

Dear Parent/Carer,

I hope you had a relaxing Easter break and hope you are looking forward to the long weekend – it looks like we could be spending the weekend enjoying the snow!

I am appealing to all parents/carers who drive their children to school. Over the past week there have been two near miss accidents at the school gate. The first was due to unsafe parking and the second was due to parents/carers using the school car park when collecting children.

As a school we work in partnership with Police Scotland to promote safe and responsible parking, however, we all have a responsibility to ensure that our children are safe. I am appealing to everyone to make sensible decisions when dropping off/collecting children. I would like to remind you that parents/carers should not be using the car park.

Thank you in advance for your support.

Nicola Thompson

Head Teacher

April 2016

**Session 2016-2017**

Next session our nursery will return to a 30:20 nursery – 30 morning places and twenty afternoon places.

In the primary school the classes will be:

P1

P2/1

P3/2

P3

P4a

P4b

P5a

P5b

P6

P7/6

P7

Pupils will be organised into classes in line with the guidance set out in the West Lothian Composite Class Policy which can be found at:<http://www.westlothian.gov.uk/media/2249/Composite-Classes/pdf/Composite_Classes.pdf>

I want to reassure parents/carers that all staff liaise extensively to ensure that children are placed in classes which best meets the needs of your child.

**Active Kids Vouchers**

The Sainsburys’ Active School vouchers are coming to an end – please can you send in your vouchers to allow Mrs Brown and some upper school pupils to process our order.

**Jump Rope for Heart**

Thank you to the school community who raised £1140 for the British Heart Foundation. The school will receive £280. Well done to all the pupils for taking part and the Healthy Heroes for organising this event.

**I Pay**

Very soon you will be able to pay for school lunches online. On 19th and 20th May every child will be issued with letters containing information about this system – please look out for it in your child’s schoolbag. The second letter will contain your own unique pin number – please keep this safe.



**Mr Melrose Retires**

Mr Ronnie Melrose, our school crossing patrol guide at the Spottiswoode Gardens junction retired prior to the Easter holidays after years of assisting our children to travel safely to school. The school community would like to mark Mr Melrose’s support to the school. If you would like to contribute to a gift from the school community please send your donation into the school office.

**Staffing**

I am delighted to inform you that we have recruited two new teachers. Mrs Holman and Mrs Brolls will be joining our school on Monday 16th May. Mrs Holman will be the primary four teacher and Mrs Brolls will be teaching classes across the school for Reduced Class Contact Time. Mrs Brolls replaces Ms Snobel who has recently left after securing a job closer to home. We wish Ms Snobel our best wishes in her new post.

**Dates for your diary**

Monday 2nd May – School holiday

Tuesday 3rd May – School closed to pupils

Wednesday 4th May – P4 swimming assessment

Thursday 5th May – Primary school closed to primary pupils; nursery open

Friday 6th May: Primary 2 assembly at 11.10am

Monday 9th May – P6 to Edinburgh Zoo

Tuesday 10th May: Rag Bag Collection

Wednesday 18th May – Parent Council – everyone welcome

Thursday 19th May – New Primary 1 parents invited for a tour of school

Friday 20th May: P1a assembly at 9.15am; PSA Spring Fayre at 12.30pm

Monday 23rd May: School holiday

Tuesday 31st May – Sports Day – time to be confirmed

Saturday 4th June – Gala day

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



**PSA**

The PSA have raised £1617.72 for the school playground fund. Thank you for your continued support to school events. The PSA Spring Fair will take place on Friday 20th May at 12.30pm.

The PSA are currently putting together a school calendar for next session. This diary will contain key dates for your diary for next session and will contain art work of every pupil in our current nursery to primary six classes. A flyer has been sent home – if you wish to purchase the calendar please complete the flyer and return by **Friday 13th May** with the £5 payment.

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| **Anytime Anywhere Learning**Last week the Pupil Council and Technical Troopers  information evening for parents of children in P3/4, P4, P5/4, P5, P6, P7/6 and P7 about Bring Your Own Device. You can find what we discussed at the meeting on the blog at: <https://blogs.glowscotland.org.uk/wl/mcps/2016/04/21/bring-your-own-device-parent-information/>Some questions asked included: - What if I do not want to send my child to school with a device? As explained in the presentation, this is a parental choice. We have enough netbooks, laptops and tablets in school for pupils to use. - What if my child feels left out for not bringing a device? Staff have set the scene for bring your own device in their classes and have discussed how pupils feel. All children have access to the devices we have in school. The technical troopers have organised worry boxes for each class and have developed a questionnaire for pupils to monitor their health and wellbeing. We reassured parents that although this is an exciting opportunity for Mid Calder Primary, the use of ICT is to enhance learning. As always there will be a balance across the curriculum of different approaches to learning and teaching which you can see on our blog. If you do have any further questions about Bring Your Own Device please email the school at midcalder-ps@westlothian.org.uk or contact Miss Sherlow, Miss Anderson or Miss Burton.  |

**Mid Calder Gala Day**

This year’s Gala day will take place on Saturday 4th June. The theme is Children’s Books. The school and nursery will be walking in the Gala parade and would encourage as many children as possible to come along and join us in the book themed costumes.

As in previous years you can pre-order a goodie bag for your child. The bag costs £1 and must be paid for in advance. If you wish to purchase a goodie bag please complete the slip below and return it to the school office by Friday 13th May.

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MID CALDER GALA DAY

GOODIE BAG

Pupil name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Class: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

I would like to order a Gala Day goodie bag.

I enclose £1

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_