

Faith

Kindness

Love

Persevere

St Elizabeth's Primary & Nursery School

Head Teacher, Miss Christine MacPhee
William Drive, Hamilton, ML3 7RQ, 01698 285080



Learn Together, Laugh Together, Be the Best You Can!

Enjoyment

School Newsletter 5, Jan 2020

Respect



We offer **free, confidential and impartial advice** - we can help check your benefit entitlement, assist with the claims process, challenge decisions and represent you at Social Security appeal tribunals. For debt issues we look at your financial circumstances, contact creditors, discuss options and give budgeting advice; **Contact number: 0303 123 1008**

Our Telephone Advice Line offers a similar service specifically aimed at pregnant women and families with young children; **Contact number: 01698 453154**

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome to our January Newsletter. We have all been working very hard since our return this term. Our successes continue and we hope you enjoy reading about them via our App, Twitter and Website pages.

Best wishes everyone
Miss Christine MacPhee
Head Teacher

Weekly Assemblies

Our weekly assembly every Thursday is open to all families to come along and join us and we are delighted to welcome you. Our assembly begins at 2.15pm.

During this particular assembly, we celebrate achievements throughout our school – please let us know if there is anything you would like us to be aware of and to share with our school.



House System

Our winning house from last term was St Margaret's House! Well done to the boys and girls in this house for all their efforts in accumulating gold and green tokens! They thoroughly enjoyed a treat afternoon recently. The other 3 houses also enjoyed an extra playtime as a treat as they all had more than 10,000 points!!!



After School Multi-Sports Club

We are delighted to have our Active Schools Team supporting us once again this term. They provide wonderful opportunities for our children to develop key skills further and the children all enjoy the after school clubs they attend. This term the opportunities are opened up to our Primary 1, Primary 2 and Primary 6 children and are as follows –

*Tuesday for Primary 1 on the following dates –

4th February
18th February
25th February
3rd March

*Tuesday for Primary 2 on the following dates –

10th March
17th March
24th March
31st March

*Friday for Primary 6 on the following dates -

21st February
28th February
6th March
13th March
20th March
27th March

Staffing Update

We say farewell to Miss Di on Fri 31st Jan as she takes up a new post out with South Lanarkshire. We thank her for her work in our school and on behalf of us all, we wish her all the best for the future.

We have 2 student teachers joining us shortly - Claire McGrory and Victoria Campbell. We look forward to them being in our school and wish them a successful placement.

Homework Diaries and Sharing Learning

Many thanks for your continued use of our homework diaries – we really appreciate you taking the time to write a note/sign the diary and it helps us all with another level of communication.

We received excellent feedback from yourselves regarding the Home Learning Folders we sent home and we are delighted you enjoyed looking at them with your child. We will be sending them home again on Fri 14th Feb and they will contain samples of your child's work. Worksheets can be removed and kept at home but jotters should be returned to school on the Monday please for the children to continue to use.

Breakfast Club

As you will perhaps know, we run a breakfast club each day in our school and this takes place from 8.15am until 8.45am. This is free of charge and open to **all pupils in our school**. Children should come to the front door of the school where a member of staff will register them and let them through to our dining hall for breakfast. Please note that children are not permitted in to school before 8.15am.

Sacramental Workbooks

Our children in P7 who are receiving the Sacrament of Confirmation in June will be receiving their Sacramental Workbook at 11.15am Mass on Sun 23rd February. The children are very excited about beginning their preparation and we look forward to working alongside our families and parishioners to help prepare them well for this Sacrament. There will be a short service on Wed 5th February at 6.30pm in Our Lady and St Anne's Church to which all our P7 children and their families are invited.

Swap Shop

We are starting a Swap Shop in our school and are currently looking for any items that could be donated to this. The only criteria is that the item is in good condition. We are hoping the swap shop will operate a few times a week in our school and that children can swap and keep items, free of charge. Items can be clothing, gloves, hats, etc, books, bags, toys, blazers, etc. We really appreciate any support you can give us for this new venture and look forward to seeing how it develops. This is our first step in helping to address issues around the Cost of the School Day agenda.

P1 Enrolment Week

Our P1 Enrolment Week saw many new children being enrolled for starting with us in August. We are beginning to look at class configurations for next session and look forward to welcoming our new pupils in a few months time!

Promoting Positive Relationships and Understanding Distressed Behaviour

Following a consultation process with Heads of Establishment and Education Scotland, South Lanarkshire's Inclusive Education Service have published a revised version of this Council's Guidelines on Promoting Positive Relationships in schools and establishments. We have received this documentation in school and will be looking more closely at it during our forthcoming in-service day. A copy of the guidelines will be placed in our foyer area should anyone wish to have a look.

