



Dear Parent/Carer,

May 2015

Thank you to everyone who supported the PSA Spring Fair on Friday either through donations or by coming along. The fair raised an amazing £1,386.41.

May/June are the busiest months in the school calendar. Please can I urge all parents/carers to complete trip permission forms and EE2 forms and return to school immediately, at least two days before an excursion. Staff are having to spend endless amounts of time phoning parents and reissuing these permission slips. We have had a number of children unable to take part in learning experiences as their paperwork was not returned despite the school making every effort to contact parents. Thank you in advance for your support.

Nicola Thompson
Head Teacher

Composite Class Information Evening

A reminder that there will be a general meeting to discuss composite classes on Thursday 21st May at 5pm for parents to ask any questions regarding the composite class policy.

Please note that whilst parents/carers may have a preferred class for your child(ren) the school cannot accommodate any requests.

Sports Day

Our annual Sports Day will take place on Tuesday 26th May at 10.10am on the playing field.

In the case of inclement weather we will notify you by 9.15am that morning by groupcall if Sports Day is cancelled.

Pirates of the Curry bean

Primary 6 and 7 pupils and staff have been working very hard on their up and coming show which will take place on 27th and 28th May. A separate letter will be issued explaining how you can purchase tickets.



The Lion, Witch and the Wardrobe

A reminder M& M productions will be visiting the school on 25th May to perform the Lion, Witch and the Wardrobe for P3 to P7 pupils. The cost of the performance will be £3.50 per child. Please can you send this money into school in an envelope with your child's name by Friday 22nd May.



Staffing

Miss Cotter will be retiring at the end of the school term. We wish Miss Cotter a long and happy retirement and thank her for her thirty-one years of commitment and dedication to the Mid Calder community.

We are currently recruiting a new Principal Teacher and will inform you when this appointment has been made.

Sporting Achievements

Primary 6s recently took part in the West Lothian Cross Country event, congratulation to all the Primary 6s who represented the school at this event. Congratulations to Logan who came second place and Chiaro who came third place in the boys race.

Our joint basketball team from Mid and East Calder children known as 'the Calders' finished second in the West Lothian Basketball League and are now one of two schools invited to play in an Inter District Tournament against teams from Edinburgh, East Lothian and Mid Lothian at Dean Community High School. We wish them the best of luck.



Residentials

As part of revised residential programme, the current Primary 5 and 6 pupils will have the opportunity to visit the Highlands in March 2016. This will link to pupils learning context of the Jacobites, and also is a progression from Dalguise as they will have the opportunity to take part in skiing and water sports. Please ensure your non-refundable deposit of £65 is paid by Friday 25th May in order to secure your place.



School Uniform

Thank you to everyone who completed the recent uniform questionnaire. We received fifty-two responses out of 218 families making a 24% return. The following uniform expectations were agreed at a recent Parent Council meeting and will begin from August 2015. You will note that there are very few changes and I would like to thank you in advance for your continued support.

The Mid Calder Primary School uniform consists of:

- Red polo shirt and **grey** school jumper
or
- Shirt/blouse and tie and grey v neck jumper/ v neck cardigan
- Grey trousers/ skirt/ pinafore/ school shorts

- In the warmer weather children can wear a red cheque summer dress with a red cardigan.

- A defined gym kit was also requested which consists of black shorts and a plain white t-shirt or school t-shirt.

- It was also agreed that children should not be wearing make-up or nail varnish.
- With regards to jewellery children should only wear a watch and stud earrings.

Whole School Questionnaire

Please find enclosed our annual questionnaire. We would appreciate if you could fill this in and return this to the school by **Friday 5th June**. We value your opinions and the information collated will be used to inform our annual Standards and Quality Report and School Improvement Plan.

In June 2014 you told us:	We have put in place:
You wanted more information between Parents Evenings to find out what your children have been learning and how you could support at home.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We issue Learning Letters at the beginning of a new term outlining what your child will be learning that term and sets out when children will need PE kits, etc. • We post fortnightly blog posts exemplifying the learning taking place in the classroom • We have termly Sharing the Learning events for you to come into school and see your child's work and hear about their learning
More after school clubs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Every member of staff has organised a block of after school clubs covering a range of activities
Uniform too prescriptive	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We have consulted with the whole school community and updated our uniform
Curriculum – focus on the basics of maths and language Consistency when teaching in stages/classes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Teaching and learning of maths and writing have been a focus in our school improvement plan this session • Staff plan together in clusters to ensure children at the same stage are covering the same experiences and outcomes
Discipline could be improved; more open communication with parents	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We have implemented a new Positive Ethos policy this school session which includes steps to how parents are communicated with regarding behaviour incidents

Dates for your diary

Thursday 21st May – Afternoon group nursery assembly at 1.30pm

Thursday 21st May – 5pm – Parent Information Evening: Composite classes

Friday 22nd May – Morning group nursery assembly at 9am

Monday 25th May – P3-P7: Lion, Witch & Wardrobe showing

Tuesday 26th May – Sports Day at 10.10am; School show at 7pm

Wednesday 27th May – School show at 7pm

Thursday 28th May – Nursery pupils visit P1 classes

Monday 1st June – P3 and P4 to Transport Museum

Tuesday 2nd June – P4/3 to Transport Museum

Thursday 4th June – P7 pupils end of term trip to M&D's

Saturday 6th June – Mid Calder Gala day

Monday 8th June – Nursery afternoon group Sports Day

Wednesday 10th June – Nursery morning group Sports Day; Parent Council meeting at 7pm

Monday 15th June – Nursery trip to Five Sister's Zoo

Tuesday 16th June – P1, P2/1 and P2 trip to Deep Sea World

Wednesday 17th June – P5 and P6/5 Hat Show at Howden Park Centre at 6pm

Thursday 18th June – Pupils meet their new teacher

Tuesday 23rd June – P7 Leavers' Assembly at 2pm

Thursday 25th June – Church Service at 1.30pm; P7 Leavers' disco at 6.30pm

- **A copy of the session dates for 2015-16 are enclosed with this newsletter**



School Blog

Remember to visit our school blog which is updated by classes on a two week basis. Please feel free to leave us a comment.

<http://blogs.glowscotland.org.uk/wl/mcps/>

To get an update each time a post is added to our blog follow us on Twitter. The link is on the blog.

