

Dear Parent/Carer,

I hope that you had a lovely mid-term break and it is hard to believe that we are on the countdown to Easter. We have a busy term ahead with our STEM focus week; celebrating Fairtrade Fortnight and National Book Day. We also celebrated Mrs Bokhari’s silver anniversary as this month marks her 25th year of working in Mid Calder Primary School.

Just to give you forward notice – the primary school will be closed on **Thursday 5th May** due to the Scottish Parliamentary Election and on **Thursday 23rd June** due to the European Union Membership Referendum. The nursery will be open as usual on these dates.

Nicola Thompson

Head Teacher

February 2016

**Curriculum Evening**

We are holding our Curriculum Evening on **Thursday 25th February at 6.30pm**. All parents/carers are invited into the school hall for an overview of our maths and numeracy developments this session.

This will be followed by the opportunity for you to go to your child(ren)’s class to find out about the maths and numeracy work happening in their class and how you can support them at home.

These classroom sessions will run twice: 7pm – 7.25pm and 7.30pm – 7.55pm. 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 maths and numeracy curriculum and teachers will not be commenting on individual pupil progress.

If you need to bring your school aged children along to the evening there will be a DVD playing in the hall during the workshops.

Please note that there will be no one ‘manning’ the door to provide access after 6.30pm.

We look forward to seeing you on Thursday.



**Internet Safety Day 2016**

Internet Safety Day was on 9th February and each class marked this activity by taking part in a range of learning opportunities from designing posters for the West Lothian Internet Safety Competition to investigating how to treat others with respect online. You can find out what your child was learning by visiting our blog:

<https://blogs.glowscotland.org.uk/wl/mcps/category/interdisciplinary-learning/internet-safety-interdisciplinary-learning/>

We also regularly update our blog with internet safety tips for parents and carers:

<https://blogs.glowscotland.org.uk/wl/mcps/category/information-for-parents/internet-safety/>

**PSA**

A huge thank you to the PSA for organising the recent Dress Down Day and Movie Night, and to all parents/carers and staff who came along to the Movie Night to help out.

Also a huge thank you for your support. The events raised:

Movie Night          £332.26

Dress Down Day  £194.26

This money will go towards our school playground target of £10,000. As you will have read from the PSA flyer we are listening to our pupils who have made very sensible suggestions on how we can improve our playground. However, with the imminent nursery works we are holding off on our playground developments. Please note that the monies raised will go towards the purchase of long lasting playground equipment.



**School Lunch Price Increase**

From Monday 11th April 2016 (after the Easter break) the cost of lunch will increase to **£1.97**.

**Nursery arrangements**

After the Easter break our nursery numbers will increase in the afternoon session making us a 30:30 nursery for the term. We look forward to meeting our new children and their families.

Mrs Findlay will be in the nursery on a full time basis for the term.

**Home baking**

A number of pupils have recently brought in home baking into school for their peers and staff to sample. It is lovely to see children applying their numeracy and cookery skills, however, due to dietary and medical needs across the school we cannot permit children to hand out their baking. As a school we have decided that pupils should only bring in home baking if it is an organised school event.



**Transition**

The Primary 7s have taken part in a range of transition activities to support their transition to high school; these have included taking part in Maths Glow Meets (video conferencing) which has helped to challenge their mathematical thinking. They have also been visited by Ms Thompson, an Art teacher and pupils had the opportunity to visit West Calder High with Dr Cherry to make a spatula. Currently Primary 6 and 7 are using Didbook, a safe online profile which is used in various high schools across West Lothian. Watch this space for a drop in session to find out more about Didbook.

You can find out more about our transition programme on the blog:

<https://blogs.glowscotland.org.uk/wl/mcps/category/information-for-parents/transition/>

**Fairtrade Fortnight**

Mid Calder Primary School is a Fairtrade school. We will be celebrating Fairtrade Fortnight (Monday 29th February – Sunday 13th March). The theme of the Fairtrade campaign this year is ‘Sit Down for Breakfast; Stand Up for Farmers’.

