 Gilmourton Primary

August 2018

**WELCOME**

* Welcome back everyone!

It is wonderful to be back at the start of another exciting school year.

* Diary Dates for the year ahead have already been sent out along with Annual Data Check forms. Although we will do our best to keep to the list, changes may be necessary. Please check the monthly newsletters for up-to-date information.
* Please note, in the morning, there is adult supervision in the playground from 8.45am-9.00am.
* We will be launching our new school website in September. This will be a valuable source of school news and information and will contain documents such as newsletters, school improvement plan, lunch menus and links to useful websites.

**BREAKFAST CLUB**

A letter has been issued regarding Breakfast Club. This will begin Monday 27th August. If you require additional information please do not hesitate to contact the school.

**STAFFING**

Staffing for this session is as follows:

**Support Staff:** Mrs Cringan whose main role will be in the school office with some time being given to supporting learning and supervising at interval and lunchtime.

Mrs Swan who will support learning across both classes, run Catch-Up Numeracy and supervise at intervals and lunchtimes.

Janitor/Cleaner: Mrs Wardlaw

Catering: Mrs Weir

**Teaching Staff:**

P1-3: Mrs White and Mrs MacPhail.

P4-7: Mrs Loughran

CCC Teacher: Mrs Ross-Tuesday morning and all day Wednesday

We are delighted to welcome a new member of the team to Gilmourton: Specialist Support teacher Mrs McConville.

**HEALTH AND SAFETY/ALLERGIES**

* Due to allergies, it is important that children do not bring nuts as part of their snack or lunch.
* We have a pupil attending school who has juvenile arthritis and is taking a medication which means a weakened immune system. This, in turn, means he is at higher risk from childhood diseases. If your child develops chicken pox it is important that the school is notified as soon as possible in order to ensure this child can be treated appropriately. His parents and the school are appreciative of your understanding and support and would like to reassure parents there is no risk to your own child.
* In the interests of pupil safety can I ask that pupils are not given lollipops as a snack.
* If your child is unwell with sickness/diarrhoea, please note the recommendation is 48 hours clear before returning to school.

**ABSENCES**

You can help us tremendously by letting us know as soon as possible if your child is absent from school. This can be done by calling the school: 440331 and choosing Option 1.

Please note that if we have not heard from you by 09.30 we will contact main and emergency contacts.

On your child’s return to school following a period of absence, a note should be provided even if you have kept us informed by telephone. This is necessary for our records. These procedures are in place to ensure the safety of our children and I thank you in advance for your cooperation.

**WATER/HEALTHY SNACKS**

If pupils wish they may bring a bottle of **plain water** to school each day. This should be in a sports bottle in order to avoid spillage. Pupils will be given an opportunity to have their bottles refilled at lunch time each day. Bottles should be labelled with the owner’s name. There is an opportunity for pupils to have a snack at morning interval and pupils are encouraged to bring a healthy choice of snack. We appreciate parental support in encouraging this also.

**UNIFORM**

It is fantastic to see all of our pupils looking extremely smart in their school uniform. This promotes a sense of identity and pride in our school. Well done. Our uniform consists of a white polo shirt, a purple sweatshirt, cardigan or jumper-with school logo if possible, grey skirt, trousers or pinafore and school shoes.

A white shirt with school tie is also an option.

If the weather means pupils are wearing wellingtons/heavy boots, please ensure school shoes are brought to school to change into.

We try, as far as possible, to ensure pupils get fresh air and exercise at intervals and lunchtimes. We will be outside even if there is light rain; therefore it is vital pupils have a waterproof jacket available every day.

**LABELS**

Can we ask you to ensure that your child’s belongings are clearly labelled please e.g. jackets, sweatshirts, packed lunch boxes etc. There are many similar, if not identical, items and a label helps us to keep track of owners.

**SCHOOL LUNCHES/PARENTPAY**

School lunches are free for all pupils in P1-P3 and cost £1.65 for pupils in P4-7. These should be paid for using Parent Pay-either online or by requesting a bar code from the school office. It is now possible to pay for and pre-book milk through Parent Pay. Educational outings which incur a cost can also be paid through Parent Pay-online or with a bar code.

**MOBILE LIBRARY**

The mobile library van visits the school every eight weeks. New pupils will be issued with a form, which parents/carers can complete if your child requires a library card. The first library visit will be 20 September 2018.

