

Confident Individual



Responsible Citizen

Kirklandpark Primary School Newsletter



November / December 2022

Successful Learner

Effective Contributor



Dear Parents and Carers

This term has flown by and has been full of lots of fantastic learning experiences for our children.

This month marks a very busy time in school but it's one that we all love. There's no place like school at Christmas time!

Our preparations for our Christmas services are well underway and the children are busy learning their Scottish dances for their parties.



Library Visits

As part of our work towards gaining 'Reading Schools' accreditation, our children will be working closely with Audrey from Strathaven Library.

Some of our children will visit the library whilst Audrey will visit others in school during the remainder of this term.

We are delighted to be working with Audrey again. She is a well loved member of our school community and her support towards gaining accreditation is very much appreciated.



Christmas Fayre

We are delighted to see the return of the P.T.A. Christmas Fayre this year. It will be held on Tuesday 6th December and the doors open at 6.30pm. There are lots of fantastic stalls



ranging from the children's enterprise crafts to Tombolas and raffles.

A huge thanks to the children (and their families) for bringing in lots and lots of goodies in exchange for dressing down last Friday. Everyone has been very generous and there are going to be some amazing hampers as a result!

If you are able to help out on the evening, it's not too late. The time slots are:
6.15pm – 7.00pm
7.00pm – 7.45pm
7.45pm – 8.30pm

Just contact the P.T.A. via gw22kirklandpa@glow.sch.uk to let them know your availability.

All home baking donations would be gratefully received on the 5th and 6th December. These can be handed into the school office.

The Christmas Fayre is always a lovely festive evening and we hope that lots of parents / carers and children will be able to attend.



Chit Chat Groups

Our Chit Chat groups take place approximately once per month.

They enable children across the school to provide their opinion about school related matters within an appropriate format and in a respectful manner. Our Primary 7 pupils do an excellent job of running the groups and recording the responses provided by their group members.



The children contribute to our whole school improvement process, playing a valuable part in the process, often coming up with quite valid points and suggestions on what to do next.

Recently the children have been providing their views on how best to allocate the participatory element of our PEF budget.

These areas all feature within our School Improvement Plan. This plan allows our teachers to work in groups to develop and modify practice and procedures in targeted areas during the course of the academic year.



Reindeer Day

This year marks a return of Strathaven's very popular Reindeer Day.

This year it is being organised by Strathaven Business Association and it will take place on Sunday 11th December.

As a school we are participating in a poster competition and the entries will be displayed in Sainsbury's and in the Library.

Each school is asked to put forward one child from P1-3 and one from P4-7 to participate in the parade.

In the interests of fairness, we pulled names from a hat to select our representatives.

We are delighted to share that our P1-3 representative will be Leo Frullani and our P4-7 representative will be Daniel Mackie.

Leo will get to ride on Santa's sleigh, leading the Reindeer procession through Strathaven, whilst Daniel will walk behind the procession. Daniel will also be awarded with an 'Adopt A Reindeer' certificate too!

We hope that the boys have a fantastic time and can't wait to hear all about it.



Christmas Parties

We're delighted to be returning to stage parties again this year.

The dates for the class parties are:
13/12/22 Primary 7 Christmas Ceilidh
12/12/22 Primary 6 Christmas Party
13/12/22 Primary 5 Christmas Party
14/12/22 Primary 4 Christmas Party
15/12/22 Primary 3 Christmas Party
16/12/22 Primary 2 Christmas Party
19/12/22 Primary 1 Christmas Party

All of the parties (except the Primary 7 Ceilidh) will take place in the afternoon, starting at 1.15pm.

On Christmas party days, many children have a home lunch to allow them to change into their party clothes.

Home lunches will leave via the fire exit alongside the main entrance at the Kirkland Park Avenue side of the school.

On the day of your child's party, their lunch break will be from 12.15pm – 1.00pm.

Children in P1-3 must be collected by an adult but those in P4-7 can walk home if permitted to do so by their parent / carer.

Home lunches should not return to school until 1.00pm. This is to ensure that a member of staff can be at the fire door (alongside the main entrance) to let them in.

Children who remain in school for a packed lunch or school dinner can either come to school dressed in their party clothes in the morning or bring them to change into when the bell rings at 1.00pm.

We are hoping that Santa will have some time to pop in to see our Primary 1 children before he becomes very busy on Christmas Eve!



