaving us this month. She was offered a job in her home village in Spain. We wish her well in her new post.

House Party

Well done to Venus who were Term 2's House Party Winners! They enjoyed a disco party on Friday led by our P7 House Captains. Well done to Erin and Brooke.

Burns Supper

Well done to Primary 6 for their excellent Burns Supper. They planned, organised and hosted a wonderful afternoon. The decorations, singing, dancing, speeches and delicious meal were enjoyed by their parents and invited guests. Well done to all the pupils and staff involved. Thanks to Mairi and our kitchen staff for preparing the delicious meal and thanks to Elderslie Butchers and The Flower Shop for their support.

It was wonderful to see friends and family in the school engaging in activities with their children and the feedback from parents was extremely positive.

Edinburgh Trip

Primary 6 thoroughly enjoyed their trip to Edinburgh in December. Pupils were complimented on their excellent behaviour and good manners at Flip Out. All children survived the Edinburgh Dungeons and were suitably terrified. Pupils enjoyed an evening meal at Filling Station before watching Shrek the Musical. Thank you very much to Miss Docherty, Miss Fredericks, Mrs McNiven and Mr Porter for giving up their time to accompany Primary 6.

Farewell Mr Allison

On Friday we held a special assembly to say farewell to Mr Allison who has been our School Chaplain for a number of years and will be very much missed at Wallace. We wish him well in his new church and thank him for his hard work and support over the years.

Parent Council

You will have read about the recent changes to our Parent Council. The new structure, which is now in place, will be an overall Parent Council with sub committees working on different areas. I would like to take the opportunity on behalf of the school to thank Sarah Kidd, Lucy Harkins and, in particular, Nicola Jackson for their hard work and commitment to their roles over the years. I know how much the school and its pupils have benefited from their support, time and enthusiasm they have given to the PTA. I would also like to thank the new members for their commitment to their new roles and Kenny Campbell for continuing to support the school in the role as chairperson. I look forward to working with the Parent Council over the coming years to ensure the best possible experiences for the pupils of Wallace Primary and Nursery.

Wallace has got Talent

I was so proud to find out that many of our talented pupils had been selected to display their Art work at Paisley Museum. They were lucky to visit the opening event with Miss Harper to see their work on display. Please visit the museum to see this wonderful display and well done to our talented pupils. Well done Samuel Pender, Cameron McKee, Lauren Yates, Tyler Malcolm, Daniel McCartney, Emily Teeling, Charlie Turnbull and Lewis Waddell.

Our talent show in December was a huge success. Well done to everyone who took part and especially to our winners Riley Black, Lucy Inglis and Kayla McGoldrick. Thanks to Miss Satera for organising and leading the event. Well done to Tyler Malcolm who was the school winner for our local MSP Christmas Card competition!

Vision and Values Update

We continue to consult and develop our ideas for our new school vision and values. Thanks to the ten parents who came along to the workshops and the 65 parents who completed our online survey! We are now consulting the pupils and hope to have our vision and values finalised soon.

Attendance and Late-coming

As Head Teacher it is very important that I keep a careful eye on pupil attendance on a daily basis and across the school year.

It is very important that you let us know if your child is going to be absent from school. If we have any unexplained absences at 9.30am we will send a text to the main contact for the pupil. This will be followed up by a phone call at 10am. If we have no response to the phone call we will have to take further action, as per Renfrewshire Council policy, which includes home visits to ensure the safety of our pupils.

Across the term I monitor attendance on a monthly basis, any pupils with less than 90% attendance or more than 5 occasions of late-coming will receive a letter home. The purpose of this is to alert you to this information and the bigger picture or pattern of your child's attendance and/or late-coming. The letter will be sent to everyone in this situation regardless of circumstance or reasons for absence.

Clubs

We are delighted to have so many clubs on offer this term and we are pleased to introduce our new online booking system which went live on Monday. Massive thanks to staff and parents who are giving up their own time to lead these clubs.

Fair Trade Fortnight

We are delighted to be involved in Fair Trade Fortnight and the children will be undertaking a variety of activities linked to Fair Trade. These activities will be celebrated with a Family Fair Trade Coffee Afternoon on Friday 9th March and we would like to invite you to join us. Your child can join you from his/her class for a Fair Trade drink and snack, for which there will be £1 entrance fee to cover costs. To try and organise numbers, families of pupils with surnames A-L will be welcome from 1pm - 2pm and M-Z from 2pm - 3pm. We hope you can support this event.

Literacy Update

We continue to have our focus on Literacy and reading in particular. We are moving forward with the Literacy Project and developing a school Accelerated Reading Library.

Thank you to our PTA for the cheque for £2,500 which will support our new library and enhance our reading books for Primary 1-3.

Author Visits

On Thursday 25th January Primary 5 were delighted to have a visit from local author Lindsay Littleson.

Our Reading Rangers have been working hard with Mrs Robertson and have arranged for us to host a visit from award-winning Scottish author Stuart Reid on Friday 9th March 2018. Stuart's first book *Gorgeous George and the Giant Geriatric Generator* won the Silver Medal at the Forward National Literature Awards. His next four books were written to inspire children to read for pleasure, and Stuart's 6th book *Gorgeous George and his Stupid Stinky Stories* was launched at the Edinburgh Festival. Pupils can purchase books on the day, all signed by the author, with a personal dedication to each child. Books are available for £7 each, two for £12, four for £20 or a special offer price of all six for £25.

Parent Helpers

Thank you very much to all parents who responded to my request for parent helpers. We now have a list of parents willing to help with trips and one-off events. I will be holding meetings for parents who are able to help with book banding, classes and clubs. It is great to have parents willing to give up their time to support the school and engage in the life of the school.

Pupil Council

Our Pupil Council has now been set up for this year. Congratulations to the following pupils who will represent their classes at regular meetings with me. I am looking forward to working with them.

Well done...

Primary 1: Jessica Stewart and Alexander Caldwell

Primary 2: Sophia Muir and Cameron Murphy

Primary 3: Bella Wilson and Kyle Whyte

Primary 4: Grace Farquhar and Charlie Phimister

Primary 5: Louie Munro and Grace Miller

Primary 6: Luke Jackson and Emily Head

Primary 7: Lucy Bingham and Chloe Lochery

Asda Tokens

Please look out for the green tokens at the checkout at Asda Linwood. We can win £500 for the nursery if we collect the most tokens!

Dates for your Diary

5/2/18	Clubs start
7/2/18	SSPCA visit
8/2/18	Family Fitness Taster
9/2/18	In service Day
12/2/18	Holiday
13/2/18	Holiday
14/2/18	Valentines Disco
23/2/18	Fair Trade Assembly
9/3/18	Fair Trade Coffee Afternoon
19/3/18	P6 to Safe Kids
26/3/18	Easter Service led by P5 P5 Parents welcome
27/3/18	P1-5 Parents' Night
28/3/18	P1-5 Parents' Night
29/3/18	STOP FOR SPRING BREAK
16/4/18	School Reopens
23/4/18	Parent Council Meeting

I would like to remind you of our open door policy at Wallace. Please don't hesitate to contact me at any point.

Thank you for your continued support.

Yours sincerely,

Susan Dalrymple

Mrs Susan Dalrymple

Head Teacher