

Kilmaurs Primary School

Newsletter



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January/February/March 2016

A Note from the Head Teacher



Hello everyone and welcome to our first newsletter of 2016. I hope you have all had a good start to 2016 and that it will be a happy year for you.

We have had a very busy start to the term including registration for our new P1 intake in August. It is amazing how quickly it all comes round!

I have included lots of dates for diaries, however please watch out for bulletins etc. for updates throughout the term.

Throughout 2015 the school had several fundraising events and activities, some large and some small, and, as always, the school was very well supported by you the parents. Please be aware that all funds raised for the school are used for the benefit of the children to subsidise trips and other activities. Thank you again for the wonderful support.

The buzz in school at the moment is about preparation for the popular annual Scots Poetry Competition next week. I am really looking forward to seeing the children perform their poems next week and I'm so glad we have three judges to do the judging as it is always a very high standard!

I hope to see you in school soon at one of our events and at our Parent Consultation evenings towards the end of term.

Mrs. Rona Lindsay

Head Teacher



Diary Dates

Monday 25 th January	Parent Council Meeting at 7pm in the school
Wednesday 27 th January	Scots Poetry Competition (Children can wear something tartan if they wish.)
Thursday 28 th January	P4 (Miss Brownie) visit to Vikingar in Largs.
Thursday 28 th January	P7 visit to Burns House Mauchline
Friday 29 th January	P7 Class Assembly 9.50am then Burns Supper in dinner hall. Further information on invitations.
Friday 29 th January	Childcare Consultation
8 th -12 th February	Dyslexia Friendly Schools Week
Tuesday 9 th February	Kilmarnock Rotary Club - Primary Schools Quiz (P7 team) 7pm in Kilmarnock in the Laigh Kirk.

School Holiday

School closes Friday 12th February at 3pm
(Teachers' INSET 18th and 19th February)

School reopens for pupils Monday 22nd February at 8.55am

Thursday 25 th February	P2 - Owl Magic to visit school
Wednesday 3 rd March	P7 Transition Day at Lainshaw Primary
Tuesday 15 th March	P2 Class Assembly 11am then open classroom. P2 parents welcome to attend, please note maximum 2 adults per child.
Friday 18 th March	Sports Relief - Pupil Council fundraiser
Tuesday 22 nd March	P3 and P4 Spring Assembly at 2pm. P3 and P4 parents welcome to attend, please note maximum 2 adults per child.
Thursday 24 th March	Easter Service 11am @ Maxwell Church
Thursday 24 th March	Pupil reports sent out to parents

School Holiday - Easter Weekend School closes Thursday 24th at 3pm

School Reopens Tuesday 29th at 8.55am

Wednesday 30 th and Thursday 31 st March	Parent Consultation Evenings
Friday 1 st April	Wear As You Please Day - £1 donation to school fund

School Holiday

School closes Friday 1st April at 2.30pm

School reopens Monday 18th April at 8.55am

Staffing

We welcome Mr. J. McGill to Kilmaurs Primary as our new janitor on a temporary basis at the moment.

New School Handbook 2016-17



Please note that an e-copy is available on the East Ayrshire website. We hope you enjoy reading it and find it useful. As always, feedback is very much appreciated. You can email to the school address; drop us a note into the office or give us a call on the school's telephone contact number.

Reporting of and Responding to Concerns

We would like to thank parents who follow our guidelines about reporting concerns i.e. to report these to the school. As a school we respond and deal with any concerns as quickly and as sensitively as we can. This includes any incidents observed in the playground. We advise parents to report these to the main office or to supervising staff and not to approach the child/children involved.

Please be aware that if any school concerns are discussed on social media, depending on the content and nature of any posts, this can become a police and/or legal matter. Therefore, we would advise against using social media for this purpose.

Our campus police officer PC Rae regularly delivers assemblies and talks to the children about the safe and appropriate use of social media as part of their Health and Wellbeing curriculum. PC Rae also advises the school and works with parents too as and when necessary.

Parent Council



Please note that the next Parent Council meeting will be on **Monday 25th January at 7pm in the school.**

Well done to the hardworking Parent Council and all parent helpers who helped to raise a super £1134 at the Christmas Fayre. In addition to that the school stalls raised £480, so well done to all pupils and staff.

Reading Development



As part of the literacy development in our school improvement plan we have been looking at purchasing a new reading resource. We will be introducing Bug Club to the school gradually and it will be trialled at two stages in the school to start with. More information will be sent out to parents at these stages in the near future.

East Ayrshire Childcare Consultation

East Ayrshire have set up opportunities across the local authority for parents to come to a focus group to discuss the Early Learning and Childcare service. There will be a focus group meeting held in Kilmaurs Early Childhood Centre on Friday 29th January at 1.30pm. This should last about an hour. Please contact Mrs. McCutcheon at the ECC if you would like to take part.