Christmas Lunch

This year our Christmas lunch will be held on Wednesday 14th December.

Letters were sent home several weeks ago and the closing date for orders to be made has now passed.

The 'normal' school dinner menu does not run on the day of the Christmas lunch.

If your child has not placed an order for a Christmas lunch they will need to bring a packed lunch from home.

Please note that the school catering team are unable to cater for those who have not already placed an order for a Christmas lunch on that day.

As the Primary 4 party falls on the same date, we will organise for the P4 children who have ordered a Christmas lunch to have theirs prior to 12.15pm if going home to change into their party clothes.



Primary 7 Ceilidh

The Primary 7 Christmas party has a slightly different focus as it marks their last Christmas as a Kirklandpark pupil.

When the children reach Primary 7, they have a special ceilidh which is held in the evening. This year's ceilidh will be held on Tuesday 13th December from 7.00pm until 9.00pm.

A ceilidh band attends and the children have a ball as they enjoy the traditional Scottish dancing.

Many of the children opt to dress a little more formally in 'smart' party wear. Please note that whilst it is lovely to see kilts being worn, there is no expectation that parents incur the cost of kilt hire. The only rule that we have is 'no joggers.'

We also treat the children to their dinner from the 'chippy.' This always goes down a storm!

We're all looking forward to seeing the children dressed up and enjoying the evening's festivities.



Pantomime

We are looking forward to our visit to the Hamilton Town House on Wednesday 7th December to see the Pantomime, 'Beauty And The Beast.'

With in excess of 350 children attending, we need to leave at 9.10am sharp, to ensure that we arrive in time to get seated before the performance begins.

Unfortunately we are unable to wait for any latecomers so please ensure that your child arrives for school in plenty of time.

All children attending will be given a packet of crisps and a bottle of water during the interval. Please note that children must not take their own snacks & drinks.



Bubble Gum & Fluff

Before Covid restrictions curtailed our activities, Primary 6 used to enjoy the annual 'Bubble Gum & Fluff' activity.

The event takes place in school and is run by Rev. Dr Paterson from Trinity Church. The event focuses attention on the Christmas story through discussion and crafts.

We are delighted that this will resume again this year and Rev. Dr Paterson will include both Primary 6 and 7. The event will take place on the morning of Tuesday 6th December.



Christmas In The Community

We are delighted that our choir will be visiting the 'Memory Club,' that takes place in Trinity Church on Wednesday 14th December.

The club provides support to families of Dementia and Alzheimer's sufferers and our children will be entertaining them with some well known Christmas songs.



Christmas Jumper Day

On **Friday 9th December** we are going to be raising money for Radio Clyde's Cash For Kids.

In exchange for £1, the children can come to school dressed in their casual clothes and Christmas jumpers.

If children don't have / want to wear a Christmas jumper they can wear something less festive.

Children wishing to wear their usual school uniform are more than welcome to do so.

Children who receive income related free meal entitlement do not need to pay £1 but can of course participate by dressing down.

On **Friday 23rd December** the children can also wear their Christmas jumpers and casual clothes. This is just for fun, no money involved!



Christmas Cards

In the lead up to Christmas, many of our boys and girls like to give their classmates cards.

We are delighted that we will be able to operate our 'Penguin Post' again this year.

We have a big Post Box in our open area and the children are able to post their cards into it.

Our Pupil Council will sort the cards and deliver them to the classes each day.

Children wishing to use the Penguin Post must write the recipient's name and classroom number on the envelope to ensure the Pupil Council can make the delivery.

Our Penguin Post will run from Monday 5th December until Friday 16th December.



Talent Show

Talent Shows are a firm favourite within Kirklandpark and at the end of each term we are inundated with requests from the children to hold them.

We are planning to hold one again this year and it will take a different format from last year as we can now all be in the gym hall at the same time.

Our Talent Show will take place on Monday 19th December.

Each class will put forward two acts that will feature in the virtual talent show.

Acts should be a maximum of 2 minutes long.

The children and their teacher will watch all of the acts and vote for the two that they would like to be their representatives.

We've enjoyed a wide variety of acts in the past and we're sure to be entertained by an array of different skills and talents this year.



Christmas Nativities / Services

We are delighted to be able to hold our Christmas services in person again this year.

In a return to our pre-Covid arrangements, we will have a P1-3 Christmas Nativity and a separate P4-7 Christmas Service. These are much loved staples of our Christmas preparations each year.

