

Mid Calder Primary Newsletter



Dear Parent/Carer,

May 2016

With a heavy heart I am writing to inform you that at the end of this school year I will be leaving Mid Calder Primary School. I am returning to Northern Ireland to take up a head teacher post close to my family.

As most of you will know, I came to the school in 2013 and have thoroughly enjoyed getting to know you and your children. I feel so privileged to have been part of your child's life and to watch them learn and blossom. Your children are such a credit to you and I am proud of every one of them as they strive to succeed in everything that they do.

I am also very proud of everything that the school has achieved in such a quick timescale. This is largely due to the dedicated staff team at Mid Calder as well as the support from our parent body and local community. I will miss everyone here and would like to take this opportunity to thank you all for making me feel so welcome. I know that you will all do the same for my successor. An advertisement for the post will go out very soon with a view to appointing a new head teacher as soon as is possible.

Yours truly,

Nicola Thompson

Head Teacher

Retirements

At the end of the session Mrs Barber, nursery teacher, and Mrs Ritchie, admin assistant will be retiring. Although Mrs Barber has just been with us for one year she has slotted in so well to our nursery team and together the team have worked together to continue to make improvements in our early years provision.

Mrs Ritchie has been with us for ten years and with Mrs Bokhari keeps our office running so efficiently. Her dedication and commitment to the school will be greatly missed. We wish both ladies a very long and healthy retirement.

Composite Class Meeting

Following on from the success of the composite class meeting last session we will be holding a meeting on Wednesday 8th June at 6.30pm. The purpose of this meeting is to share with you how composite class operate. A number of parents/carers who have children in a composite class will be speaking at this meeting about their experiences.

I would urge any parents/carers with concerns regarding composite classes to attend as I will be unable to meet with parents/carers individually when the new classes are shared at the end of June.

Sports Day

At the moment it looks like Tuesday (31st May) will be a dry day for our school sports. This year the PSA will be supplying all pupils with an ice lolly so all pupils should bring their own water bottle to take up to the field. Please can you ensure that your child's water bottle is labelled.

Our house captains have requested that all pupils are encouraged to wear a t-shirt that matches their house colour:

Cunnigar: yellow

Linhouse: blue

Calderwood: green

Almondell: red

If your child does not have a t-shirt of this colour they should wear their white PE t-shirt.

School blog

Reminder that you can access our school blog on:

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

Mid Calder Gala

The annual Mid Calder gala will take place on Saturday 4th June. All pupils are invited to take part in the parade. We will meet at the entrance of South Lodge Avenue at 12.30pm. The theme is children's books so please come in dressed to impress!

The Gala football will take place on Wednesday 1st June. A huge thank you to Luke McLachlan and Mark Napier from West Calder High School for organising football training as an after school activity for this event. We wish our team our best wishes for this event.

As always our upper school pupils will be running in the school relay event. This is a great opportunity for your child to represent the school. We are requiring one girl for the girls' race – please encourage your child to take part.

Mr Melrose Retires

Thank you for your generous donations for Mr Melrose's retiral. The school community has purchased a companion chair with cushions and a blanket. The school community will arrange for this to be presented to Mr Melrose.

PSA

A huge thank you to everyone who came to the Spring Fayre last Friday either has a helper; organiser; supporter. The sun was shining and there was a fantastic buzz around the school. The fair raised a total of £1773.97 – a fantastic amount. Thank you to everyone for making the fayre a great success.

Thank you to everyone who has ordered a school calendar for next session. These will be printed and delivered in due course.

Dates for your diary

Friday 27th May – Open morning at 11.15am – 12noon

Tuesday 31st May – Sports Day at 9.45am – 12noon (approx.)

Wednesday 1st June – Gala football tournament

Thursday 2nd June – Primary 6 to Djembe ensemble

Friday 3rd June – Primary 1 assembly

Saturday 4th June – Gala day

Tuesday 7th June – P3/2 & P2 Tesco football afternoon

Wednesday 8th June – P6 pupils to cross country event at St Paul's PS; 6.30pm Composite Class meeting

Thursday 9th June – P1-4 author visit; P7 trip to M&Ds

Monday 13th June – Nursery sports (afternoon); P1 Information Evening at 6.30pm

Tuesday 14th June – P1 trip to Botanic Gardens

Wednesday 15th June – Nursery Sports (morning)

Friday 17th June – Achievement assembly – invited parent/carers only

Monday 20th June – P7 Leaver's assembly at 1.30pm

Wednesday 22nd June – Meet the Teacher afternoon

Thursday 23rd June - Primary school closed to primary pupils; Nursery Leaving assembly

Tuesday 28th June – Church Service at 1.30pm; P7 Leaver's party

Wednesday 29th June – Last day of term; nursery trip to Seabird centre

iPayimpact

Like all schools across West Lothian Council we have introduced a more convenient way to order and pay for school meals using a secure internet service called iPayimpact. Currently we are only using this system to order and pay for school meals but in the future we hope to use this service to pay for school trips, milk etc

Currently you can order your child's meal for the day/week or for up to 6 weeks online and you can put lump sums on your child's meal account and as meals are taken it will be reduced by the cost of a meal each time so you don't have to log on each day to make payment.

iPayimpact offers you the freedom to make payments whenever and wherever you like, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week - safe in the knowledge that the technology used is of the highest internet security available.

If you have children at different schools within West Lothian, you will be able to connect all the children to your unique account and be able to make payments for all purchases in one single transaction.

The main contact parent/caregiver has been sent a unique iPayimpact Account activation details via a letter given to their child. If you require a copy please contact the school office.

Pupils in Primary 1-3 or in receipt of free school meals can order their lunch at home with you.

Well done Liam & Alivia

A huge well done to Liam(P3) and Alivia (nursery) who recently took part in The Great North Run to raise money for our playground improvements. They raised a fantastic £248 and demonstrated the capacities of being confident individuals; responsible citizens and effective contributors – we are very proud of them.

Parent/Carer Questionnaire

Thank you to all our parent/carers who have returned our annual questionnaire. The findings from this questionnaire will help to inform our Standard and Quality Report and our priorities for next session. We will share these findings in our next newsletter.

Djembe Drumming

Our Primary 6 pupils, along with 700 other primary pupils from across West Lothian have been rehearsing for months to bring a Guinness World Records official attempt of the world's largest Djembe Drum Ensemble to West Lothian. The event will take place on Thursday 2nd June at Livingston Stadium where they will play for an official Guinness World Record judge who will decide if they have been successful or not.

We wish them the very best of luck.

You can view one of their rehearsals on:

<https://blogs.glowscotland.org.uk/wl/mcps/category/learning-stories/primary-6/>