



# Williamsburgh Primary School & ELCC



## Newsletter May 2019

### *Achieving - Respectful - Kind*

Dear Parents and Carers

It hardly seems possible that we are now in the final term of this year!

#### Value Logo Competition

We recently ran a competition for children to design a logo to represent our new values. We were super impressed by the entries and had a very difficult decision to make choosing a winner.

3<sup>rd</sup> place was Emily Rice in P2b

2<sup>nd</sup> place was Sophie Powrie in P7a

Our winner with the beautiful design shown here was.....

**Swikirti Acharya in P6c**



Didn't she do an amazing job? We are going to use this new logo on all of our correspondence and you will soon see posters and banners so that everyone is very clear that Williamsburgh is all about being Achieving, Respectful and Kind!

#### Author Visit – P5

P5 recently enjoyed a visit from award winning author, Ross MacKenzie who spoke about writing. Ross wrote us a lovely email afterwards complimenting P5. Ross thanked us for having him and said:

*“Both classes were an absolute credit to your school, and it was brilliant to feel such a warm, welcoming atmosphere and such positivity towards literacy.”*

How lovely! Well done P5!



## Relaxed Entry Trial

As you know, we trialled a “relaxed entry” for the two weeks leading up to Spring break.

This allowed the children to enter school from 0850 every morning. We continued with the “no lines” format after break and lunch and children just filtered back in to school after the bell.

I am delighted to say that it was a resounding success!

- 88% of our children “loved it and want it to continue!”
- Over 120 parents, carers and family members responded either via the online survey, by email or face to face. 100% of those who responded liked the early entry and wanted it to continue.
- More than 80% of staff also wanted the relaxed entry to continue.

With that kind of feedback we will, of course, keep this going. It seems to be working well for everyone.

There were a couple of suggestions for improvement, shown below:

<b><i>What you said</i></b>	<b><i>What we will do</i></b>
A parent was concerned about less physical activity in the mornings.	Fingers crossed the trim trail will soon be back in action and this will be available in the mornings.  Now that the weather is not so bitter, classes will go back to having the daily mile which will ensure daily activity for all.  Of course, playtimes and lunchtimes are still great opportunities to run about.
Some of the children who said “no” to it continuing said that they didn’t like the congestion at the senior door after break and lunch.	This is an easy fix and has already been sorted!  P4 & P5 children now come in at the rear, glass doors after break and lunch. Problem solved!

## THINGS WE ❤️



## Staffing Hellos.....

There have been some staffing changes recently.

In the Early Learning and Childcare Class we have welcomed three new Early Learning and Childcare officers:

Nicola Fraser

Kirsten Winch

Claire Garscadden

We have also welcomed Julie Lindsay who joins us as an Early Years Graduate.

We are delighted to welcome them to the Williamsburgh family and look forward to all that they will bring.

## .....and staffing Goodbyes!

We are also losing a valued member of our team – for a wee while anyway! Mrs Simona Wishart, Principal Teacher, has been appointed as Acting Depute Head Teacher at Kirklandneuk Primary in Renfrew. The post is for one year and Mrs Wishart leaves us on Friday 7<sup>th</sup> June.

I am sure, like me, you will be sad to see Simona go but wish her every success in her new role.

At the end of this school session, Mrs Elaine Gray is leaving us to enjoy a very early retirement! Elaine has been at Williamsburgh for 24 years and is a much loved and respected member of the team. We will miss her and all that she does for our school but wish her a long, healthy and happy retirement with lots of fun times with her family, especially her adorable new grandson, Max.

## Parent Council

Thank you to our Parent Council for organising a successful spring event complete with Easter egg hunt, crafts and lots of lovely cakes.

The next event is Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> June and is the Summer Fayre. Here's hoping for a great day that will raise lots of money for our school.

Please do come along and support in any way you can. Money raised helps us to do lots of things like reduce the cost of trips and provide great experiences for the children.





## P7 News

P7 now have their leavers' hoodies and were delighted to try them out at a fun trip to Barshaw Park. As you can see, they are a colourful bunch!



## Paisley Grammar Concert

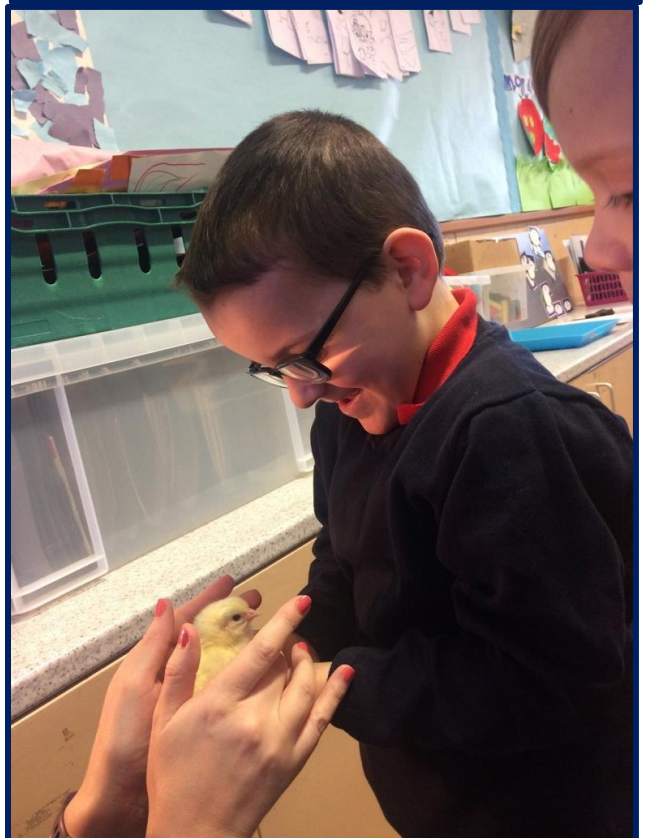
P7 did themselves – and us – proud at the Paisley Grammar Concert recently. This is a long established part of the transition work with PGS and other cluster primaries.

The children were super smart in their school uniform, sang their hearts out and behaved beautifully throughout. I was so proud of them all. I know that Paisley Grammar Staff are now very much looking forward to having them join in August.

Well done P7!







## P1 Chicks

Our Primary 1 children had a wonderful learning opportunity to see eggs hatching and chicks growing. They learned about life cycles, about caring for animals and being responsible. Everyone loved the furry friends and we were delighted when two of our parents were able to find them happy homes to run free and have great lives.



## I Am Me Bus

We are delighted to continue working with I Am Me. This important organisation helps to educate, raise awareness of and support victims of disability hate crime.

Our P1 children enjoyed a visit from the I am Me Cinebus with special teddy, Keep Safe Sam.



## World Book Day Fun!

We had a great time celebrating World Book Day. Lots of children chose to dress up as a character from a book and we had some really inventive ideas.



## Important Safety Reminders

I am looking for your support in helping to keep our school community safe for everyone.

There have been a few incidents and some near misses recently and your help in ensuring that our children and adults stay safe and well is much appreciated.

### *Glass containers*

Please do not send your child with glass bottles or containers of any kind into school. One of our children was recently badly hurt when she fell with a glass jar in her hand.

### *Parking*

Please, please, please do not park in the staff car park or allow your child to walk through this area. The car park is for staff and visitors only. There are a very small number of parents and carers who have permission to use the car park for important reasons. Other than those people, only staff and visiting staff should use the car park.

Sadly, there have been several incidences of staff being verbally abused when asking parents not to use the car park. I would remind you that Renfrewshire Council adopts a zero tolerance approach to aggression towards staff.

### *Traffic on Lacy Street*

There has been a huge improvement in the volume of traffic on Lacy Street in the mornings thanks to our relaxed entry system. Our lollipop people have been delighted about this.

Please be patient with our wonderful school crossing patrols. They are there

to ensure your children cross the road safely and must not be subjected to verbal abuse or road rage.

### *PE Kit and Jewellery*

I have noticed a huge number of children not bringing PE kit to school for their gym days.

This is a particular problem in the upper school who seem to have a notion that it is "not cool" to have PE kit!

PE is a vital part of your children's education and is hugely important for health and wellbeing.

Please ensure that your child has shorts, tee shirt and soft shoes for gym. Lots of our girls are wearing short and tight skirts that are not appropriate for PE lessons so proper kit is vital.

Deodorant for our older children may also be advised!

Children are now allowed to have piercings in during PE but these must be covered. Please send tape with your child and ensure that they know how to do this.

Moaning over! Thank you for your support!





## Trim Trail Update!

You have all been very patient over the months of the trim trail being out of use and I am very grateful to you for that.

I am delighted to let you know that we now have the money to be able to make the repairs to allow the trim trail to be safe to use again.

I would like to record a huge thank you to our Parent Council who have worked tirelessly to get the money.

They have managed to secure £1000 from Taylor Wimpey who are building on Hawkhead Road and this has been a huge boost.

Thank you to all who donated to the Parent Council Just Giving page as this has been a huge help.

The school have been able to put £1500 towards the cost too.

I am now working with Scotsafe to get the repairs carried out as soon as they can.

This is only the beginning of the Parent Council plans for the playground! We are hoping to continue to raise funds to allow us to put in other equipment and improve the playground so that it is a stimulating and purposeful place for our children to play.

If you can help in any way, the Parent Council would be delighted to hear from you.



## P1 Den – The Official Opening!

The story of the den....

- P1 children wanted a bigger den to read and play in.
- Staff told children that Mrs Scott had no pennies to buy a new one and they would have to design one themselves!
- Mrs Mackey contacted Mehul, an architect from Renfrewshire council, who came in and helped the children with their designs.
- Mrs Mackey (who, we have discovered can source most things for free!) managed to get all the materials we needed. This included some lovely leather from the local tannery!
- The children worked hard, following designs and plans and with help from senior pupils.
- The design is now complete! Mehul came along to open it and we had a lovely article in the Paisley Express!
- Well done P1 – the poshest den in Paisley!



Kind regards

*Nova Scott*

Head Teacher