Both services will focus on the traditional Christmas story with lots of singing and narration.

Primaries 1-3 will share 'It's A Baby,' whilst Primaries 4-7 will share 'Bethlehem.'

During the next couple of weeks we will be busy rehearsing and the services will be held on the 16th December.

We can seat 200 in our gym hall and have allocated each family with children in the service one ticket. This means that we have a small number of surplus tickets which will be balloted. To be included in the ballot for tickets, you should complete and return the slip at the bottom of your family's ticket letter.

If you are unable to attend the Nativity or P4-7, we would be very grateful if you could return the ticket to the school office. We will add it to the tickets that will be balloted, to enable someone else to make use of the ticket.

The ballot for extra tickets will take place on Friday 2nd December.

Please note that filming and photographing of our Nativity and Christmas Service is not permitted.

This is because we have a number of children who cannot be filmed for legal reasons or because their parents do not provide permission for this to happen.



Noah Smith

A huge congratulations to one of our Primary 7s, Noah Smith.

Noah is appearing in the musical 'Nativity,' which is being held in the Theatre Royal, Glasgow from 30th November – 3rd December.

Congratulations Noah – what a fantastic achievement!



Other Christmas Plans

During the last few days of term we will also be having a quiz, a whole school game of Christmas Lotto, a Dvd Afternoon and we will be joining together to sing some Christmas carols and songs.



Depute Head Teacher Posts

Following confirmation from Personnel services, our two Depute Head Teacher posts have been advertised and are due to go to interview before the Christmas holidays.

We wish all candidates the very best of luck.



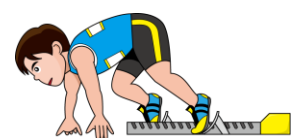
School App

Recently there have been issues reported with the school app.

We understand that some people were being asked to provide their email address to enter the school app. Please do not enter your email address as this isn't necessary.

This problem is related to an upgrade and is being experienced by all schools that use this software. The operating company have now fixed the problem so we hope that there won't be any further problems.

'School App for parents' have advised that users should update the app and any issues should be resolved.



Sports Hall Athletics

A huge thanks to Miss Purse and Mr Hepburn who have been running our extra-curricular Sports Hall Athletics Club.

Some of the children who attend the club have participated in the Sports Hall festivals over the past few months and they have really enjoyed their experience.

So far, the festivals have been non-competitive but the next one is a timed event that leads to a competition.

Good luck to everyone who is participating!



Virtual Christmas Cards

This year each of our classes have turned one of the display boards in their classroom into a giant Christmas Card.

This will be photographed and sent to you all as a digital Christmas card via our app and Twitter.

We'll send one card per day over a period of 13 days with a special message from the class.



Easy Fundraising

The P.T.A. have provided an opportunity for parents and carers to help raise funds via online shopping.

Please see below for further details.....

With Easyfundraising there are over 4,000 retailers to choose from including big names like Amazon, M&S, John Lewis and even your weekly grocery delivery from Sainsbury's could earn us some free cash.

Signing up is easy and once you select your chosen cause you become a 'Kirklandpark Supporter'! The app is super simple to use.'



Remembrance Day

Thanks to everyone who has supported this year's Poppy appeal. Our House Captains were charged with the 'selling' of the poppies and children across all stages have been very generous in their support of this worthwhile cause.

On Friday 11th November we held a 2 minute silence at 11.00am across the school and nursery.

Ten children in Primary 7 took part in the Remembrance Day gathering that took place in the Common Green on the 11th. The children observed the two minute silence with participants from other schools and members of the public before laying small crosses in front of the statue of Khan.



Fairtrade

It is now twenty years since Strathaven was made a Fairtrade town.

To celebrate this milestone, the Strathaven Fairtrade Association visited Primary 7 and gifted each child a commemorative badge.



Dogs Trust

We were delighted to be visited by Louise from Dogs Trust on Tuesday 15th November.

Louise delivered workshops to children in Primaries 4-7 throughout the day.

She taught the children invaluable information relating to safety around dogs and how to care for them correctly.

It was a super day and much enjoyed by all of our children.

Louise (a retired Primary DHT) was very complimentary about the behaviour and manners of our children too!



Youth Music Initiative

Una Cunningham, one of South Lanarkshire Council's Music Tutors has been delivering a programme of lessons to children in Rooms 6a & 7 as part of the Youth Music Initiative.