**PARENT HELPERS-POSITIONS VACANT**

We have some excellent parent/carer helpers at the school and this session we hope to welcome back our regulars and also recruit more help. There are many different ways to help:

* **A class helper**-someone who volunteers to come into school to work with the pupils
* **Excursions**-someone who can be called upon to accompany pupils on an outing
* **Club Helper**-do you have a particular skill/interest which you could share with pupils at a lunchtime/after-school club?
* **Credit Union**-can you support our pupils with the running of the Gilmourton Credit Union?

We really are in need of more help so if you are interested and available please contact the school office.

**All volunteers are required to complete a PVG Disclosure form through South Lanarkshire Council** before undertaking the role of parent/school volunteer. These forms are available from the school office.

**TRANSPORT**

If your child travels to and from school by bus it is important the school is informed of any changes to this routine. If we know a child is being picked up at the end of the day instead of going home on the bus we can ensure there is no confusion. Please remember it is parents’ responsibility to also notify the bus company of any changes.

If your child is being picked up by someone other than a parent/carer, it is vital the school are informed. We cannot let children go with someone who is not a parent/carer without prior consent.

If there are issues with transport please inform the school and we will pass the information on to Support Services who will contact SPT if appropriate.

**RESPONSIBLE CITIZENS**

Pupils should be prepared for the school day by ensuring they have a pencil case with the basics-pencil, eraser, sharpener and ruler, homework-including diary, PE kit if needed, tissues if required and any relevant paperwork that needs to be returned to school.

Toys and games which are brought into school by pupils can be accidentally lost or damaged. This can be distressing and I would ask everyone to work together to discourage pupils from bringing such items into school.

Please bear in mind South Lanarkshire Council is not liable for the loss or theft of pupils’ clothing or personal effects and any items are therefore brought into the school at the pupil/parents’ own risk. There are a variety of playground toys available for pupils at interval and lunchtime.

**HEAD LICE**

At the start of the new term, we like to issue a reminder to be vigilant about head lice.

Warning letters are no longer issued, but it is recommended that parents should routinely check their child’s hair. Guidance suggests that parents/carers should aim to check their children’s hair once a week. You can access useful advice from

<http://www.healthscotland.com/documents/25.aspx>

Please do not hesitate to contact us for additional advice.

**PE**

PE Kits should be brought to school and clearly labelled. With regards to health and safety**, jewellery should not be worn during PE lessons**. If ears are newly pierced and earrings cannot be removed, pupils will be asked to cover them with a plaster.

PE kit should be plain shorts, tee-shirt or polo shirt and trainers. **PE is a practical activity and attire should reflect this**. If pupils forget part of their kit they may be allowed to participate depending on the activity. However, pupils cannot participate without gym shoes. PE kits should remain in school and will be sent home to be freshened up at regular points throughout the year.

A note or phone call from home should be provided if pupils cannot participate in PE.

We will also be continuing with yoga on a regular basis for all pupils from P1-P7 which will be done in gym kit and bare feet.

PE days are as follows:

**P1-3**: **Monday** and **Wednesday** with yoga on **Tuesday**

**P4-7**: **Monday** and **Thursday** with yoga on **Friday**

**MEDICATION**

If medication has been prescribed by a Doctor and needs to be taken during the school day contact must be made with the school and the appropriate paperwork completed **before** medication can be issued by staff.

Paperwork should also be completed for pupils who self-administer medication.

A copy of the relevant forms have been issued along with the annual data check.

**CREDIT UNION**

Our senior pupils run ‘Gilmourton Coin Catchers’ on a weekly basis during term time to encourage pupils to become regular savers. If your child would like to join the credit union, please contact Mrs Cringan at the school for additional information.

Our credit union will run on a Friday, starting on **Friday 7th September**.

**HOMEWORK**

Homework plays a vital role in supporting class work. It can be an opportunity to reinforce and/or develop and extend work carried out in class. Parental encouragement is imperative and we appreciate your continued support. As we are revising our Homework Diaries, pupils will be issued with a temporary solution for the next few weeks.

**RELIGIOUS and MORAL EDUCATION**

Religious and Moral Education is delivered in class throughout the year and will focus on two world religions and Christianity. Teachers may draw upon selected aspects of other religions, in the context of interdisciplinary learning. Teachers recognise that in the process of personal reflection not all children will adopt a religious standpoint.

**RELIGIOUS OBSERVANCE/TIME for REFLECTION**

Religious Observance will be delivered by school staff and the Rev. Alan Telfer, who is our school Chaplain. Mr. Telfer will participate in our whole school assemblies once a month, where the themes for the year will be citizenship, shared values, personal responsibility, resilience and emotional and spiritual wellbeing. This will be delivered using a wide range of resources which may include stories from the Bible and songs from Fischy Music.

The visits will be:

**September**

**October**

**November**

Once actual dates are confirmed we will send this information home.

Mr. Telfer will also attend our end of term assemblies in December and June.

Other whole school assemblies throughout the year will be taken by a member of staff.

Visits from January-June will be issued at a later date.

Under the terms of the Education (Scotland) Act 1980, parents/carers have the right to ask for their children to be withdrawn from religious observance and/or religious and moral education. Where a child is withdrawn, we will make suitable arrangements for the child to participate in a worthwhile alternative activity.  If you wish your child to be withdrawn from religious and moral education and/or religious observance this should be put in writing. If you wish further information please contact the school.

**IMPROVEMENT PRIORITIES for SESSION 2018-2019**

Every school year we write a school improvement plan. This helps us to continue to move forward in a structured way. The key outcome is to ensure we are providing the best possible learning experiences for our pupils. Our main priorities for this session are:

* Improvements in attainment across the school with a focus on phonics, spelling and reading. Planning, tracking and monitoring. (Active Literacy)
* Raising attainment and increasing engagement across the curriculum with a focus on improving pedagogy. (Tapestry programme.)
* Improved understanding of SLC Framework for Inclusion and Equality by all staff, leading to improvements in planning, increased engagement from learners and increased achievement and attainment.

**STANDARDS AND QUALITY REPORT 2017/18**

This is a document which gives a context for the school and evaluates our progress on priorities from the previous session’s Improvement Plan. It also reflects our self-evaluation: what we are doing to move forward and improve our outcomes for all pupils.

*2017/18 was yet another busy and productive year. As much as possible we endeavour to participate in community events and we entered into local competitions for Fairtrade, Balloon Festival, Reindeer Day and Strathaven Gala.*

*Our learners continue to be active fundraisers for charitable causes and this year we have contributed to Children First, UNICEF, Mary’s Meals and to a local food bank.*

*Our learners have joined together to represent the school at football, netball, swimming and dance.*

*The Christmas show “Rock around Christmas” was another great success, with super acting, singing, dancing, costume, scenery and teamwork from the whole school community. We also hosted a coffee and carols event where P4-7 entertained – performing aspects of their learning from lessons with our music specialists throughout the previous terms. The P4-7 learners have also enjoyed a block of ukulele lessons, with on-going guitar tuition for P5-7.*

*In order to support class work, we have enjoyed a class excursion to the Tall Ship in Glasgow and our younger learners visited a local farm and supermarket in support of their Farm topic. When P4-7 were studying finance they had visits to class from staff from the Tax office and the Credit Union.*

*A very successful activity week for P6/7 included mountain biking, orienteering and camp crafts at Chatelherault and Douglas Estate. Our learners participated in this alongside peers from two other small schools within the Learning Community, enabling them to build new skills and relationships in preparation for moving on to high school.*

*The whole school have been enjoying and benefitting from weekly yoga sessions with our school support assistant.*

*P6/7 have also had the opportunity to participate in “Bikeability” – the lessons being delivered by one of our parents.*

*Both classes offered family and friends an insight into some of their work with very well attended showcase events.*

*The whole school continued to participate in the First Minister’s Reading Challenge, with a focus on reading for pleasure. To enhance this experience learners were read to on a daily basis and the Pupil Council were involved in the creation of our brand new whole school “book corner”.*

From our self-evaluation we have identified the following as areas for development:

* *We need to better involve all stakeholders (pupils, staff, parents and carers, families and partners) in self-evaluation.*
* *Revisit our vision and values.*
* *Consistent tracking and monitoring and discussions with HT will ensure targeted support for some and appropriate pace and challenge for all.*
* *Make greater use of outdoor space.*

The aforementioned information is a summary of our School Improvement Plan and Standards and Quality Report. These documents will be available on the school website.

Please note copies of our School Improvement Plan and Standards and Quality Report are available for parents and pupils who wish to view the full version. Please contact the school if this is something you require.