Opening Up Learning



In Terms 3 and 4 parents will have the opportunity to come into school for an open classroom and some classes will be doing assemblies or short presentations. Please watch out for information re dates and times if they are not already in the diary dates above. We will give parents as much notice as possible. Next week we shall send out the termly overviews of what the children are learning and we hope you find these helpful.

School Uniform Reminder

The vast majority of our children are presented very smartly in school uniform and we are encouraging all pupils to wear school colours; school sweatshirts or plain blue (preferably) sweatshirts/cardigans jumpers etc. It really makes such a difference in school to see all pupils in uniform. This is particularly important for P7 pupils as they are the oldest pupils in the school and set the standard for the younger children. In addition, please note that football club colours or logos from any team are not allowed in school and this includes hats; scarves; shorts; jackets; pack lunch boxes etc. Thank you for your support with this.

Electives

During the past two terms, pupils have been participating in Electives on Friday afternoons where they have been able to personalise their learning by choosing an activity to attend for 45 minutes. The pupils work in mixed ability and age groups, giving them the opportunity to interact with children and staff from other classes. New blocks of electives begin on Friday 29th January. If you are able to offer your time to come along and support our electives, please complete and return the letter your child brought home this week.

Dyslexia Awareness Week

As you will be aware from previous newsletters, Kilmaurs Primary is working towards achieving the Dyslexia Friendly Schools Bronze Award. As part of our plan to help the children, staff and families of Kilmaurs Primary develop their understanding and awareness of dyslexia, we will be holding a Dyslexia Awareness Week from Monday 8th February to Friday 12th February. A variety of activities will be on offer to children and staff, as well as a workshop held on the Monday evening for parents and families which will offer information on how you can support your child with literacy.

Playground Safety

Please be aware that the playground is only supervised from 8.45am onwards.

Home Lunches

Reminder - children who are home lunches should not return to school until **1.15pm**.

This is to ensure the safety of all pupils should there be an emergency situation during lunch time. Pupils going home for lunch are recorded on the register as being out of school during this time.





Credit Union - Thursdays 8.45am

The Kilmaurs Cool Cash Club has started again in conjunction with the East Ayrshire Credit Union. Money can be deposited in accounts on Thursday mornings from 8.45am. Pupils should enter the school through the P1 playground. If you have completed an application form your child will receive an account number and a savings card when they make the first deposit. Money can be withdrawn at any time from the Credit Union office in Kilmarnock provided pupils are accompanied by an adult. If your child has previously had an account and requires a new saving card or an update on their balance, please contact Mrs Bradley. If any parents are interested in helping with the Credit Union, please contact Mrs. Bradley. This an excellent opportunity to learn new skills that support parents who are actively seeking paid employment or who wish to see and support financial education in action.

Scots Poetry Competition

The annual Scots Poetry competition is underway and the class winners will perform their poems at the final on the afternoon of Wednesday 27th January. Judging by the superb performances last year I am sure that once again the judges will have a very difficult job!



Extra-Curricular Clubs

Relaxation - P7 - Monday lunchtimes

Basketball - P4-5 - Tuesday after school

Badminton - P3-4 - Tuesday lunchtimes (after Feb holiday)

Football Coaching - P6-7 (boys) - Wednesdays after school

Craft Club - P5-7 - Wednesday lunchtimes

Scripture Union - P4-7 - Thursdays after school

Netball - P6-7 - Thursdays after school

School Choir - Tuesdays during school day (fortnightly)



Albania - Fundraising for the New Beginnings Children's Home

The total from children so far this year is £230 and total raised at Christmas collection was £55 making a great total of £285. Well done to all children who continue to collect for this very worthwhile cause.

Rag Bag - Collection



We would be grateful for any donations for our Rag Bag Collection which will be uplifted on Wednesday 27th January. If all bags could be delivered into school for Tuesday 26th to allow us to have everything ready for collection the following day. The last collection raised £27 for the school fund and as you know this all helps towards various activities and additional resources for the school.

Information Leaflets -

Career Education: A World of Possibilities

1+2 Approach to Language Learning

These information leaflets will be in the children's school bags on Friday 22nd January. I'm sure you will find them interesting reading as they inform about new developments in Scottish Education. We will keep you informed about how these are being developed in Kilmaurs Primary through school improvement planning; newsletters etc.



Attendance



As standard procedure we will be informing parents whose child has fallen below 90% attendance as per East Ayrshire Council policy. This will include those parents who have informed the school either about illness or holidays. The school monitors the attendance of all pupils continually and will work with families, following the council policy, as required to ensure attendance is at an acceptable level or above.

Please note - A text is sent to inform the parent/carer that the child is absent because the child is not present at registration and the school has no knowledge of the reason for absence. It is important that in addition to acknowledging the text parents/carers phone the school to inform us of the reason for absence as soon as possible in order that we know the child is safe and the reason for absence. Many thanks for this.