

Kirkton



Primary School

October 2018

Head Teacher's Message

Where has the time gone, I can't believe we are in October already. Our Primary 7 pupils have returned after a fabulous week at Lockerbie Manor. A huge thank you goes to Mrs Smith, Mrs Black and Miss Telfer for accompanying the pupil. I went down on Thursday evening and everyone was having a great time.

Thank you to everyone who supported us at Jam and Ham, everyone had a great day. A special thanks to our parents and Mrs Smith who accompanied the choir.

Well Kirkton is full of fabulous footballers who won all of their games at the most recent football festival. Thanks to Mr Nellies for training the team and to everyone who helped out on the day. Go Team Kirkton!!

We are delighted to report the school is nice and cosy with the heating on, but I'd like to remind parents that whilst the school may be hot, children will need a warm jacket etc for playtimes. Please note pupils will be out in all but extreme weather situations including at times rain, but umbrellas are not permitted due to Health & Safety concerns.

Please remember parent's night is on Thursday and to book your appointment via the office. If you are not able to attend please contact the office to try to arrange another appointment at a mutually convenient time, but remember this may not always be possible, especially if you are missing it due to a holiday.

We have a number of children being taken out of school for parental holidays, in line with SLC policy these are only authorised for children of Police Officers or those in the armed Services. All other holidays will be recorded as unauthorised. Work will not be provided for your child to complete whilst they away, but we would ask for your support on their return to 'catch up' with any vital tasks.

If we can help you in any way, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Office Opening Hours

There have been no changes to the office opening hours. As in previous years, the office is staffed from 9am until 3pm. If you have any enquiries out with these times, please ring the buzzer and if staff are available we will be happy to answer them, if no one is available, please call and leave a message on the answering machine.

Website

www.kirkton-pri.s-lanark.sch.uk

Kirkton Avenue, CARLUKE, ML8 5AB

01555 773268

gw14kirktonpsoffice@glow.sch.uk

Twitter



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Playground Supervision

We have had a few enquiries/complaints regarding playground supervision before 9am. This matter was discussed at the Parent Council Meeting in September. South Lanarkshire Council and the Scottish Government identify the need for schools to provide an adult presence in the playground before the school day. Within Kirkton Primary our Janitor provides this presence from 8.45am. In addition to this at least 1 but often 2 additional members of staff are in the playground to welcome the children and ensure a smooth start to the day. These adults are not located purely at the gates and will move around the whole playground, children should not leave the playground once they have entered, this is a message we are sharing in the school and would ask all parents to reinforce this message at home. The staff in the playground are able to sort out any issues which may occur.

Lost Property

Please assist in preventing items of school uniform being lost or misplaced by labelling all items of clothing, footwear, bags and packed lunches with the child's name.

PE Lessons

Please ensure children come to school with appropriate gym clothes – plain white or dark shorts, plain white t-shirt and suitable shoes or plimsols. All children will take part in a minimum two hours quality PE per week. If your child is unable to participate, please inform the class teacher in writing. Please remember that all jewellery should be removed for PE lessons, including earrings.

Water Bottles

Children are encouraged to bring a water bottle to school every day and to keep hydrated during lessons. Only water is permitted during class time. Children should take their bottle home each night to be washed and refilled, pupils should not be using the school water coolers first thing in the morning. It is recommended that bottles be 'BPA Free' or 'PET Free' and that they are washed with soapy water each night.

The re-use of disposable water bottles is not recommended, and we are not able to provide children with cups. Children may bring metal water bottles, but glass bottles are not permitted.

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Fizzy Drinks

Cans and bottles of carbonated drinks, including energy drinks are not permitted in school.

School Photographer

The School Photographer will visit on **Monday 22nd October.** Remember to wear your full school uniform (no PE uniforms please) and bring your fabulous smiles.

Mobile Telephones

Pupils are discouraged from bringing their mobile devices to school however, if they require them for after school, they must remain switched off and in school bags at all times in line with our Mobile Technologies policy. Children are not permitted to bring any other personal electronic devices to school.

Dogs

A reminder that only guide/assistance dogs are allowed into the school grounds to ensure the safety of all members of the school community. This includes the area outside the main entrance.

Learning Through Play in Primary One

Play is a very important stage of learning for all children. It allows them to explore and understand the world through role-play, imagination, and 'rehearsal' of real events. It encourages the development of social skills, turn taking, sharing and also improves vocabulary. At Kirkton, we integrate play into the Primary 1 experience. Miss Burns, our P1 Teacher, has planned and organised their classroom environment to promote an active learning approach and children have regular opportunities to engage in play-based learning. The core skills of 'reading, writing and arithmetic' are still at the heart of the curriculum for P1 learners and, by working in a stimulating and motivating classroom environment, children can explore literacy and numeracy in contexts that are relevant, engaging and fun. Play based learning also allows children to work in small groups and one to one with their class teacher more often. Through a 'teaching activity', children will be introduced to spelling, phonological awareness, numbers, counting etc. Please visit our school website and Twitter feed regularly throughout the year to follow the progress of Primary 1 and our play-based approach to learning.

