



Head Teacher's Welcome

Happy New Year! I hope you had a lovely Christmas and peaceful New Year. It has been wonderful to welcome the children and staff back to Kirkton and hear how everyone celebrated and about the lovely gifts they received.

On behalf of the entire staff, I would like to thank everyone for their kindness and generosity at Christmas. We were overwhelmed by all of the beautiful cards, lovely presents and much appreciated treats and goodies. These were not necessary but very much appreciated. January and February are times of the year where we often have adverse weather and snow. Whilst the short-term forecast seems to be fair for now, I would ask you to ensure the school has accurate and up-to-date emergency contact information for your child in the unlikely event of school closure. It is important we have a mobile number on record for the main contact of every pupil so that we can make use of our text messaging system in these circumstances. Information about our Adverse Weather plan has been included once again in this newsletter to ensure everyone is aware of the steps we are required to follow in the event of heavy snow. Our new school website is live and we would love your feedback www.kirkton-pri.s-lanark.sch.uk

Weekly Updates / Monthly Calendar & Newsletter

We hope you are finding these useful. The Weekly update and Monthly calendar are on twitter every week, on the app and on our website. The confidential email list is up and running so this issue of the newsletter has been sent by pupil post and electronically to parents. Hopefully we will be fully electronic by end of June. Please let us know if you have not received this newsletter or any changes to you email addresses.

Staffing Update

As I am sure you are aware Mrs Smith will soon leave us to go on Maternity leave. I am sure she will not be a stranger and that she will be in soon to show off her new wee bundle of joy. We are delighted that Miss Burns has been appointed Acting Principal Teacher, she will continue to teach in Primary 1 for the majority of the week. We are pleased that Miss S Smith (currently in P7, Monday & Tuesday) will be staying with us and covering Mrs Smith's class commitments as well as giving Miss Burns some time to complete her additional responsibilities. Mrs McKenna is also returning from her career break and will be teaching in P7 on a Monday, Tuesday and part of Wednesday.

Mobile Telephones and Personal Electronics

Children are encouraged not to bring mobile telephones to school. However, we recognise that there will be circumstances where a child needs their phone before or after school. As is our school policy, pupils must have their phones switched off and kept in their school bags at all times during the school day. This includes in the playground before and after school.

We discourage children from bringing electronic watches such as Apple Watches, Fitbits etc. to school especially if these can connect to the internet or receive/send messages etc. Pupils are not permitted to bring personal electronic devices to school such as computer games, tablets, book readers etc. It is also prohibited for any member of the school community (staff, pupils or visitors) to use their personal devices to take photos or videos in and around the school, a number of children's activity watches have this facility and as a result, they should not be worn in school. The school cannot accept any liability for the loss or damage of any personal items brought to school by pupils.



Uniform, Gym Shoes & PE Kit

As a school we have very high standards and expect all pupils to come to school prepared for the day ahead.

Recently we have become increasingly concerned with the number of children who are not wearing their school uniform. Our uniform consists of; grey trousers/skirt, white polo shirt/shirt & tie and grey or green jumper. School joggers can also be worn but this should only be on PE days. Tracksuits/leggings/jeans/coloured t-shirts are not part of our uniform and are not acceptable to be worn.

We will be looking at school uniform with all stakeholders between now and the summer holidays regarding how we ensure best value for our families, whilst making sure our children are appropriately dressed for school and look smart.

There are also a large number of children who do not have gym shoes (or are not wearing them in class). **ALL** children must have a pair of gym shoes to wear in school. This is to stop the spread of mud and dirt through the school, to wear for gym/drama sessions but also in case your child's feet get wet, there is nothing worse than sitting all day with wet feet. As a school we are unable to have spare shoes for pupils.

Please ensure your child has a **full** PE kit on gym days, it is also beginning to get cold and **ALL** classes have an outdoor PE Block each week, therefore all children should have suitable outdoor PE kit. Please remember all long hair **MUST** be tied back and all jewellery removed. Appropriate PE kit is a South Lanarkshire and a Health & Safety requirement. Not having kit is not an excuse for not participating in PE, pupils should have a note from their parents, or in extreme cases of non-participation, their doctor.

If you are unable to provide your child with a uniform, gym shoes or PE kit, please contact the school and we can support you as best we can.

Taste Tucker Trial Fruit and Vegetable Promotion

Next week our school will be participating through the Taste Tucker Trial Fruit and Vegetable Promotion Week. The promotion will run for one week for Monday 28th January to Friday 1st February 2019.

During this week the following fruit and vegetables will be promoted in the canteen for pupils taking school lunches, the 'trials' are as follows:

Monday 28th January	Mashed Turnip
Tuesday 29th January	Raspberries
Wednesday 30th January	Braised red cabbage with apple
Thursday 31st January	Pears
Friday 1st February	Blackberries

These fruit and vegetables have been chosen for their Scottish provenance as they are all grown in Scotland when in season. All pupils having a school lunch will be encouraged to taste these. By trying these additional fruit and vegetables the pupils will receive a smiley face stamp on their cards. This will qualify any child who, by the end of the week, has five stamps on their card to be entered into a draw to have the chance of winning one of 50 bikes.

