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| Newsletter 126th August 2019 #letsgogartmore |  school logo small Gartmore Primary School Main Street Gartmore Stirling FK8 3RJ Tel 01877 382343 Email – gartmoreps@glow.sch.uk Headteacher: Mrs Fiona Buchanan [www.blogs.glowscotland.org.uk/st/gartmoreprimaryschool](http://www.blogs.glowscotland.org.uk/st/gartmoreprimaryschool)  |
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Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome to a new session. We hope you had a refreshing summer break. It is wonderful to have the children back for a new year of creativity & learning. This session we have 26 pupils – 13 in P2-4 and 13 in P5-7.

# Staffing

This session the P2-4 pupils will continue to work with Miss April Simpson (Acting Principal Teacher) and P5-7 with Miss Shannon Smith who we welcomed to the school on Monday. Mr Hurding remains on secondment as Acting Depute Headteacher at Fallin Primary. Mrs Annette Laing will provide some of our Reduced Class Contact Cover (RCCT and will be with us on a Wednesday morning and all day on a Thursday. We had been expecting Mrs Louise Robertson to be joining us on a Wednesday to provide cover for P5-7, however, plans had to change slightly and we are pleased to let you know that Mrs Heidi Bryce will teach P5-7 on a Wednesday. Mrs Bryce knows all of our pupils well and she continues as our Support for Learning Teacher for one half day per week, currently a Thursday afternoon. Our Support for Learning Assistant is Saffron Hennessy and Helen Webster provides administrative support. Sarah Buchanan takes care of the school cleaning and Gillian Stevenson provides catering services.

All pupils will receive PE from Ms Amanda McKie, our PE specialist, once a fortnight. We will also have some input from Mary-Clare Brown with music, later in the session.

Office

Mrs Webster works 10 hours per week at Gartmore Primary and another 10 at Port of Menteith. Her working hours are Thursday morning at Gartmore and all day Friday. She responds to emails on a Tuesday and Thursday afternoon as well when she is at Port. Please remember, that emails are not always able to be checked daily, therefore if there is essential information that needs to be passed on, please call the school preferably before 9.00am.

Lunches

Thank you to all parents who send in their child’s lunch choice for the week on a Monday morning. This really helps us with administration. If the pupils know what they are having for lunch each day it also helps us with lunchtime arrangements. I can appreciate that it’s not always possible to remind your child in the morning what they are having for lunch but it really does help us have a smooth transition to lunch. If anyone requires a menu, please speak to Mrs Webster in the office. If your child is in P4-7 please also ensure there is money available for their lunch through the parentpay system.

Gartmore Horticultural Show

The 103rd Gartmore Horticultural Show will be held on Saturday 31st August in Gartmore Village Hall from 2-4pm. Please come along and support it if you can. The pupils have been busy creating masterpieces to enter. Thank you once again to members of the community who have supported pupils with this, particularly our sewing ladies.

### GSP

The Gartmore School Partnership AGM will be held **tonight** Monday 26th August at 7.00pm in the school. This is a chance for all parents and friends of the school to become involved in the life and running of our school community, and we would be very happy to welcome you as we discuss some of our goals for this forthcoming year.

Meet the Teacher

On Thursday 29th August we will hold a ‘Meet the Teacher’ event for P5-7. Miss Smith will introduce herself and speak about class routines and the curriculum for the coming academic session. Miss Simpson will be available to answer any questions and we will also give a quick demonstration of the Seesaw app.

Gartmore After School Club is going from strength to strength so please get your bookings in as soon as possible as spaces are filling up - and tell your friends how good it is. The children attending travel from different schools and have access to an enjoyable and productive end to the school day. The Gartmore School Partnership and the GASC team have done an amazing job to ensure the continuity and quality of this service. We also have a wonderful Breakfast Club, 8-9am every school morning. No booking required, just £3 per session, with a tasty, healthy breakfast and a warm and welcoming atmosphere to start the day.

Outings

From time to time we will take the children out within our local environment. This may include walking to the park, the hall or elsewhere within the locale. We will not seek parental permission for every individual outing. Earlier this week we sent home our Yearly Consent Form. I would be grateful if you could return this to school as soon as possible.

Gartmore School App

We plan on using the School App to deliver most of our communication. If you’ve not signed up, please do so as soon as you can. Search ‘PSA’ or PSAprimaryschoolapp in either Apple or Google Play app stores. Once you’ve opened the app, search for Gartmore Primary School to see our latest news, events and messages. This app will also be used to send urgent and non-urgent messages. Please note that no messages can be sent to school via this method.

Dates for the Diary

We are busy working on dates for events for the forthcoming year. We will send out paper copy soon and these dates will also be available on the school app.

