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| Todholm Primary School Lochfield Road, Paisley.PA2 7JEHead Teacher: Mrs Lynne McGinn Phone: 0141 889 6949 [www.todholm.renfrewshire.sch.uk](http://www.todholm.renfrewshire.sch.uk) |

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| Twitter | @TodholmPs |
| Facebook | Todholm Primary School and Early Learning and Childcare Class |

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Dear Parents/Carers,

Happy New Year! I hope you had a lovely Christmas and an enjoyable break during the festive period. I’m sure you will agree that Term 1 has flown by and we are looking forward to another busy and exciting term ahead. I would like to provide you with an update of events that happened last term or that will take place this term. Todholm Primary School and Early Learning and Childcare Class is due to have a new telephone system installed on the 23rd January 2019. The new telephone number for the school will be 0300 300 0191 and we will promote this number on Dojo and social media nearer the time.

**Staff News**

I am delighted to be able to advise that Mrs McAllister is pregnant and will go on maternity leave around the February holiday. We also have two new members of staff who have joined the nursery as part of the 11 40 hours expansion. Miss Stephanie Manson is our new Early Learning and Childcare Officer and Miss Carolyn Bennett is an additional Support Worker.

**M&M Theatrical Productions**

As a special Christmas treat the children were treated to a performance of Robin Hood by M&M Theatrical Productions. Parents are asked to note that the entire cost of this performance was £999 and the Parent Council once again paid this in **full** so there was **NO** charge to the children this year. The Parent Council also paid for the Nursery’s Christmas Magic Show. This is a superb gesture from the Parent Council, ensuring every child benefits from the fantastic fundraising that they do.

PACE Theatre Company kindly donated tickets for our Primary 6 pupils to attend their Panto, Jack and the Beanstalk in December.  This was a fabulous opportunity and was well received by the children. Theatre staff commented on the excellent behaviour of the children.

**Todholm Choir**

The choir were extremely busy in the run up to Christmas this year. They were invited to sing at The Scottish Sun’s Christmas Pop Up Shop in the St Enoch Centre, raising money for St Vincent’s Hospice. The children had a great time and even got to meet River City’s Shellsuit Bob! At Braehead the choir sang to raise money for Quarriers and raised £190.55. The children were brilliant ambassadors for the school and they received many compliments for their manners and behaviour.

Accord Hospice also invited the choir to sing at their Christmas Carol Concert in Paisley Abbey which the choir were delighted to attend. This was one of the most prestigious venues that the choir has ever performed in and the children certainly rose to the challenge. They sang their hearts out giving an amazing performance. Again they received many compliments about their singing as well as their behaviour.

**Charities**

During the festive period the P1 Nativity raffles raised £160 and this money was donated to the local Back to School Uniform Bank charity. The Nursey Nativity raffles raised £223.50 and this will be donated to a charity chosen by one of our nursery families. £324.79 was donated to Save the Children, raised during Christmas Jumper day. Well done to Primary Two boys and girls who have been saving their pennies for the local foodbank.

**Malawi**

You will be aware that Miss Struthers and I travelled to Malawi with the Glasgow based charity Malawi Leaders of Learning 2018 programme. During our time there we were privileged to teach at Milala Primary School in Blantyre. Milala Primary School is a small rural school and as you would expect was very different to Todholm. There was no electricity or toilets in the school and the lack of electricity did make communication with Todholm much more challenging than we had anticipated. We were both fortunate to teach in every class in the school, although we worked predominantly with Standards 5, 6, 7 and 8. We also worked alongside the local community to give the school library a much needed makeover. The children at the school were living in extreme poverty. Many had to walk for miles in their bare feet to get to school but they were happy children, eager to learn. Children (and grownups) went to bed early and slept well. The children had no experience of electronic gadgets and social media and it was interesting to observe that the behaviour of the children was excellent and we saw very little evidence of poor mental health. Children were often taught in extremely large class sizes and the schools in general had little or no resources. Despite this the children were learning! We have now shared our journey with children and staff and this term we have plans in place to further strengthen our links with our new school friends. Todholm children have come up with some wonderful suggestions and we will try, if we can, to make these suggestions a reality.

**Vision and Values**

As you will be aware we reviewed, evaluated and updated our school values and strap line last session and following consultation with pupils, parents and staff our new values were agreed: Friendship, Respect, Aspiration, Community and Kindness. Our new strap line is Believe to Achieve. The school has recently been painted so please look out for our new logo incorporating the values and strap line which has been designed and will be displayed around the school and on future letterheads and literature. We will continue to promote these values on a daily basis in class and throughout the school in order to ensure that children will be aware of the strap line and values as the foundation for our practice in school.