School Support Assistant Recruitment

South Lanarkshire's main recruitment campaign for School Support Assistants for August will go live on My Job Scotland on 4 February 2019. If you are interested in this role or know someone who is please register for alerts on www.myjobscotland.gov.uk

If we can be of any help regarding this, please contact us via the school office.



Lost property

Please collect all lost property inc. jumper, jackets, lunch boxes etc. by the February holiday as all unclaimed items will be donated to charity.

School Holiday

The school will be closed to pupils and staff on Monday 11th and Tuesday 12th February. Wednesday 13th is an In-service Day and will be closed for pupils. We will reopen on Thursday 14th.

Parent Council AGM

The Parent Council will be holding their AGM on Tuesday 5th February at 7pm. Please email kirktonpspc@gmail.com to confirm your attendance.

P7 Transition to Secondary School

Our pupils welcomed Miss Turnbull from the Maths department on Wednesday and our pupils will be visiting Carluke High on Wednesday 30th January for their first transition morning. Please note that all Primary 7's will participate in the general 'Transition to Secondary' programme at Carluke High School even if a placing request is being submitted for another secondary school.

Tackling Poverty – The Cost of the School Day

Tackling poverty and cost of the school day are two of the themes which the South Lanarkshire Council are taking forward to improve outcomes for children and families.

Advice available to parents and carers includes:

Targeted advice and representation for parents and families on a low income, stabilising income and avoiding homelessness.

Free independent, confidential and impartial quality assured advice and lay representation across a range of civil, legal and social welfare matters using a holistic approach.

Support to navigate the social security and other statutory systems, connect with local support and services and build resilience and self-confidence.

Citizens Advice can help with include:

- **Social Security Benefits** - checking entitlements; claiming benefits; challenging and appealing decisions; dealing with claim processing problems
- **Housing** – advice and representation for people with rent arrears, facing eviction or mortgage repossession; dealing with landlord problems;
- **Crisis** – help to access emergency food, hardship payments and a place to stay
- **Debt** – checking liability, negotiating settlement or a debt payment programme; managing contact with creditors
- **Money** – help with budgeting, consumer credit, access to credit unions
- **Family & relationship** – family breakdown; domestic violence; carers;
- **Employment** – rights and entitlements; problems at work; redundancy; dismissal; discrimination; disciplinary issues; changes to terms and conditions

For more information phone / text:

Please feel free to contact Citizen's Advice on 0808 800 9060 or advice@hamiltoncab.casonline.org.uk

We would encourage parents who are eligible to apply for Free School Meals and Clothing Grants as this has an impact on the funding given to the school which in turns benefits pupils and the school as a whole. Information can be found below or on the South Lanarkshire website http://www.southlanarkshire.gov.uk/info/200186/primary_school_information/159/school_clothing_grants_and_free_school_meals



Free School Meals.

Although all pupils in P1 – 3 are entitled to Free School Meals, we would encourage all families who are eligible to apply for all of their children.

If you have a child in primary or in secondary who attends a South Lanarkshire school they are entitled to free school meals if you receive any of the following benefits:

- Income Support
- Universal Credit (and your earned income is less than £610 as assessed by the Department for Work and Pensions in the assessment period immediately preceding the application for free school meals)
- Job Seekers Allowance (income based)
- Employment and Support Allowance (income related)
- Child Tax Credit (with a gross annual income less than £16,105 as assessed by HM Revenues and Customs on your Tax Credit Award Notice TC602)
- Working Tax Credit and Child Tax credit (with a gross annual income less than £6,515 as assessed by HM Revenues and Customs on your Tax Credit Award Notice (TC602)
- Support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999

- If you are receiving Working Tax Credit and/or Child Tax Credit or Universal Credit we will need to see a copy of your Tax Credit Award Notice (TC602) or your Universal Credit decision letter or online journal. You can attach a scan or photograph of this with your online application form, or post a copy to Finance and Corporate Resources, Systems and Control Team, PO Box 3591, Glasgow G73 9ED.
- Please note: copies of notices will not be returned to you. Please do not send in original documents, as these will not be returned to you.
- Free school meals could save you approximately £314 per academic year. Entitlement can be checked at schools from the beginning of term.

If you are in receipt of Housing Benefit and/or Council Tax Reduction from us, do not complete our online application. We will use the information we hold to automatically award free school meals to eligible families.

Clothing Grant

You will be entitled to a clothing grant to buy a school uniform if you have a child who attends a school in South Lanarkshire and you are in receipt of any of the following benefits:

- Income Support
- Universal Credit (and your earned income is less than £1,190 as assessed by the Department for Work and Pensions in the assessment period immediately preceding your application for a clothing grant)
- Job Seekers Allowance (income based)
- Employment and Support allowance (income related)
- Housing Benefit and/or Council Tax Reduction
- Working Tax Credit and Child Tax Credit (where your gross annual income is less than £16,105 as assessed by HM Revenues and Customs on your Tax Credit Award Notice TC602)

You will receive a grant for each school age child in the family. Clothing grants are not available to nursery school children.

