

Confident Individual



Kirklandpark Primary School

Newsletter

February 2023

Responsible Citizen



Successful Learner

Dear Parents and Carers

We have had a very busy and productive start to Term 3 and it is hard to believe that we have reached the end of January already.

It is great to see the days beginning to stretch and the first signs of Spring as we head into a new month and begin to think about Easter.



Staffing

We are delighted to welcome Mrs Gray back from her maternity leave. For the remainder of this session, Mrs Gray will be covering non-class contact time and working with some of our nurture groups.

During the next couple of weeks, two members of our school community will be retiring.

Mrs Gibson, our Cook In Charge retires on Friday 3rd February, following 33 years of service with South Lanarkshire Council. Throughout the years Mrs Gibson has seen school catering change from the days when cooks set their own menus to the current system, where all schools offer the same menu on the same days. In the early days, she provided meals for children in Kirklandpark Primary but this has evolved over the years to include both our own nursery provision and a standalone facility. Mrs Gibson has been responsible for the production of thousands of meals for hundreds of children over the years.

Mrs Dunn, our Support Services Team Leader and Office Manager will be retiring on Friday 17th February. Mrs Dunn has worked with South Lanarkshire Council in local schools over the course of the last nineteen years both as a classroom assistant and within the school office.

We wish both ladies a very happy retirement and all the best of luck for the future.



Promoted Posts

On the 20th December we held interviews for our two Depute Head Positions.

One of the positions arose due to a rise in our school role and has been held in an acting capacity by Mr Hepburn. Congratulations to Mr Hepburn who was successful at interview and whose position has now been made permanent.

Mr McPhilemy was the successful candidate for our second Depute Head post, made vacant when Mr Beebee retired. We hope to have Mr McPhilemy join us in the coming weeks, subject to the conclusion of arrangements being made by Personnel.

Congratulations to Ms McGaw, who will be our Support Staff Team Leader when Mrs Dunn retires. Ms McGaw was appointed following recent interview.



Absence Reporting

If your child is absent you must phone in each day to let us know that they will not be in school and the reason for their absence.

As part of the notification procedure, the reason for the absence must also be provided. If you are calling in to say that a child is unwell, please ensure that you state what their symptoms are.

We have seen an increased number of families reporting that their children will not attend school because it is their birthday. Please note that children are expected to attend school on their birthday and associated absences are recorded as unauthorised.

Please remember that children who have been sick should remain at home until 48 hours after the last time that they have vomited.



Strathaven Academy Maths Department

We were delighted to have teachers from Strathaven Academy's Maths department come to work with our Primary 7 children on two occasions since the beginning of term.

This is part of the transition programme for the children and as well as enjoying some

algebra based Maths lessons, it provided a fantastic opportunity for the children to get to know some of the staff.

We look forward to working with other members of the Strathaven Academy staff throughout the coming months as our Primary 7 children prepare to move into S1.



Primary 7 Transition Days

Each year our Primary 7 children have a two day transition visit to Strathaven Academy. The visits enable the children to experience moving to different classes as they follow a timetable.

The children also get to meet their new classmates and sample different aspects of life as a secondary pupil.

This year the transition visits will take place on Wednesday 31st May and Thursday 1st June.



Primary 1 Registration

Primary 1 registration has taken place during the last couple of weeks and we are delighted to have 43 children who will be joining our 2023 – 2024 cohort.

It is still early days and this number may potentially rise as the academic year progresses.

On Friday we submitted the first of this year's class configurations for session 2023 – 2024. At this time we anticipate that we will have thirteen classes next session and they will be slightly different to the configuration that is in operation this year.

Configurations change on multiple occasions between now and the end of the session as our projections evolve to reflect children moving in and out of the area and placing requests.



Nursery News

Just prior to the Christmas holidays we received news that our nursery had been awarded £10,000 to replace equipment and resources.

We were delighted to receive this boost and our team have been working with suppliers to secure orders.

The orders are beginning to arrive and we are looking forward to unveiling the transformation in due course.



Late Arrivals

During the last few weeks we have seen a rise in the number of children arriving after the 9.00am bell.

The weather has caused some disruption and we understand that on those occasions it is likely that people may run a bit later.