The initiative helps the children to learn about percussion and develop their musical skills.

It is a fantastic opportunity for the children and Mrs Cunningham is very inspirational!

This week the children will have their last in-person lesson with her as work commitments mean that she will need to deliver the remaining lessons via Teams.



Book Bags

Each year, The Scottish Book Trust gift book bags to children in Nursery and Primaries 1-3.

The bags contain books and activities and are a lovely gift for the children. The materials are also designed to build parents' confidence to encourage families to have fun with books and to read, write and count together at home.

We celebrated the book bag gifts during Scottish Book Week with our older pupils helping the younger pupils to access the materials in school.

We were delighted to welcome parents, carers and grandparents into the school to read to the children throughout the week. The sessions were a huge hit with the children and we are extremely grateful to everyone who was able to come along and help us.



Bikeability

Primary 6 have been undertaking their Bikeability training during the last few weeks.

As well as the practical elements of the training, the children also learn about the Highway Code.

The final few assessments are being completed this week.



Christmas Cards & Accessories

A huge thanks to everyone who placed orders for the children's personally designed Christmas cards and accessories.

This year the company moved everything online and although it means things are very much easier at our end, it has felt a little strange not submitting the orders.



Cold & Wet Weather

The weather is a beginning to get a bit colder and it is definitely getting wetter!

We try to ensure that children are outside as much as is possible so please ensure that your child comes to school wearing a warm, waterproof jacket and sensible footwear. If at all possible, please ensure your child's jacket has a hood.

If the weather turns to snow, please pack a spare pair of socks / tights, trousers and gloves in your child's bag. This gives them a change if they slip and fall or just get carried away, having fun in the snow!



Dropping Off Forgotten Items

Reminder:

Please do not come to our school office to drop off forgotten items for the children. In most cases the children can manage for the day without them or we can provide a substitute if necessary.

The only exception to this would be items that are required for medical purposes.



Friday Fitness

Before our playground area was restricted due to the construction work involved in the building of Avondale Nursery, our whole school used to undertake a Friday run.

We have recently restarted a version of this, albeit a brisk walk at present!

The wet weather has made the playground surface a bit too wet to have running at present but we look forward to getting back to this when the weather gets a bit better.



Extra-curricular Clubs

Our children have been enjoying attending a huge range of activities that our staff have put on offer to them.

These have taken place after school and during lunch breaks and have included:

- Hamma Bead Club
- Choir
- Book Group
- Homework Club
- Eco Lunch Club
- Board Games Clubs
- Origami Clubs

- Netball
- Football
- Sports Hall Athletics
- BSL Lunch Club
- Dance Club

A huge thanks to everyone who has given up their time to offer these fantastic opportunities to the children.



Strathaven Academy

Our Primary 7 children enjoyed an after-school session at the Academy on Monday 21st November.

It was a great opportunity for the children to meet some more of the staff from the P.E. department and to see a little bit more of the Academy.

It was a super session that the children thoroughly enjoyed.



Reminder: Planning Ahead For Inclement Weather

It may be necessary to close the school at short notice if the weather takes a significant turn for the worse.

In the event that this happens we will contact you by sending out a message on our app. If we can get into the school we will also send a group text. Our twitter page will also convey the same information.

Please note that the only other official sources of information would be from South Lanarkshire Council themselves or via the local radio or news.

If the school is closed mid-way through the school day, we will not release the children unless collected by an adult or we have received word from you personally (by speaking to you on the phone) to let them leave. Please make your way to the school as safely and quickly as possible. Should you be some distance away we would be most appreciative if you could arrange for a friend or neighbour to collect and care for your child until you get home*. This will enable our teachers and support staff to make their way home safely too.

*Please phone us to let us know if you have authorised somebody other than yourself to collect your child.

It is essential that we have the correct contact phone numbers and email details on file for you. Please let us know if there have been any changes.

Again, any decision to keep the school closed prior to 9.00am will be communicated via our app, on Twitter and posted on the school and council websites. It is also likely to be announced on local radio and we will send out a group text if we are able to enter the school to access the appropriate software.

Please be aware that on some occasions a decision to close the school will not be made until 10.00am. This happens when the Council anticipates that staff will be able to get to school but it may take longer than usual due to road conditions etc.

Often the roads around Strathaven become grid-locked when there is heavy snow. A decision to defer opening can happen quite late as the situation can change very rapidly.



