

Tuesday 22nd October

Dear Parents/Carers,



Thank you to everyone who was able to come along to our Harvest Service before the holidays. I'm sure you will all agree that the Primary 3 class and their Teachers provided us with a great Harvest Presentation. The Choir and P1 and P2 singing was also very enjoyable.

I was delighted to be able to announce that Mrs Mechan is now our permanent Principal Teacher.

School Visitors

We like to invite a variety of visitors to our school, to work with children and provide extra information and advice on learning across the curriculum. This week we have welcomed some Student Nurses who have delivered presentations to most classes on Healthy Eating and Hand Washing. Also this week the P6 and P7 Teachers arranged World War Two workshops to be delivered by staff from Low Parks Museum. At the end of last term the SSPCA visited all classes. The children always enjoy these sessions.

Hallowe'en

Next Thursday (31st October) is our annual Hallowe'en Disco. This is the only fund raiser for School Funds that we do at Spittal and takes the form of a Sponsored Dance during the Disco. The Disco will take place first thing in the morning-this way the children can come to school dressed in their costumes. It will involve the whole school and will take place in our Gym Hall. Please bear in mind the young age of some of our children when you are arranging your child's costume-nothing too scary please. We will upload some photographs onto our school website afterwards. The pupil Council will be decorating the Gym Hall and 4 representatives (from P5 and P6) will be going on a shopping trip next week to choose the decorations. Your child will shortly receive a Sponsor Form for the 10 dances.



Visit to Cineworld

Mrs Laccarini has arranged a wonderful treat for all our classes. A trip to Cineworld at The Forge to see Dispicable Me on Monday 4th November. The only cost for children is the £2 for the bus-please hand in any outstanding money, if you have not already done so, by Friday 1st November.

Parent Consultation Evening

We will have two Parental Consultation Evening this year, with the first one being on Thursday 7th November from 3-9pm. You should have received a letter about this yesterday. Confirmation of Appointment Times will be issued early next week.

Reading

Reading is very important to everyone at Spittal and we want to encourage all children to develop their reading skills and also to enjoy reading. We have a Working Group made up of school staff who are keen to develop this important area. The Parent Council support this work and are busy preparing the re-launch of a Fiction Lending Library. This will start on Wednesday 6th November, which coincides with World Book Day. We will have the Travelling Book Fair in school during this week and you will have the opportunity to purchase books at Parent's Evening on Thursday 7th.

Outdoor Learning

The Jeelie Piece Club have offered us a series of free sessions during this term and most classes will have the opportunity to visit for a day of fun outdoor activity. Mrs Mechan has arranged these visits and classes will receive individual letters with more information. Hopefully the weather will be kind to us on these days.

Attendance and Punctuality

I am required to regularly monitor Attendance and Punctuality at school and therefore we have a Punctuality Week every month. The purpose of this week is to encourage children to come to school on time. They are rewarded with bronze, silver or gold stickers at the end of the week. I ask for your support

with this. Children can miss out on activities when they are regularly late for school and this can result in them feeling upset or unsettled. I understand that there are times when children cannot be in school e.g. due to sickness, appointments or personal matters, however when attendance reaches 85% or below I am obliged to send out an Attendance Letter asking you to contact me so that we can discuss the situation. Letters are sent out monthly.

Improvements in attendance are noted but further low attendance may result in further action being taking, involving South Lanarkshire Council's Support Services. I appreciate your co-operation in these matters so please contact me if you wish to discuss any aspect of this.

Extra Curricular Clubs

This term we have a number of Clubs available for pupils. Staff provide these Clubs voluntarily during their own time and I would like to thank them all for their commitment:

Monday Lunchtime	P6 and P7	Girls Football	Miss Murray
Monday After School	P6 and P7	Boys Football	Miss Murray
Tuesday Before School	P1, 2, 3	Girls and Boys Dodgeball	Mr Miller
Wednesday After School	P6 and P7	Girls Netball	Mrs Broadfoot, Mrs Morton and Mrs Wright

Health and Safety

Road Safety:

We have received a complaint from a local resident regarding parking on Lochlea Road which is restricting access to some driveways and also litter being dropped before and after school times. Please could you use our school car park-there are lots of spaces and a Drop Off Zone for children to be dropped off safely in the morning.

Mobile Phones and Online Safety:

There have been some issues concerning the use of mobile phones by children in school and in the Playground before school starts. This has caused some anxiety for some Parents, Staff and to Pupils too. I understand that it may be necessary for your child to have a mobile phone on the way to and from school

but I ask that they are switched off when the child arrives in school. Any issues in the Playground should be reported to school staff. If you need to contact your child or they need to contact you this should always be done through the school office. I ask for your co-operation in this matter.

Online Safety:

Many children have smart phones which enable them internet access readily. I would like to highlight the potential dangers linked to this and to remind you of an online safety website where you can access further information-

www.thinkuknow.co.uk

Children in Need

Children in Need is on Friday 15th November and on the day children (and staff!) can come to school in onesies or nightwear. We ask for a £1 donation which will be sent to the Children in Need Charity. In the run up to this date, we will be selling wristbands-also for charity.

Diary Dates for this Term

Monday 28 th October	School Photographer
Thursday 31 st October	Hallowe'en Disco (AM)
Monday 4 th November	Trip to Cineworld (AM)
Wednesday 6 th November	Re-Launch of Lending Library
Thursday 7 th November	Parent Consultations (3pm-9pm)
Saturday 9 th November	Parent Council Race Night
Wednesday 13 th November	P2 visiting the Tall Ship and Transport Museum
Friday 15 th November	Children in Need Day
Tuesday 19 th November	P7 at Volleyball Festival at Stonelaw
Monday 25 th November	In-Service Day (school closed to pupils)



Friday 29th November

Saint Andrew's Disco for P1-7 (6.30-8.30) The

Parent Council are organising this event and they will send out more information nearer the time.

I will put information about our Christmas Activities in the November Newsletter.

As always, another busy term for everyone at Spittal.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any suggestions, queries or concerns.

Yours Sincerely,

Lorna Harvey

Head Teacher