

Mid Calder Primary Newsletter



Dear Parent/Carer,

August 2015

I hope you all had a lovely summer break despite the dreich weather conditions. I welcome you all back for a new academic session and extend a warm welcome to our new pupils and their families in the nursery, primary one and in classes throughout the school. We have had a few changes to staffing over the summer break. Mrs Hendry and Miss Henderson have moved onto new pastures. We wish them every success in their new posts.

We also welcome our new members of staff: Mrs Barber, nursery teacher; Mrs George, Primary 1 teacher; Mrs Stewart, Acting Principal Teacher & Primary 3 teacher; Mr Renshaw, Primary 5/4 teacher; Miss Anderson, Primary 7 teacher and Mrs Brown, Pupil Support Worker. We look forward to welcoming back Miss Kerr after the September break. Miss Kerr will be the Reduced Class Contact Teacher.

Over the summer period we had some work completed throughout the school. A new fire exit has been installed to the front of the school building in preparation for the new nursery building which will be starting later this year. We have also had new LED lights fitted throughout the school making the school a brighter environment for pupils.

I want to thank all parents/carers with your support with our updated school uniform policy and all our children look smart in their uniform and taking great pride in their school. Please can you ensure that all clothing is labelled so any stray pieces of uniform can be reunited with their owners. We already have a selection of lost coats in our Lost Property. Please can you provide black indoor shoes (gym shoes) for your child. The PSA will soon be issuing information about 'Jazzing up Your Gymmies'.

Thank you for ensuring that your child arrives to school on time and ready to learn. Our school day begins at 8.45am. If your child is late for school they should enter the school through the main entrance door and reporting to the school office staff. This allows our office staff to update registers and ensure that your child has ordered a lunch.

Like all schools across West Lothian we offer a Breakfast Club which offers a free breakfast to all children. The club begins at 8.05am. I want to thank the parents/carers who respect the start time of the club but I am saddened that despite continual pleas to parents there are still children arriving to school as early as 7.45am. From Monday 31st August the main school doors will not be opened until 8.05am.

Thank you to all parents/carers for following our playground policy. Please can I remind you that parents should not be waiting in the playground with your child in the morning. Also dogs should not be brought into the school playground.

We are holding our annual Meet The Teacher evening on Thursday 10th September at 6.30pm. All parents/carers are invited into the school hall for an overview of our Standard and Quality Report 2014-15; School Improvement Plan; Positive Ethos Policy; Support for Learning provision. Some of our pupils will be presenting aspects of this information.

This will be followed by the opportunity for you to go to your child(ren)'s class to meet the teacher and find out about the curriculum that your child will be studying this session as well as find out about class routines and teacher expectations.

These classroom sessions will run twice: 7.05pm – 7.25pm and 7.30pm – 7.50pm. This will allow you to visit two classrooms if you have more than one child in the school. Please note that the purpose of this event is to give you an overview of the year ahead for your child and teachers will not be commenting on individual pupil progress.

I look forward to seeing you at our Meet the Teacher event on Thursday 10th September.

Nicola Thompson
Head Teacher



Nut free school

There are a number of children in our school with extreme allergies to nuts. Please ensure that you do not give your child nuts or products containing nuts for snacks or in packed lunch boxes. Thank you in advance for your support.



P1 Parents Afternoon

As part of the Primary 1 transition programme primary one parents/carers are invited to a five minute appointment with your child's teacher on Tuesday 8th September to find out how your child is settling into primary one. A separate letter will be sent to primary one parents/carers.

Lunch Money

Please can all parents/carers ensure that pupils have lunch money (£1.90) if they are ordering a school lunch. Our office staff are spending a large amount of time sorting lunch money each day.

Vouchers

Thank you to everyone who contributed to the Sainburys Active Kids vouchers. We used these vouchers for play equipment for the nursery and primary school.

Rag Bag Collection

Our next Rag Bag collection will be on Friday 25th September. All pupils will be issued with collection bag. Due to changes with the Rag Bag they are now only collecting:

Wearable Clothing – All fashions – All ages.
Paired Shoes
Handbags
Belts

Parent Council

A reminder that the next Parent Council meeting will take place on **Wednesday 16th September at 7pm** in the school. All parents are invited to attend.



PSA

The Parent School Association AGM will take place **on Monday 14th September at 7pm.** All parents are invited to attend.

After School Clubs

After School Clubs will be beginning of October. More information and sign up forms will follow after the September break.

Flu Vaccinations

NHS will be carrying out the Flu Vaccinations on Monday 2nd November. All pupils have been issued with a consent form – if you have not received a form please contact the school office.

Nursery News

All our new nursery pupils have started nursery and are settling in well to the new nursery routines. We will continue to have new children starting throughout the term when they turn three years old. The staff are enjoying getting to know all the pupils and families.

Mrs Findlay will be off for four weeks from 7th September. Ms Lauren Caldwell will be covering Mrs Findlay during this time.

School Improvements 2015-2016

At Meet the Teacher you will be provided with an overview of the school priorities for this session.

Priority one: To develop a robust tracking and monitoring systems incorporating Getting It Right For Every Child (GIRFEC), attainment and achievement

Priority two: To raise attainment in maths through improved learning and teaching of mental agility and number.

Responsible Roles

In June of last session, the current Primary 7s applied for a responsible role and received some training. They were 3 categories:

Magical Mediators who help with minor disagreements in the playground. This is done using restorative practice approaches which will enable pupils to become more independent and resilient.

Safe Security who help monitor the communal areas and ensure the playground and toilet areas are safe.

Playful Pals who help pupils play games, teach them how to use and look after the new playground equipment. Each week a group of Primary 6 pupils will help the infant pupils in the dinner hall, they are known as the Lunch Bunch.

The Primary 6 and 7s have been demonstrating a mature and responsible attitude towards their new roles and wear their responsible role uniform with pride.

Positive Ethos Policy

We have revamped our Positive Ethos Policy after feedback from pupils and staff. You can find the updated policy on the school blog.

Dates for your diary

Tuesday 8th September – P1 Settling in Parent Consultation

Thursday 10th September – Meet the Teacher at 6.30pm

Monday 14th September – P1 photo for West Lothian Courier; PSA meeting at 7pm

Wednesday 16th September – Parent Council at 7pm

Monday 21st & Tuesday 22nd September – Pupils off

Friday 25th September – Rag Bag collection

Thursday 15th October – School photographer



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.