As Martin Luther King famously said, ‘before you finish eating breakfast in the morning, you’ve depended on more than half the world’. Despite our dependence on farmers and workers for the foods, drinks and products that we love, about 795 million people are undernourished globally.

The Fairtrade Junior Leadership Team have linked with Mrs Findlay and Mrs Walker in the breakfast club and have organised a Fairtrade Breakfast **on Friday 4th March at 8.05 – 8.20am**. All pupils are invited to attend.

**During Fairtrade Fortnight all pupils are encouraged to bring a Fairtrade snack for playtime.**

**Healthy Heroes: Jump Rope for Heart**

Jump Rope for Heart is a programme developed by the British Heart Foundation to provide opportunities for children to use skipping to enhance their health through being active, develop skills and to have fun.

The Healthy Heroes Junior Leadership Team have organised for all children to participate in a skipping programme during their P.E. lessons for a number of weeks. Not only are they improving their levels of fitness and skipping skills, but enhancing their learning through cross curricular work. The Healthy Heroes have organised a Jump Off to showcase the skills of the children, but also to raise funds for both the British Heart Foundation and the school.

80% of any money raised goes to the British Heart Foundation to help them carry on with their research and support of heart patients. 20% of the money is retained by the school and can be used to further enhance the activity levels of all children.

Any amount of sponsorship raised would be very much appreciated. Your child should return their Sponsor Form on the day of the Jump Off. This will take place on the week beginning **Monday 14th March**, class teachers will inform the children of the specific day they will be participating. Any money collected should be brought to the school by Thursday 24th March.

**School Uniform**

Thank you to the majority of parents/carers who support the school by dressing their child(ren) in the correct school uniform. Please can I remind all parents/carers that the school uniform, as agreed by you last session, is:

* 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
* Grey tights preferred
* In the warmer weather children can wear a red cheque summer dress with a red cardigan.
* **PE kit:** black shorts and a plain white t-shirt or school t-shirt.
* **No make-up or nail varnish.**
* Jewellery: a watch and **stud earrings**.
* Pupils should have indoor shoes to change into

**If you require to order school uniform –grey jumper/jumper with school crest; red polo shirt with school crest; school tie please place an order at the school office by 4th March 2016.**

**Jak Truman Challenge Cup**

Well done to Katie and Craig in P7 at the half time penalty shoot competition during the recent Jak Truman Challenge Cup football match.



**Euroquiz**

Good luck to four of our P6 pupils – Sean, Ayla, Jamie and Cole who will be representing the school in the forthcoming West Lothian Euroquiz.

**Sainsbury’s Active Kids Vouchers**

We are collecting the Sainsbury’s Active Kids Vouchers. If you have any vouchers please send into the school office. Thanks in advance for your support.



**Dates for your diary**

Thursday 25th February: Curriculum Evening at 6.30pm

W/b Monday 29th February: Nursery Pop in and Play

Tuesday 1st March: West Lothian Burns Competition at St Kentigern’s Academy

Wednesday 2nd March: Parent Council meeting at 7pm

Thursday 3rd March: Mid Calder Bake Off

Friday 4th March: Primary 3 assembly at 11.10am (Parents/carers invited); P6 pupils to Euroquiz

Monday 7th March: P6 & P7 residential

Wednesday 9th March: P4 Mini netball Sports Festival at East Calder Sports Centre; PSA meeting at 7pm

W/B Monday 14th March: Sponsored skip

Wednesday 16th & Thursday 17th March: Parents’ Consultations

Thursday 17th March: STEM day led by STEM Junior Leadership Team

Friday 18th March: Achievement Assembly (Invited parents/carers only)

Monday 21st March: New P1 parents invited to a tour of the school; P7 to Risk Factory

Thursday 24th March: Church Service at 1.30pm; End of term

Monday 11th April: New term begins

Wednesday 20th April: P3 Multisports Festival at East Calder Sports Centre

Thursday 21st April: School Photographer – classes and brass group

**Thursday 5th May – Primary school closed to primary pupils**

**Thursday 23rd June - Primary school closed to primary pupils**