If you are in receipt of Housing Benefit and/or Council Tax Reduction from us, do not complete our online application. We will use the information we hold to automatically award a clothing grant to eligible families. If you are on single persons discount, you would still apply for the clothing grant/free school meals using our online form.



Pants & Socks

We are running low on our spare pants and socks and are looking for your help and assistance, if your child has been given a spare pair of pants, socks or tights could you please return them to school so they are available for other children. If any families would be willing to donate a packet of pants, socks, or tights we would be very grateful. We also take donations of school uniform, ideally small trousers and skirts in case of emergencies.

During this cold and wet weather, it would be helpful if children could have a spare set of underwear in their bag.

Adverse Weather Plan

This has been issued in previous newsletters.

In the event of heavy snow fall, the Adverse Weather Plan will be implemented. This has been developed by SLC Facility Services to take account of safe systems of work for Janitorial staff working in extreme weathers.

- The HT will make the decision that the Adverse Weather plan is to be implemented and inform parents/carers via Twitter and text message (if possible).
- The janitor will unlock the gates at the car park entrance only.
- The janitor will create a safe pathway from the main pedestrian gate to the main entrance of school building and ensure all fire doors are clear.
- All pupils and staff will enter via the Main Entrance.
- No other gates will be opened and there will be no access paths created in the playground.
- Local weather conditions will be monitored and parents/carers will be kept informed via Twitter and text message.
- In the event of the school being closed or your child being unable to attend school we will provide winter weather work. This is on the school website.

We thank you for your co-operation and understanding in the event of any weather-related disruption. All decisions taken will be in the best interest of pupils and staff.

Norovirus (Winter Vomiting Bug)

As part of this year's NHS norovirus seasonal awareness campaign, NHS Health Scotland has developed a matt laminated poster and supporting public information leaflet. The key message of this campaign is to advise the public to stay at home for **48 hours** after their symptoms have stopped. The leaflet contains general information on:

- What is norovirus
- How to avoid catching norovirus
- What to do if you catch norovirus

If you would like one of these leaflets, please inform our school office or access the information on <http://www.healthscotland.com/norovirus>.

Please note to avoid spreading this virus amongst our school community, all pupils with sickness and diarrhoea should stay home for 48 hours after symptoms end. If children return to school before the 48 hours have passed, we will contact you to come and collect your child again.

When children complain of being unwell in school, we will use our professional opinion when deciding on the best course of action, however we are not health care professionals and if we are in any doubt will call parents/carers or emergency contacts for children to be collected and apologise if this causes any inconvenience. We will always act in what we believe is your child's best interest.

Thank you for your support with this matter



Making Rights Real Award

As part of our focus on pupil voice, our school is aiming towards becoming a 'Making Rights Real' school. This means all our children will learn about the UNCRC (United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child) Rights of the Child, which apply to every individual from birth to the age of 18. Our children will take part in activities in class, in assemblies and in their pupil voice groups. We have a Making Rights Real Steering Group, which is made up of children from P1 – P7 who will be meeting on Fridays from 1 – 2pm. We would love to have a couple of parents or members of the school community to come along to support the children. If you are interested, please give your name to the school office. The dates are as follows:

- 1st February
- 15th February
- 1st March,
- 15th March
- 29th March
- 10th May,
- 31st May
- 14th June

more information will follow via the school website/ Twitter to give further detail on what it means to be a Making Rights Real School. There will also be an information session for parents this term to find out more and details of ways to get involved.

Dates for the diary

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

February			
5 th	Parent Council AGM (7pm)	11 th & 12 th	HOLIDAY
13 th	In-Service Day 4	14 th	P1 – 4 Fluoride Varnish
15 th	P4 Class Assembly	19 th	P1 & P7 Dental Checks
19 th	P4/3 Visit to New Lanark	20 th	Netball Festival
21 st	Football Festival	22 nd	Non Uniform Day

March			
1 st	P5 Class Assembly	11 th	Rotary Club Quiz (details to follow)
14 th	Football Festival	18 th	Rag Bag Collection
19 th	End of year Netball Festival	29 th	Non-Uniform Day
29 th	Close at 2:30pm		

April			
1 st – 12 th	Spring Break Holidays	22 nd	Easter Monday - Holiday
26 th	Non-Uniform Day		

May			
3 rd	P3 Class Assembly	3 rd	P6 trip to Scottish Parliament
6 th	HOLIDAY	7 th	In-Service Day 5
9 th	Football Festival	14 th	Public Speaking
16 th	Parental Consultations	20 th	P4 Visit to Five Sisters Zoo
24 th & 27 th	HOLIDAY	29 th & 30 th	P7 Visit to Carlisle High School
31 st	P1 Class Assembly	31 st	Non-Uniform Day

June			
7 th	P2 Visit to New Lanark	13 th	P7 Leavers Service (Church)
28 th	Close at 1pm.	28 th	Non-Uniform Day

We hope to confirm end of term events (e.g. Sports Day) by the end of February 2019

Thank you for your continued support.





If you have any comments or feedback, please complete this slip and return it to the school office.

Name:	Pupil:	Date:

