



Thursday 21st November 2013


Dear Parents/Carers,

I would like to apologise for the condition of the Infant Playground yesterday. Janitorial Services manage our school grounds and during icy/snowy weather, Janitors are advised to only grit a pedestrian route from the gate to the school building. Due to the position and shape of our school building, I feel it is necessary to ensure the back playground is also gritted as the majority of children have to walk through the playground when leaving or entering the school- as do many of you. Yesterday, I kept the children indoors all day while I contacted the Council in order to clarify the situation, however the playground was still very icy when the children were being collected from school at 3.00pm. I have now advised our Janitor to ensure the Playground is gritted on icy days. The health and safety of all our pupils and parents is very important to me and I hope this situation will not arise again in the future. I am trying to set up a meeting to further discuss this with the Janitorial Faculty Manager. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any queries regarding this.

Children in Need

The children enjoyed coming to school in their onesies and night clothes last Friday to raise money for Children in Need. Between the Nursery and the School we raised £253.67 for this important cause-thank you for your donations.

We had an Assembly in the afternoon with some special guests. Tracy from Greggs, who fund our Breakfast Club came along to judge the Breakfast Club Design a Pudsey competition. Mrs Mechan's husband created some Pudsey templates for the children to decorate and Jane gave these out to children during Breakfast Club. The lucky winners received a voucher or a large Pudsey biscuit which Tracey kindly donated. Karen Jarvie from Tesco Burnside came along to receive a special thank you from the pupils for the plasma screen she had previously donated to the Parent Council. Mrs Neil came to visit us and presented us with a cheque for £437.63 she and members of her family had very kindly raised during their Kilt Walk earlier in the year. All three guests



were presented with a copy of the Spittal Book. Mrs Sharkey, the Chair of our Parent Council had organised for the Rutherglen Reformer to come along and take photos and we look forward to seeing them in a future edition.

Parent Council

The Parent Council have been very busy recently-not just raising money for school funds but also supporting learning. They re-launched the Fiction Lending Library and classes from P2-P7 have been enjoying visits to the Library. P1 will be involved later in the session. The Parents have also started monthly storytelling sessions for P2, using Story Sacks provided by Karen Robertson from the Home School Partnership.

At the last Parent Council Meeting, local Councillors were invited and asked about funding opportunities which could benefit our children.

The Parent Council also organised a Race Night for Parents earlier this month. I have received an email from a Parent who went along and thoroughly enjoyed the evening. She commended the Parent Council for organising this event. They have also been busy planning a Saint Andrew's Disco for P1-7 children. This will be held in the School on Friday 29th November from 6.30-8.30pm. In order to cover costs there will be a small cost of £1.50 entry per child. The following will be available on the night:

Face Painting 50p

Crisps, drinks 20p

Haribo sweets 10p

Glow Sticks 20p

The Annual Toy Sale will take place for pupils on the afternoon of Friday 6th December. Please bring in any donations of old toys/books.

The Parent Council will also provide a Goodie Bag for each child as well as paying the cost of the buses to the Pantomime.

The staff and I are very grateful to the Parent Council for the wealth of work they do for our pupils.



Panto

The children will go to the Pantomime in the SECC on Wednesday 18th December. Buses will leave Spittal at 12 noon so the children will have an early lunch. We will leave the SECC at around 3.30pm so should arrive back at Spittal around 4.00pm. When collecting your child/children please let the Class Teacher know before you leave-it will be dark when we get back and there will be lots of cars, children and Parents. If the weather is bad please come and wait inside the school building.

Christmas Events and dates

- Decorations- On Monday 2nd December, the children will be involved in making classroom decorations and we will be decorating the school.
- Parties
 - P1/2/3 Tuesday 17th December. Parents are welcome to join us in the Assembly Hall for a Special Visitor delivering surprises. You are welcome to bring along your camera for photos but Mrs Mechan will be taking photographs and these will be available to buy for a small cost to cover the printing.
 - P4/5 Monday 16th December
 - P6/7 Friday 13th December
 - All parties will take place in the afternoon and refreshments will be provided. Children may bring in party clothes and will be able to get changed into these during lunchtime. You may wish to take your child home to get changed on this day-please bring them back to school for 1pm.

Christmas Service - 19 December in school at 9.30am. The P1 and P2 class will perform a Nativity, the Choir will sing, the Guitar Club will provide their first performance and some individuals will play instrumentals.

Christmas Lunch- This will take place on Thursday 12th December in our Dining Hall. Due to limited space and numbers of tables/chairs we will be having two sittings. One for Nursery, P1, P6 and P7 and one for P2, P3, P4 and P5. The Teachers will help to serve the children and then will eat the meal with their class. This is always a very enjoyable event and menus should be available soon. If your child doesn't like any of the options they can bring a Packed Lunch and will still be able to join in with the festivities.

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- Christmas Film Festival and Craft Fair- Mrs Laccarini and Primary 4 are working very hard to organise this exciting new event. You will receive more information over the coming weeks when you will be invited into school to watch a Christmas movie and there will be craft stalls set up in the entrance corridor. The dates are:

- Tues 3rd AM Nursery PM P6
- Wed 4th AM P1 and P2 PM P3 and P4
- Thurs 5th AM P5 and P6 PM P7

Parental Involvement-Scotland Reads

This is a new Project we will be introducing in the New Year in conjunction with Karen Robertson, from the Home School Partnership. The aim of the Project is to train Parent volunteers as Paired Readers who will then be paired up with children in order to provide support and challenge for some of our more able readers. You will receive a letter with more details in January.

Holidays

Please note that school will be closed to pupils for an In-Service Day on Monday 25th November. During this day the Teachers will be doing some development work in the curriculum area of Science, along with other Teachers from schools in the local area.

I met with the Teaching Staff after school yesterday to organise all our Christmas Events. Last year, despite only just moving into our new building we still had a lot of events and we have reflected on these when planning for this year. I would like to thank the staff for their contributions to what will be a wonderful time for the children in school during December.

Thanks to all of you who have provided email addresses for us to email future editions of the School Newsletter. If you haven't already done so and would prefer to receive this electronically please let me know your email address and we will set up a mailing list for the next one. I plan to issue Newsletters monthly roundabout the 19th of each month. These can also be viewed via our website. This will help us to reduce our photocopying costs and I know that some Parents prefer to receive letters this way. I hope to see many of you at our Christmas Film Festival and our Christmas Service.

Yours Sincerely,

Lorna Harvey HEAD TEACHER

