

Head Teacher Newsletter October 22

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October 22 Newsletter

Good news

We should always start our newsletters with the good news...

We are delighted to announce that Miss Rowan has had her baby girl Islay Iris Dagleish who weighed 7lb and 7 ounces. Both mum and baby are doing well and we wish her a relaxing and enjoyable maternity leave.



Staffing

Our initial focus for support has been to ensure all pupils have the necessary support for the children's academic learning. We now have various new support staff in place in the school, which will allow us to start some of our health and wellbeing interventions which I'm sure many of our pupils will benefit from and thrive with.

Mrs McFarlane has come back (again) for two days a week, which we are delighted about. She will work with various children across the school and may be in touch with parents to see how she can further offer support.

Mrs Khan (ex-parent) will join us on Monday (10 Oct) for a few hours each day and we look forward to welcoming her back to the school community to help support pupils in class.

Ayisha who is a student at South Lanarkshire College has started a placement with us on a Thursday and Friday and she will mainly support in and learn about the curriculum at P1&P2.

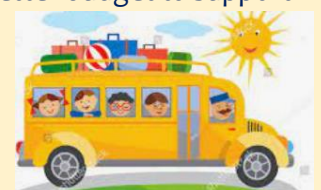
We also have some parents helpers who have a background in education who have also offered to come in and again we couldn't be happier to welcome them to support our whole school community.

Trips

As you will know by now, the school is given a Pupil Equity Fund and part of this is put over to a Participatory Budget Team who get to decide what some of our PEF fund will be spent on. The Participatory Budget team who is made up of parents, staff and pupils, got together and came up with some ideas on what we could spend the money on. These ideas then went out to all pupils and parents, and the votes have been coming in. Overwhelmingly, the winner was school trips!

Mr McKissock will send out the official information to you but we wanted to let you know this as soon as possible. This means, that some of our school trips can be subsidised so that parents do not need to pay the full amount. School trips provide amazing experiences and lots of learning outwith the school classrooms where pupils get to develop a wider set of skills that they may not be able to in school. These are invaluable learning experiences where all pupils are always highly engaged and enthusiastic, so we are delighted that we have a better budget to support these.

P7 Trip - Our P7s residential trip has now been organised and all P7s will be going to Inverclyde Sport Scotland Training Centre for two nights and 3 days in March 23. **This is now available to pay on Parent Pay.**



Panto – The whole school will be going to the pantomime again this year. We will be able to subsidise this trip but we will need to ask for a small payment towards this. More details of this will come out soon. The whole school is going to East Kilbride for this on Wednesday 14th December – Oh Yes We Are!

PLEASE MAKE SURE YOU ARE SIGNED UP FOR PARENT PAY TO PAY FOR TRIPS ETC. We have 85% already on it. If you need help with this, contact Mrs Smith at the school office.

Eco Group – A few upper school children who have always shown a keen interest in sustainability are attending SLCs COP event for all school children this Wednesday 12th Oct. Mrs Sidebotham who is our own Eco Champion and takes great care of our school grounds and helps the pupils grow fruit and veg, will accompany the children to this whole day event. We look forward to hearing the events of the day and how we can incorporate some of the ideas to be a more sustainable school.

Music Event – 10 of our P5-7 pupils who have shown a keen interest in Music, got invited to St Charles' PS on Friday to go and see the Buffet crampton Prodigie Touring bus that had lots of instruments for the pupils to see and experience. The children also had an interactive music lesson with the Instrumental Music Service. The children enjoyed themselves and the adults enjoyed the free soup while they waited in the cold!

Photos

Hopefully these will be sent out today as emails have already been sent with photos. If you have any troubles accessing the emailed photos, please contact us and we will try to sort it. The best way to open the photos would be with an iphone however, it can be done without an iphone – it may just need more help from us! We hope you are happy with the photos again and appreciate that we are trying to keep costs to parents down as much as possible. We have noticed that there has been a drop in orders this year so we will send out a Google Form, just in case you have some views that you would like to share so that we are always keeping your viewpoint central to what we do.



Parent Partnership AGM

Today (Monday 10th Oct), we are holding our Parent Partnership AGM in the school. We are more than happy to be back in person and hoping that this encourages as many parents as possible to come along. We are looking for new parents to join to bring in fresh ideas and support to existing members. We have official roles available, such as the Parent Partnership Secretary; however, we also need parents who can just come along and listen or come along and share their views on a regular basis. You do not need to attend every meeting. We look forward to welcoming as many of you as possible on Monday 10th October at 6.30pm in the P7 class. If you are bringing children along, there will be no supervision; therefore they would need to sit in ICT area.

Patrol officer

The Parent Partnership and the school have been asking for a Patrol Officer for years as we feel that the roads around the school are unsafe to cross. Councillor Brogan has been supporting the school with this and he has been informed that there will be an assessment of need to see if we should have one. We will update you when we know this has happened – we have no specific date.



The zig zag lines on New Road and Overton Rd are continually parked on which endanger children's lives. In my last newsletter I informed you that we had complaints from residents because of the dangerous parking and people's driveways being blocked too. If you have relatives that do the school pick-up can you please also make them aware of these concerns. We all want our children to be safe, so hopefully, if we can work together we can make the area a safer place to walk to and from school.

Halloween/fancy dress Disco

The Parent Partnership are organising a Halloween Disco on Wednesday 26th Oct– all information has been included in a letter given to pupils – please check their bags.



End of term – It is unbelievable that we are coming up to the end of the first term! On Friday we will hold our assembly and I'm sure many will be coming home with some certificates to award their efforts! Look out for this good news as always on the school twitter! We will be starting our school clubs next term. More info to follow...

Now for the bad news/requests...

Birthday Cake

We have noticed a rise in the number of children bringing in cakes for their birthdays. Whilst this is a lovely gesture and the children enjoy it, we have many children with varied dietary requirements for various medical and non-medical reasons. We would ask that you do not send in cake to school and keep this for home. We will always aim to make the children feel special on their birthday in other ways. Sorry!

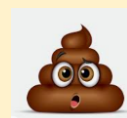
Fizzy Juice

Our school has always had a policy that no fizzy juice is allowed. Please make sure your children do not bring this in to school. You can probably imagine what a whole school of 205 children who have just had fizzy juice would look like...



Dog dirt

Unfortunately, we have noticed lots of dog dirt around the perimeter of school which is not ideal for obvious reasons. We have also witnessed members of the public letting their dog do the toilet and not pick it up – sometimes as they are on their phone and completely unaware that it has happened. We would hope that there are no parents who would do this, but please be careful when you collect the children as it is often right next to the gates as people walk their dogs around the path.



PE Kit

Can we ask that all pupils wear either trainers or sandals for PE. Most children already do this but we quite often have children wearing shoes that are inappropriate for sport and we want them to be fully involved in all aspects of PE. All pupils could bring in a PE kit e.g shorts/leggings/jogging bottoms and white plain t-shirt or Park View t-shirt.

P5-7 should only wear the Park View Polo Shirt to PE. For hygiene reasons, they should come to school in their shirt and tie and then change in and out of the t-shirt. Another reminder that earrings should not be worn for PE. Thank You!

Toys in school

Can we ask that children do not bring in their own toys to school (unless for a specific Friday Club). These can get lost and are very distracting when they are learning. We would also ask that children do not bring in soft toys that are actually horror related and inappropriate for younger children. These toys (e.g Huggy Wuggy etc) are encouraging children to look up inappropriate content online and scare some children. The packaging of these toys state that they are for children 12 years and over.

At home, rules can be a lot more flexible but in schools we have to have blanket rules that respect **EVERY pupil and parents' views**, therefore they cannot be allowed.



Whatsapps, Snapchat, Tik Tok etc etc etc

As always, please check in with your children and their phones regularly. Our children are growing up in a world flooded with digital technology and it can also flood their emotional wellbeing. All too often we have to deal with situations outside of school that have been brought into school when children have sent things to their friends or classmates that are simply unkind. Most of our children would not say these things face to face but feel braver behind their phones – unfortunately the unkind words have the same impact as face to face.

We will continue to implement digital literacy and safety lessons to keep our children safe online, but regular checks at home would help limit some of the messages being sent and limit the unhappiness and upset that it can cause.

Mrs J McColl

Head Teacher