We are delighted to be leading the way with this locally and are pleased to have welcomed colleagues to observe the innovative practice in P1.

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Cycling to School

Children are encouraged to cycle or scoot to school. Children are recommended to wear a suitable helmet and reflective clothing and must dismount their bike in the playground and push it to the bike rack. The school cannot accept responsibility for any loss or damage to bikes/scooters etc. while on school property. Electric scooters and 'hover boards' etc. are not permitted.

Medical Information

Please inform the office staff of any medical conditions that may affect your child in school. If your child requires prescribed medication during the school day, please discuss this with a member of office or management staff. Children are not permitted to have any medication in school without the completion of a medical administration form. Medicines should not be sent to school in pupil bags.

Establishment Improvement Plan 2018/19

This year, the focuses of our curriculum improvement work will be on Literacy, with a focus on further improving pupil attainment through the implementation of the NLC approach to Active Literacy and Numeracy, to further improve attainment through the implementation of Big Maths approaches to Numeracy & Maths.

As part of the Scottish Attainment Challenge, we will continue to seek opportunities to offer targeted support to specific groups of children who may need additional support or resources to achieve and attain. Find out about the Attainment Challenge at <https://education.gov.scot/what-we-do/delivering-the-scottishattainment-challenge>

Flu Vaccination Programme

Children in Primary 1-7 are once again being offered Flu Immunisation in school. Information and consent forms will be sent home when they arrive in school. At Kirkton Primary School, eligible pupils in Primary 1-7 will be given the vaccine on **Tuesday 23rd October 2018**.

More information about the programme can be found at <https://www.nhsinform.scot/healthy-living/immunisation/vaccines/child-fluvaccine#primary-school-children>

An information leaflet can be downloaded at <http://bit.ly/fluvaccine2018>

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Keeping in Touch

Our main method of communication continues to be the App and school Twitter account, which can be accessed at www.twitter.com/@KirktonPrimary. It is not necessary to have a Twitter account to view the page. If you do have a Twitter account, follow @KirktonPrimary to keep up to date.

Text Messaging will continue to be used to inform parents/carers of important information and attendance. Please inform the office if your mobile phone number has changed.

In our aim to keep parents/carers as fully informed as possible, the school will:

- publish a monthly newsletter
- send home letters via 'pupil post'

School Website, this is undergoing some TLC and we hope it will be fully functioning soon.

If you have any questions or comments, please get in touch. You can telephone the school on 01555 772466 or email gw14kirktonpsoffice@glow.sch.uk

The teachers escort the pupils to the school doors at the end of the day, but this is not always the best time to speak with them as they are supervising the pupils. If you wish to speak in person to a member of staff, please contact the office to arrange a mutually suitable appointment.

Sickness and diarrhoea

Children experiencing these symptoms should not return to school for 48 hours following the last period of sickness/diarrhoea.

Dates for the diary

As always, we are a busy school and dates can change.

October

11 th	Parent's Night	15 th – 20 th	HOLIDAY
26 th	Non-Uniform Day	26 th	Harvest Assembly (P2)

November

		16 th	P 4/3 Class Assembly
W/B 19 th	Daily Writing	19 th	In-Service Day 3
W/B 19 th	Language Focus Week	30 th	Non-Uniform Day
30 th	P7 Class Assembly		

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December

12 th	School Show – rehearsal	13 th	School Show (pm)
14 th	School Show (am)	17 th	P5/6 Party
18 th	P3/4 Party	19 th	P7 Treat
20 th	P1/2 Party	21 st	Non-Uniform Day
21 st	2.30pm finish		

January

18 th	P6 Class Assembly	25 th	Non-Uniform Day
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February

11 th & 12 th	HOLIDAY	13 th	In-Service Day 4
15 th	P4 Class Assembly	22 nd	Non-Uniform Day

March

1 st	P5 Class Assembly	26 th – 28 th	School Panto
29 th	Non-Uniform Day	29 th	2.30pm Close

April

19 th	Good Friday	22 nd	Easter Monday
26 th	Non-Uniform Day		

May

3 rd	P3 Class Assembly	6 th	HOLIDAY
7 th	In-Service Day 5	16 th	Parental Consultations
24 th & 27 th	HOLIDAY	31 st	P1 Class Assembly
31 st	Non-Uniform Day		

June

28 th	Non-Uniform Day	28 th	1pm Close
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Thank you for your continued support. Together we can help each child to be the best they can be.

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