Emotion Works

We have been doing a lot of work around teaching our children to be more in tune with and aware of their emotions and reactions and that of others through our development of a programme called Emotion Works. Our focus for the month of February is on kindness and as a school we will be reflecting on, identifying and looking at ways we can show more kindness to one another.

Standards in homework

Every week, the children in our school receive homework. This is given out on a Monday and returned on a Friday. As we are now half way through our current school year, we are beginning to prepare all of our children for the next stage in August. Can we ask you to please encourage your child to produce neat work, joining their handwriting and taking care with the use of rulers, etc. This will help to reinforce what we are teaching them in school and your support will really enhance and embed this. Thank you for your co-operation with this. Children can borrow rulers and pencils to take home if they require these resources.

Community Partnership

The next meeting of our Community Partnership is **Wed 26th February at 7pm** in our school. **This is open to all parents and carers of children in our school and everyone is very welcome.** Please come along if you can and find out more. Thank you to all families for contributing to and supporting all Community Partnership events for our school.

Our Community Partnership are organising a Spring Fling Disco for Mon 17th February. Primary 1-3 from 6-7pm and Primary 4-7 from 7.15-8.15pm. Entry cost is £2.00 per child and Tuck Shop will be available as usual on the night.



Important School Information

***Nut allergies** – just a reminder to everyone that we are a nut free school. Children should not bring any snacks or items to school that may contain nuts or nut based ingredients. Thank you.

***Fizzy drinks** – fizzy drinks are not permitted in our school as they contain a vast amount of sugar which affects children's attention and behaviour.

***Health Promotion** – we are a health promoting school and encourage our children to think about what they eat and drink. This includes snacks at playtime and lunchtime. Milk is available each week at a cost of £1.00 and a biscuit can be bought for each day of the week for the total cost of 10p. We are looking to set up a healthy tuckshop and more information about this will follow.

***Absences/Lateness/Leaving Early** - If your child is to be absent from school, please phone our school office as soon as possible to inform us. We have an answering machine for your use. All children should be in the playground before the bell rings at 9am each day and we now have a bell ringing at 8.55am as a reminder to our children that 9am is fast approaching! The legal requirement is that children attend school from 9-3pm each day. If they are required to leave early, please bring your appointment letter to our office staff who will then note this. Lateness, absences and leaving early are recorded daily and if either of these become detrimental to any child's time at school, the council procedure is that an attendance officer will be asked to contact you to discuss further. We monitor absence levels, lateness and leaving school early very closely. This session, you will be informed if your child's attendance drops below 95% or if lateness/leaving early is becoming an issue. It would be really helpful for any appointments your child may have to be scheduled for out with school hours as leaving school early can have a detrimental effect on their learning in many ways. We appreciate your support in helping to ensure any disruptions to your child's learning are minimum throughout the school year.

***Contact Details** - If your telephone number or e-mail address change throughout the course of the year, please do let our office staff know to allow us to update our records. This also applies to emergency contacts.

***Head Lice** – We ask all parents and carers to please check hair regularly and if there is any case of head lice, it is helpful if you let the school know as soon as possible please. We have had a few cases of head lice recently in our school.

***School Uniform** – the children are very smart in our school uniform and we thank you so much for your great support with this. Please note that trainers are not part of our school uniform and named items such as Nike, etc should be kept for home. Children need a full PE kit each week and will also require joggers and a warm top as each class has a timetabled slot each week for outdoor PE. Children are not allowed to wear jewellery during PE due to Health and Safety and earrings should be removed or covered. I am delighted to see the majority of our children wearing the appropriate PE kits, thank you. The wearing of school uniform in our school is also excellent and the children wear it with pride.

Contacting our school

Please note our office staff are delighted to help you in any way and, as you know, do a wonderful job keeping our busy school office running smoothly. It is not always possible to get messages to children **after 2.45pm** due to them being in various parts of the school and this has caused a bit of anxiety for our office staff in trying to do so. Our answering machine is switched on **from 2.45pm until after 3pm** in order to try to help reduce the hustle and bustle at what can often be a frantic time of day. Should you have a message that needs passed on, please contact our school office as early as possible in the day. Please, please only call the school office in an emergency. Many thanks for your help with all of this. We have been experiencing problems with our phone recently and this has meant it has been ringing out when callers try to get through to us although it is not ringing in the office. We are working to get this issued resolved as quickly as possible.

Can you help?

If you would like to be a parent helper in our school, please let us know. We are always looking for help with trips and events as well as activities in school and would be delighted to have your support. Many thanks to all parents who have offered to help in our school, it is great to have you involved.

Best wishes

Miss C MacPhee
Head Teacher