Please ensure that your child is in the playground before the 9.00am bell rings.

As part of our attendance monitoring procedures all absences and late arrivals are recorded on a daily basis.

Reminder:

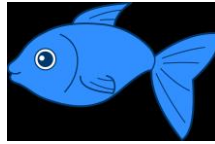
Primary1 children must enter and will exit via the main pedestrian gate at the Kirkland Park Avenue side of the school.

Children in Primary 2-7 can enter and leave by whichever gate they wish / is most convenient for them.

Parents and carers are not permitted in the car park unless they are blue badge holders. In such cases, disabled parking spaces should be used to ensure close proximity to the school and **blue badges must be clearly visible** on the car windscreen.

Cars of parents and carers are not permitted in the car park as we always have a large volume of children entering and leaving the grounds at the start and end of the day. Having traffic coming in and out of the car park, puts the children in significant danger.

Please make use of the Park 'n Stride at the George Allan Park as a parking area if using your car to collect your children from school.



Clyde In The Classroom

Our Primary 6 classes (Rooms 8 & 9) have embarked on a new and exciting topic entitled 'Clyde In The Classroom.'

The topic began with a trip to the Science Centre to hear about the work that they would undertake during the term.

Clyde in the Classroom is a Clyde River Foundation initiative that uses the life-cycle of a native Scottish species, the brown trout, to encourage children to engage with nature and develop a positive attitude towards their local environment and its conservation.

The children are responsible for raising brown trout from eggs to fry in a special classroom hatchery before releasing them into the wild in their local river.

Caring for a brown trout hatchery is a big commitment but one that the children have fully embraced.

As part of the topic, the children will also work with link scientists from Glasgow University.



STEM Club

This term our Primary 6 & 7 teachers are offering the children in their classes the opportunity to take part in a very special STEM club.

We were invited to participate in a 'Roads Of The Future' challenge. The challenge is to design and build a road, to meet as many of the United Nations (UN) Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) as is possible.

The children will work in teams of 4-6 and they are required to think of things on a wider scale than just the road itself e.g. lighting, signs, how it connects communities and amenities.

The children are allowed to work on their design for up to 12 hours before holding a judging ceremony where they will present their road ideas to judges within the school. A winning team will be selected and they will then present their challenge to Academy9 judges.

The Academy9 judges will be looking to see how well the team have designed their road and what it looks like.

They will also be looking to see if the design criteria has been fulfilled, what has been taken into account, how well ideas have been presented and how the children have worked as a team.

Good luck everyone!



Scots Literacy Month

January was Scots literacy month and all of our classes spent time working on texts based on Scots language or with a Scottish theme.

As well as reading, children also developed their writing skills by creating stories and poems in Scots.

This is something that we have embedded and developed over the last few years as part of our Languages 1+2 curriculum.



Burns Night

On Friday 27th January we held our annual Burns / Scottish poetry competition. Each class put forward two representatives who gave a recital to the rest of the school at a very special assembly.

A huge thanks to all of our children who learned their poems. Well done to all of the class representatives. It isn't easy to recite poetry in front of the whole school and the children did a fantastic job, showing flair and individuality in their own recitations.

Well done to the following children who represented their classes:

- Room 1a Mirren S. & Blair D.
- Room 1 Hope G. & Mabel S.
- Room 2 Rory C. & Emma S.
- Room 3 Darcy N. & Calum M.
- Room 4 James A. & Rebecca S.
- Room 5 Eilidh H. & Emma S.
- Room 6 Isobel R. & Annie S.
- Room 6a Jamie P.
- Room 7 Eilidh F. & Darcy P.
- Room 8 David F. & Beth L.
- Room 9 Isla D. & Finlay W.
- Room 10 Brooke A. & James S.
- Room 11 Noah S. & Morven M.

Congratulations to Calum Russell (Room 6a) who was this year's overall winner!



Achievements

We are delighted when the children share their achievements with us.

Recently we have been amazed at the number of children who have earned the Chief Scouts Award at Beavers. This is the

highest award possible and involves a significant amount of work.

Artan, Ollie and Jamie have been three recent recipients – well done!

If your child has a recent achievement that they would like to share at assembly we would love to hear about it.