**Nursery / School Registration**

Parents can apply for a free pre-school nursery place once your child is two years old. If you haven’t done so, you should now apply if your child will turn three on or before 29th February 2020. If your child is due to start nursery during session 2019/20 and we have received your application by 28th February 2019, you will be informed of your child’s place by the end of May 2019. Applications received after this date will be allocated but may be confirmed at a later date.

Application forms are available from Renfrewshire Council nurseries or nurseries which have been approved to provide pre-school education on behalf of Renfrewshire Council. You can also download a nursery application form from [www.renfrewshire.gov.uk](http://www.renfrewshire.gov.uk). You will need to show the nursery proof of your address and your child’s birth certificate when you apply.

Children who reach 5 years of age between 1 March 2019 and 29 February 2020 inclusive should be registered for education in their catchment school on Wednesday 16th January 2019 (surname A-L) and Thursday 17th January 2019 (surnames M- Z). Registration will take place between 1 00 – 3 00pm. **However if your child is registering at Todholm Primary then Mrs Cochrane and I will be available from 9 00 am - 12 00 pm and 1 00 pm - 3 00 pm on both days.** Parents should bring along their child’s birth certificate and 2 proofs of residence, **which must include** Council Tax notice for the property and a bank/mortgage statement. **Original documents must be produced. We would also like children to accompany their parents if this is possible.**

**Parking**

We are continuing to work closely with Police Scotland and Renfrewshire Council regarding the ongoing parking problems in and around the school. As you are aware we have road markings painted outside of the school and these provide a much clearer guide for parents in relation to where they should and should not park. Keep Clear markings at the school entrance and exit have been painted and the exit Keep Clear has been extended to the bus stop bay. It had been hoped that these markings would help to resolve the ongoing parking issues. We can see that the parking problems are definitely worse in inclement weather as parent/carers are trying to get as close to the school as possible. In addition, the parking situation on the main road at the Abbey and at the bus stop remains a huge concern as cars are being parked dangerously near the school access gates. Parents are also reminded that parking restrictions are enforceable and will be enforced by Parking Wardens if necessary. In the interest of children’s safety parents are requested to park safely and appropriately. Parents should NEVER park in the school grounds at 9:00 am or 3:00 pm and cones are now being used to try and prevent this ongoing problem. Police Scotland will continue to monitor the situation. Should you have any concerns or comments regarding parking then please do not hesitate to contact me directly. Parents are also reminded that, for health and safety reasons, bikes, scooters and heelies are not permitted in the school playground.

**Infection Control**

As with all schools we follow NHS guidance for infection prevention and control. If your child experiences diarrhoea and/ or vomiting they should be off school until 48 hours free of the last episode of diarrhoea and /or vomiting. This is to minimise the spread of infection. Children should NOT come to school for extracurricular or evening events whilst symptoms persist. If you are unsure and need advice re exclusion periods please contact your GP or the school office.

Parents should also be aware that ‘alert’ letters are no longer sent out in the case of head lice. This is because ‘alert’ letters frequently lead parents to attempt to treat their children preventatively, which is neither effective nor advised. Over use of insecticide treatments may lead to resistance. There is no exclusion period for head lice as long as infections are treated. However we would encourage parents to report head lice to the school to enable us to monitor outbreaks. We would always encourage parents to seek advice from their GP or pharmacist about which treatments are effective – not all those on the market are. Up to date advice has been posted on the school website. Please do not hesitate to contact the school if you require more information on this.

**Attendance and Timekeeping**

I would like to take the opportunity to thank the majority of parents/carers who ensure that their children come to school regularly and on time. It is often children who arrive by car who are late for school. The roads are busy around the school at this time and parents are encouraged to ensure children arrive in school in plenty of time.

At Todholm Primary our children have lost more than 169 days from August this session due to holidays. This is a concern as in some cases there is a clear link to children’s attainment. Parents/carers are kindly requested, whenever possible, not to take children out of school during term time. Homework will not be given for children who are absent from school on holiday.

**Class Dojo**

Parents are reminded that absences and appointments **MUST** be reported via the school office as teachers are not always logged into Dojo. Parents are requested to phone the school office if their child is unwell or has an appointment. Although we are happy for parents to raise minor queries through Dojo we would respectfully ask that if parents have a more serious issue that would require them to meet with their child’s class teacher or a member of the Senior Management Team then we would ask parents to arrange this through the school office. **Teachers are not obliged to respond to messages at weekends or in the evenings.** If Dojo is **not** used appropriately by parents then we will have no option other than to reduce the functions.

**Are you getting what you are entitled to?**

**Free School Meals**

Your child may be entitled to free school meals if:

* Your child attends a Renfrewshire school or has been placed in an educational establishment outside Renfrewshire by Renfrewshire council, or;
* You receive income support, any income-related element of employment and support allowance, maximum working tax credits (if you earn less than £6,420/year), child tax credit only (if you earn less than £16,190) or pension credit

Apply online at: <http://www.renfrewshire.gov.uk/article/3338/Free-school-meals-and-clothing-grants>

Eligible parents who choose NOT apply for free school meals will not get money back dated.

**Clothing Grants**

Parents or carers of children attending Renfrewshire primary, secondary or specials schools during the school session who satisfy the financial conditions are eligible to apply for free school meals and/or clothing grants. A clothing grant is a payment made by Renfrewshire council to qualifying parents or carers to assist with the purchase of school uniforms. For session 2018-2019, the level of clothing grant is £100 per eligible pupil. A maximum of one grant will be paid for each child during any school year.

Apply online at: <http://www.renfrewshire.gov.uk/article/3338/Free-school-meals-and-clothing-grants>

**Literacy Update**

The Scholastic Book Fair that was held in the school in September was another success, with £549.07 raised in commission alone. With the help of Miss McDonald, Mrs Webb and the children the commission raised from the sale of books has been used to purchase new reading resources for the children.

We are now running monthly Community Bookbug sessions in the school. The Community Bookbug sessions take place on the first Friday of the month at 10:30 am. These sessions are run by our Early Years teacher Ms Kennedy. Sessions are open to all families in the community with young children. The next one will take place on Friday 1st February at 10:30 am. We would love to see you if you can come along.

**Numeracy Update**

This session we are having an increased focus on problem solving and doing calculations through real life contexts. The children in P4-7 will be using the CUBES approach to help them extract the relevant information they need to solve the problem. There is also a focus on mental agility. The children will be taking part in daily number talks which involve solving calculations mentally and then discussing the different strategies that the children use. They are encouraged to look for patterns and different strategies to help build their mental capacity. Please ask your child about what they have been learning about. Many of the teachers have recently been trained in SEAL (Stages of Early Arithmetical Learning) which looks at numeracy and helps the children develop a deeper understanding of numbers and number processes. Some of these strategies have been shared with parents through Mini Mathematicians.

**Health and Wellbeing Update**

As you will be aware from previous newsletters, letters and social media communications, we are working hard to review, evaluate and improve our approaches to dealing with bullying behaviour in Todholm. To enable us to do this objectively and as effectively as possible we have engaged the services of an independent consultant, Brian Donnelly. Brian has been involved in anti-bullying work since 2007, led the national anti-bullying service, respect*me* for 10 years and has twice been involved in writing the national anti-bullying policy on two occasions. His role is to come into school and engage with parents and carers to gather their views and experiences. The fact that Brian is independent of the school and the local authority will enable parents and carers to be as open and honest as possible in relating their experiences. An open invitation was extended to all parents on 4th and 13th December 2018. The first session was well attended and one parent was present on the second date. All parents were given a link to express their views if they were unable to attend the meetings. Following these consultations Brian will meet with Mrs Reid to discuss and update the school’s approaches to tackling bullying behaviour and assist in updating our school policy. Staff, parents and pupils will then be consulted on this policy before it is finalised. Please look out for further information via Class Dojo and Facebook in the near future.

Following our successful sponsored event in September where we raised £1701, we have been able to refresh our PE equipment. Our School Sports Committee surveyed the staff and pupils on what was required and after taking an inventory of the existing equipment they processed their order which has now arrived bringing amongst other things, a much sought after balance beam and new mats, balls and hoops. Responding to an interest from the children, our staff were trained in Yogido Yoga last term which allows them to deliver Yoga skills during P.E sessions and in the classroom.  In addition to this, 12 Primary 6 pupils were trained as ‘Yogileaders’ and now run a successful lunchtime club for the younger pupils.

**Renfrewshire Road Race**

Last term, 36 Primary 6 and 7 pupils represented the school at the Renfrewshire Road Race. The children, accompanied by Miss Binning and parent helpers, were all wearing our Todholm school tracksuits and they wore them with pride. The children did very well with Jacob Adams winning the 1st place podium position for the Primary 6 boys. Many participants and organisers at the event commented on the children’s excellent behaviour and how smart the children looked.

**STEM Update ( Sciences, Technology, Engineering and Maths)**

In November, we held another successful STEM Week at Todholm Primary School.  This was a fabulous opportunity for the children and the feedback was excellent.  We had a great variety of activities and visitors over the course of the week; from Glasgow Science Centre who brought their Bodyworks Tour for a full day, presenting to every stage to STEM Ambassador, Professor David Smith, whose ‘Hands on Science’ workshops for Primary 5 to 7 were a real hit.  We also had pupils heading out to visit the Science and Engineering departments at West College Scotland, Greenock and Glasgow Science Centre as part of their Bright Sparks event. Our continued investment in raising the profile of STEM subjects and providing staff and pupils with the opportunity to develop their skills was reflected in the feedback from our visitors to all stages who commented on the children’s excellent responses and questioning. Following their visit during STEM Week, Glasgow Science Centre kindly offered our children the opportunity to trial their new tour ‘Powering the Future’.  This was a highly interactive opportunity which allowed our Primary 4 and 5 children to explore energy in a fun and engaging way, supporting the learning and teaching that goes on within the classes. The children absolutely loved this experience. Our Digital Leaders continue to run our monthly Internet Café’s on the first Monday of every month. Anyone from our school community is welcome to come and use school computers and iPads to access the internet or learn new skills as well as have a cuppa and a chat.

**Developing the Young Workforce**

As part of our aim to develop the young work force, we held our an annual World of Work day featuring a Careers Fair in November. All pupils thoroughly enjoyed the day that centred around 5 visitors to each class and a trip to the Careers Fair in the Gym Hall, which had an additional 15 representatives from local businesses. Pupils were excited to hear from a range of professionals including a physiotherapist, a pharmacist, a scientist and an archaeologist.

The younger pupils loved hearing from Love St Vet and Accord Hospice who brought along lots of props for the children to try and engaged them in some arts and crafts. A particular favourite was Lamont Farm who brought some animals for the pupils to meet.  The pupils were delighted to hear from Youtuber Nicoleeo and Make-up Artist Summer Packer who provided an insight into the creative industry. Thank you very much to all the parents and members of the community who supported our event and made it a success. We look forward to next year!

**School Uniform**

Thank you for your continued support in ensuring that your children come to school smartly dressed in school uniform. Visitors to the school frequently comment on the children’s presentation.

Please note that **black** and **navy** are not school colours and should not be worn to school.

**Family Learning**

In October, our **Mini Mathematicians** family learning club returned with a bang, with a huge thirty four families participating in the sessions. This year, we successfully introduced the club into Primaries 2 and 3 where the families worked alongside Mrs Bull and Mrs A Scarff-McInnes. We also welcomed back Mrs L Scarff-McInnes, who kindly supported the evening session for Primaries 4-7. The club ran for a period of five weeks with two sessions running each Tuesday afternoon and evening. Mini Mathematicians was a big success with positive feedback received from both parents and children. Many thanks to all our families who were involved.

In November, we were very excited to introduce family fitness classes to our family learning opportunities. **Clubbercise** was offered to all of our families over a period of three weeks with classes combining a mixture of dance, toning and combat moves aimed at all fitness levels. The glow sticks and disco lights proved to be a big hit! The response from parents and children has been positive with the hope of a variety of fitness classes returning in Term Two. Thank you to Alexis Holmes from Renfrewshire Leisure for leading the classes.

We were absolutely thrilled to introduce **Samba** classes to our Family Learning opportunities. This was offered to our Primary 3 and 4 families in the first term. The families worked with a Samba specialist, Rory Clark. Thank you to Renfrewshire Music Department for providing us with this wonderful opportunity. The class ran for eight weeks during which time the families played games involving samba music and instruments as well as learning the basics behind Samba. Once again the feedback was resoundingly positive with the children asking for a ‘Samba Camp’ at the end! Well done to the brave parents who took part in this when they weren’t quite sure what to expect. All our social media channels have short videos demonstrating what to expect from the Samba lessons, we hope to see many more of you take advantage of this free opportunity before June!

**Growth Mindset**

In October we welcomed back John Paul Fitzpatrick from Teach Mindset who worked, alongside Mrs Hall, with a new cohort of interested parents. This course ran for three weeks, parents were introduced to a ‘coaching’ approach and how to apply it to their children and to other areas of their life. The three weeks flew by and the feedback from all parents who were involved was resoundingly positive. Well done to all of those who took the time out to invest in themselves.

**Expressive Arts Update**

You may have noticed our Primary 7 children on a Monday arriving in school with guitars on their back! Primary 7 have been receiving half an hour guitar tuition once a week since May 2018 from our guitar teacher, Tom Ion. We are fortunate to have been able to loan every Primary 7 pupil a guitar that they can practise on at home. Many of our Primary 7’s have shown a great aptitude for guitar and it has been very rewarding to see how much the children have progressed in a relatively short period of time.

During our most recent In-service day all school staff were involved in a practical in-service day at the hands of art specialist, Moira McKay. Not only was it wonderful fun but it also up-skilled and updated everyone on different approaches to teaching Art within the school. Hopefully the children have since come home as enthused by Art lessons as the staff were! An after school Art Club will be led by Miss Hughes for Primaries 5 and 6 this term.

**Interauthority Intergenerational Links**

Last term some of our Primary Seven children were in training for the annual Intergenerational Quiz. The final of the Quiz took place at the Lagoon on the afternoon of Friday 23rd November and the children were very worthy runners up, beaten to the post at the tie break question. Well done and thank you to the wonderful elderlies who supported the children during training.

I hope you find this newsletter interesting. Please feel free to contact us via phone or email and suggest any ways in which we can make improvements to our communications with you. If you would like to follow us on Facebook, please search for ‘Todholm Primary School and Early Learning and Childcare Class’ and ‘like’ our page. Please note that this page is another way for the school to provide you with information on events and successes from the school. However specific questions or enquires should be directed as usual to the school and not through the Facebook page. Please also follow us on Twitter@TodholmPs.

I am looking forward to a busy and successful term ahead and I would like to thank you for your support to date. I feel confident that in working together we can provide your children with a wide range of opportunities and learning experiences to enable them to develop as individuals.

Yours sincerely

Lynne McGinn

Head Teacher

**Diary Dates**

Please find below diary dates for the remainder of this term

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| 16/01/2019 | P1 Registration |
| 17/01/2019 | P1 Registration |
| 18/01/2019 | Family Bookbug |
| 01/02/2019 | Community Bookbug |
| 01/02/2019 | Todholm Tearooms |
| 07/02/2019 | Parent Council Coffee Morning |
| 08/02/2019 | Family Bookbug |
| 11/02/2019 | Holiday |
| 12/02/2019 | Holiday |
| 13/02/2019 | In Service Day |
| 14/02/2019 | Pupils Return |
| 25/02/2019 | Fairtrade Fortnight begins |
| 01/03/2019 | Community Bookbug |
| 08/03/2019 | Family Bookbug |
| 21/03/2019 | Parent Interviews |
| 22/03/2019 | Todholm Tearooms |
| 22/03/2019 | Parent Council Ladies Night |
| 25/03/2019 | Book Festival |
| 27/03/2019 | Easter Service |
| 01/04/2019-12/04/2019 | Holiday School Closed |
| 15/04/2019 | Pupils Return |
| 18/04/2019 | Nursery Family Disco |
| 19/04/2019 | Holiday |
| 22/04/2019 | Holiday |
| 23/04/2019 | P7 Residential Trip |
| 01/05/2019 | New P1 Playdate |
| 03/05/2019 | Community Bookbug |
| 06/05/2019 | Holiday |
| 07/05/2019 | In Service Day |
| 10/05/2019 | Family Bookbug |
| 14/05/2019 | Sports Day |
| 15/05/2019 | Nursery Sports Day |
| 24/05/2019 | Holiday |
| 27/05/2019 | Holiday |
| 28/05/2019-25/05/2019 | St Andrew’s Induction |
| 29/05/19 | P1 Induction |
| 30/05/2019-31/05/2019 | Paisley Grammar Induction |
| 31/05/2019 | Parent Council Family Fun Event |
| 06/06/2019 | P1 Induction |
| 07/06/2019 | Community Bookbug |
| 07/06/2019 | Todholm Tearooms |
| 13/06/2019 | Parent Council Summer Disco  |
| 14/06/2019 | Family Bookbug |
| 20/06/2019 | P7 Valedictory and Leavers Disco |
| 28/06/2019 | School Closes at 1.00pm |