Medication

Please remember that any medication that needs to be stored in school must be handed into the school office.

SLC have strict rules in place that we must follow.

There are forms which must be completed by parents / carers if medication

- is to be stored in school
- is to be administered to a child
- is to be kept and administered by the child themselves

Our staff are not allowed to dispense medication without this paperwork having been completed.

Please note that we are only allowed to give children the dosage that is written on the label provided by the pharmacist or on the instructions accompanying the medication.



Toys At School

Just a reminder that children should keep all toys at home.

This includes trading cards.



Football

A small group of children who attend football training on a Monday have the opportunity to participate in local festivals on a monthly basis.

Despite the cold and windy conditions, the children have had a great time. For some, this was the first time that they had participated in something of this nature.

We look forward to being able to offer other members of our team similar experiences as we progress through the academic year.

A huge thanks to Mr Miller (Poppy & Oscar's Dad) and Mr Lockwood (Mirren's Dad) who come along to coach the children every Wednesday and accompany them to the festivals too.



Netball

A huge thanks to Mrs Smart and Mrs Kinnear, who have been coaching the children who attend Netball training on a Wednesday.

The children's skills have really developed and they have recently enjoyed participating in local festivals. They were over the moon to win quite a few of their games and it is lovely to see their growing confidence!



Milk

Please remember to click on the box (on Parent Pay) if you wish to order milk for your child. The children having milk varies on a daily basis and each morning a list of those who have ordered is printed. Please note that we can only provide those who are on the list with milk.

Children who receive subsidised meals, linked to income support can access free milk every day. Their milk should not be booked via Parent Pay.



Paying For School Activities

We don't want any of our children to miss out on opportunities that are provided via the school and we are keen to help if we can.

Please get in touch if your family is experiencing financial difficulties or if you are on a low income as we subsidise or pay to enable children to participate.



Swimming

Each year our Primary 6 children have the opportunity to participate in swimming coaching sessions.

We are delighted to be able to provide the opportunity for our Primary pupils to attend swimming coaching at the Strathaven Leisure Centre. Room 8 are completing their session this week and Room 9 will start theirs next Friday.



Water Bottles

A little reminder that boys and girls should bring their own water bottles to school.



Dates For Your Diary

Friday 2nd December

Ballot for additional tickets for P1-3 & P4-7 Christmas services

Monday 5th December

Class Virtual Christmas cards will be posted on school app from today.
Penguin Post starts today

Tuesday 6th December

Bubble Gum & Fluff For Primary 6 & 7
Christmas Fayre (6.30pm – 8.30pm)

Wednesday 7th December

Whole School Pantomime Trip

(Beauty And The Beast)

Thursday 8th December

Audrey (Librarian) will visit Primary 1 in school
Primary 3 to visit Strathaven Library

Friday 9th December

Primary 5 to visit Strathaven Library
Christmas Jumper Dress Down Day - £1 donation for 'Clyde 1 Cash For Kids.'

Monday 12th December

Primary 6 Christmas Party
Room 11 to visit Strathaven Library

Tuesday 13th December

Nursery Nativity
Room 10 Library Visit
Primary 5 Christmas Party
Primary 7 Ceilidh (6.30pm – 8.30pm)

Wednesday 14th December

Primary 4 Christmas Party
Choir to visit Trinity Church (Memory Club)
Christmas Lunch
Audrey (Librarian) to visit Primary 4 in school

Thursday 15th December

Primary 3 Christmas Party
Primary 2 Library Visit
P1-3 Nativity (Dress Rehearsal)
P4-7 Christmas Service (Dress Rehearsal)

Friday 16th December

Last Day Of Penguin Post
Primary 2 Christmas Party
P1-3 Nativity - Ticketed Event
P4-7 Christmas Service – Ticketed Event

Monday 19th December

Talent Show (Pupils Only)
Primary 1 Christmas Party

Tuesday 20th December

Christmas Quiz & Lotto (Pupils Only)
Nursery Christmas Party

Wednesday 21st December

Whole School Carols Around The Christmas Tree (Pupils Only)

Thursday 22nd December

DVD Afternoon (Pupils Only)

Friday 23rd December

Christmas Jumper Dress Down Day – No money (just for fun!)
Whole School Karaoke (Pupils Only)
School Closes At 2.30pm today!

Thanks again for all your support.

Kind Regards
D. Laing
Head Teacher