Bikeability

Just before Christmas, some of our Primary 6 & 7 children were asked to contribute to a Bikeability survey that was being carried out by Cycling Scotland.

We were happy to oblige and extremely surprised when we were notified that as a thank you we had been awarded £300 to use towards cycling based resources for our school.

We asked the children to give us their ideas on how best to spend the money and the consensus seems to be that saddle covers for wet weather would be something that they'd like or perhaps a bike for children who live very far away and cannot bring in a bike to participate in Bikeability.

Well done Primary 6 & 7!



School Improvement Plan

Our School Improvement teams are working on priorities associated with

- Reading Schools Accreditation
- Outdoor Learning
- Sexual Health & Relationship Education
- Writing
- Early Numeracy Skills
- Digital Schools Award

The teams meet approximately once per month, looking at how we can adapt our provision and practice.



2023 – 2024 Classes

We carried out our Primary 1 registration for August 2022 at the beginning of this term.

At this time we have an anticipated intake of 51 Primary 1 children and we are looking forward to welcoming them to the school when they visit later in the session.

It is still early in the year and it is likely that our numbers will change as this session progresses.

Just this week, we have received notification from the Scottish Government that transition visits will be allowed to proceed in the 'usual manner,' albeit with rigorous risk assessments. This is fantastic news as it will allow us to bring the children from all our feeder nurseries into the school building during the summer term.

We are now beginning to think about the configurations for our classes next session. At this time we anticipate that we will have a minimum of twelve classes but these will not necessarily be formed in the same mix as they are at present.

Please note that a fluctuating school roll can cause this to change at any point between now and the end of the session.



Spare Clothing

Sometimes children need a change of clothing eg. when they have a little 'accident' or a fall.

We have purchased lots of socks and pants but our supply is dwindling as people are often forgetting to return them.

If your child has borrowed some, please could you give them a wash and ask your child to pop along and hand them into the office.



Wet Weather

It is unusual for the children to be indoors during playtime and lunch interval as we try to get out into the fresh air whenever we can.

Please ensure that your child comes to school wearing a warm, waterproof jacket and footwear. On cold days, they should also remember to bring a hat, scarf and gloves.

During this period of wet and snowy weather, please could children bring a spare pair of socks, tights / trousers / leggings / skirt to change into if they get wet when they are outdoors.



Parents' Evening

A huge thanks to everyone who has booked their Parents' Evening appointment on the School Cloud system.

We look forward to seeing everyone on Thursday 9th February.

The booking system links to the registration system so please remember that you will need to login using your name and your child's name in the way that their original registration was completed. In many cases this will have originated from their time in Nursery as records are transferred between establishments.

Please don't hesitate to contact us if you have any problems making your booking.



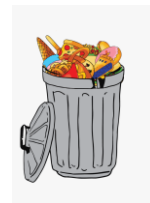
Sports Hall Athletics

During the last few months, many of the older children in our school have taken part in our Sports Hall Athletics after school club.

Some of the children have also had the opportunity to attend events in East Kilbride.

Our team took part in a competitive event on Friday to qualify for the finals. They came 9th out of 16 and although, unfortunately didn't qualify for the finals, we are hugely proud of their efforts.

Well done everyone!



Food Waste Pilot

During December and January our Eco Committee have been working with our kitchen staff and South Lanarkshire Council's Support Services to pilot a food waste project.

At the end of each day's lunch session, the children have been weighing the food waste to see if there are any trends.

We are encouraging the children to eat all of their lunch and to clear their plates. Many have managed to do this and through careful monitoring, the children have recorded a reduction in the amount of waste generated.

Well done everyone!

South Lanarkshire Council hope to roll this out to more schools and on a wider scale in the coming months.



Safer Internet Day

Safer Internet Day will take place on 7th February.

Each of our classes will be focusing on internet safety on that day and we will share their work with you via Twitter and through displays that will be available for you to see on Parents' Evening.



Children's Mental Health Week

Children's Mental Health Week will take place from 6th -12th February.

Place2Be launched the first-ever Children's Mental Health Week in 2015 to shine a spotlight on the importance of children and young people's mental health.

Our Pupil Council and classes will be thinking about this year's theme, 'Let's Connect.'