### Administration of Medicines and other procedures

If you require the school to administer any medicines to your child eg: inhaler, painkiller, antibiotics, you are required to attend the school to fill in the necessary forms and give instructions to Mrs Hennessy. Children should not bring medicine into school. If your child suffers from any allergies, please notify the school. Mrs Hennessy and Miss Simpson are our trained first aiders.

Please remember to notify the school about any changes to:

Travel arrangements

Persons collecting your child/children

Out of school care arrangements

Personal contact, telephone and mobile details.

PLEASE inform the school about pupil absence by letter or email or by telephone call before 9.15am on the first day of absence.

Any pupil bringing toys or valuables to school is reminded that the school cannot accept responsibility for these items.

All pupils are required to have a full PE kit in school during term time ie, shorts, t-shirts and plimsolls, and long trousers and trainers for outdoors. Please provide a gym bag. PE lessons will be twice a week, either in the playground, the field or the village hall on Wednesday and Thursday afternoons

For Health and Safety reasons, the wearing of jewellery is discouraged. Health and Safety guidelines require that earrings should be removed or be covered with sticking plasters during PE lessons. Please provide plasters for this purpose if your child wears earrings and cannot remove them. Staff are not permitted to do this.

Please ensure all items of clothing and personal property are labelled.

### Consultation/ Partnership

If you would like to speak to your child’s class teacher, please contact the school to arrange an appointment or send a note in to the teacher. Issues concerning your child’s learning or class based issues should be discussed in the first instance with your child’s teacher. I am always happy to meet with parents to discuss ongoing issues or other matters of concern.

We will soon be able to share information to parents on class activities through Seesaw. Details about this will be in an email, and information will also be given at Meet the Teacher.

Please note that the school welcomes all offers of help or suggestions for parental involvement in the life of the school. We have enjoyed the many and varied contributions of parents and friends and find this invaluable in strengthening the home/school partnership. Please get in touch if you want to make a suggestion or volunteer for an assembly activity.

### School Improvement Planning

This session staff and pupils will be working on a number of priorities in order to continue to raise attainment. These include:

* Raising attainment in literacy, particularly spelling, and to ensure all pupils are challenged appropriately in all areas of literacy.
* To improve opportunities for learning outdoors.
* To continue to improve health and wellbeing for all our pupils by implementing nurture principles.
* To continue to improve our assessment procedures, including the use of holistic assessments.

Mrs Miller will continue to support us with our Eco work and will work closely with us and we develop our Outdoor Learning culture. As part of this, staff have benefited from two training sessions from Learning Through Landscapes, funded by GSP. We will be developing our “loose parts” play opportunities for pupils and will shortly send home a list looking for any donations of things you may have kicking about. It is hoped that we can create a small working group of staff and parents who will work together to develop our grounds and our opportunities outdoors for pupils. Please get in touch if you’d be interested in this.

### Crisis/Inclement weather

Please ensure all contact numbers and emergency contacts are up to date and the school is notified of changes so that we can deal with any emergencies effectively. Your child/children should know where they will be going in an emergency and where to go if no emergency contact is available.

Please ensure your child comes to school with a rain jacket and indoor shoes.

Rag Bag

We have regular collections from the Rag Bag Bin in the school playground. It allows you to recycle unwanted wearable clothing, paired shoes, handbags and belts. It is important that donations are dry and tied up in a bag.

Drinking Water

As all pupils have access to fresh, chilled water when required during the school day, please supply a named drinking bottle which should remain in school during term time.

Child Protection

The Scottish Government have a multi media campaign to provide information for parents and young people about the risks of child sexual exploitation and action they can take to reduce the chances of it happening.

The website can be found at <http://csethesigns.scot/> and contains information for young people and for parents.

Information for young people includes recognising the warning signs, busting the myths about child sexual exploitation and understanding the increased risk that disability can bring, being able to tell healthy relationships from bad, staying safe and getting the right help if you or someone you know has been affected.

Information for parents covers knowing the signs and symptoms of child sexual exploitation, talking to your child and getting help and support if you are in any way concerned.

Gartmore 10K and Fun Run – Sunday 8th September

We are delighted that the 10K event is now full! Thank you to Clair Evans for organising this event on behalf of GSP and to parents for volunteering to marshal.

Bikeability

Thank you to parents who have volunteered to be trained in Bikeability on Thursday 5th September. This will enable us to offer Bikeability to pupils to help with their cycling and road safety skills. If any parent who has not done so already would like to sign up, please do not hesitate to let me know.

Finally, we would like to invite any comments or suggestions parents and carers may have on how we can improve any aspects of the school. Comments can be made by telephone, in writing or by email to the school address noted above.

I look forward to working together with you during the forthcoming year.

Kind regards,

Fiona Buchanan

Headteacher