Random Acts Of Kindness Tree

Friday 17th February is 'Random Acts Of Kindness' Day.

Our classes will be focussing on this in order that the children can recognise

- when they have shown kindness to others
- when they have been in receipt of a kind gesture by another person
- or
- the effect that a kind gesture can have on another person and themselves

The children will be encouraged to share their experiences on our 'Random Act Of Kindness Tree' in the atrium.



Awards

Each month we have a number of certificates that are awarded to children across the school.

These certificates contribute towards our wider celebration of the children's achievements.

Other certificates awarded on a monthly basis are:

- Star Artist
- Star Writer
- Star Reader
- Most Improved Speller
- Mathematician Award
- Positivity Award

Each class has one recipient of each award over the course of a month.

This therefore means that a child will not receive every award over the course of the year but they will be recognised in at least one area.

The certificates are used to show recognition to a child who has shown personal growth.



Extra-curricular Clubs

We are delighted to be offering a huge range of extra-curricular clubs to our children.

Our staff have very kindly given up their own time to provide the following clubs for the children:

- Euro Quiz Club
- Dance Club
- Gymnastics Club
- P2 & P3 Multi-sports Clubs
- Board Games Club
- Multi-sports Club
- Book Folding Club
- Art & Craft Club
- STEM & Problem Solving Club
- Cross Country Running Club

Please note that when children sign up for a club they are expected to attend every week. Our clubs are very popular and places are often in demand. It isn't fair if someone is allocated a place but isn't committed to it.

Occasionally children have to miss a session eg. due to attendance at a medical appointment, this cannot be helped and in such cases a letter should be given to the teacher running the club to make them aware of this.



Parent Helpers

We love to have parents assist us in outings and in activities around the school and in many cases could not run these without your help.

In order to do this parents require to undergo a PVG check. This must be carried out specifically for our school & nursery and PVGs held for other organisations / establishments cannot be used.

PVG checks are generally updated every two years for schools.

PVG checks can take some time to process as they must be sent to Council Offices before being forwarded to Disclosure Scotland. There is a charge for every PVG check undertaken; however this is paid for by South Lanarkshire Council and there is no charge to parents.

PVG = Protecting Vulnerable Group Scheme

When someone applies to join the PVG Scheme, Disclosure Scotland carries out criminal record checks and shares the results with individuals and the school.

Parents and carers are eligible to assist with school outings and to be helpers if their PVG check is clear of criminal convictions.

If you would like to apply to assist with our school trips or help within classes, please bring three proofs of identification & residency to the school office. Where possible, at least one of these should be photographic. We will scan these and send to South Lanarkshire Council Head Quarters for processing.



Road Safety

If your child makes their way home from school via the back gate (Lethame Road side of the school), please could you remind them that they should cross the road using the Lollipop person.

Quite a number of our boys and girls are making their way through the Glebe field and crossing directly across from the fork in the road splitting Lethame Road and Crosshill Road. This is a particularly dangerous part of the road and not a safe place for children to cross.

We would also ask that parents collecting children from school also cross via the Lollipop person to ensure that there is no confusion for children making their way home independently.



At The End Of The School Day

Recently a number of children have been playing in the field and in the burn at the end of the school day rather than making their way home.

All children have been reminded to make their way straight home (or to the person who is looking after them) to ensure that their parent / carer knows that they are safe.

We have emphasised that it is important to 'check-in' with the person looking after them before going out to play.



P7 Nursery Helpers

We have a fantastic group of Primary 7 children who have volunteered to give up a small part of their lunch break, once per week / fortnight, to assist in our nursery.

This is a fantastic opportunity for our P7 children to develop their leadership skills and it supports our nursery children in the early stages of their transition into Primary 1.



Mrs Laing's House Point Challenge!

Rights Respecting School Link:

United Nations Convention On The Rights Of The Child (In Child Friendly Language)

Article 15 *You isn't harmful to others. have the right to choose your own friends and join or set up groups, as long as it*

Boys and girls,
Earn 100 bonus points for your house by
Inventing a new playground game.

You can present your game in any way that
you want to.

I would love to share your ideas during
assembly but will only do this with your
permission.

Please bring your ideas to my
office.

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Kind Regards
D. Laing
Head Teacher
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