

Clermiston Primary

News – Nov 2018

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"Ask the Head Teacher" in the subject line

Dear Parents and Carers,

Please see below for a number of school updates, including information on important upcoming dates.

Best wishes

Gordon McIntyre
Head Teacher



Staffing

We have a number of staffing updates for you.

I am very pleased to say that we have recently appointed Mrs Jeffrey and Mrs Johnston to permanent Early Years Practitioner positions in our nursery team.

We also have a number of new PSAs who have joined our team so a very big welcome to Mrs Neillands (who joins us on a permanent basis), Ms McKinney and Miss Stewart who are with us already and to Miss Bellany and Miss Nawrot who will be joining us very soon.

We are also about to say a fond farewell to 2 members of staff.

Mrs Higgins our PE specialist has been successful in applying for a permanent position with North Lanarkshire Council and will be leaving to take up a class teacher post just before Christmas. She has been in the rare position of having taught almost every pupil here at Clermiston over the last 9 years and she leaves with our thanks and very best wishes for her future career. Mrs Higgins' last day with us will be Thursday 13th December.

Mr Clarke our brass instructor is also leaving us due to a reorganisation of services and timetables across the council. Although Mr Clarke is only with us for one afternoon per week he always has a big impact in the school and is a really positive influence on staff and pupils. Mr Clarke finishes with us this Thursday, 29th November and we wish him all the very best for the future. Mr Day will be taking over from Mr Clarke in January and, in the interim, Mr Hetherington will provide brass tuition between now and Christmas with his sessions taking place on a Monday afternoon.



Staff Absence

Many of you will be aware that we have had significant staff absence this session and this has had an impact on specialist provision e.g. with Miss Huhtinen now teaching P2 full time and not ICT, Drama or Food Technology. Please be assured that I am doing everything I can to ensure that affected classes and all pupils are being supported through this. The P2 and P4 team have been excellent in ensuring resources and key information are shared with the teachers of the classes and all supply teachers receive a briefing from one of the Senior Management Team ahead of each day with the class. Where possible I have sought to have one of our part-time members of staff or a supply teacher who knows the school well covering the class. In addition we have Mrs Anderson (who currently teaches in the nursery on a Thursday and Friday) working with us on a Monday and Tuesday, and we have Mrs Gilhooley doing some keeping in touch days and she will be with us on some Mondays between now and Christmas.

Some parents have been asking what they can do to support their children when change happens. My big bit of advice is to be honest and realistic with your children. Unforeseen circumstances are part of life and I think it is important to share this with your child. Be clear with them that the teacher may change, but the expectations for them don't, we still expect all children to follow our Big 3 rules and all teachers are briefed on these. If your child is a little anxious about change please reassure them that this is perfectly normal, but be positive with them about all the aspects of school that haven't changed – classroom, friends, learning, other teachers, Depute and Head etc, and please let me know if you have any questions.



Building works

The roofworks are continuing and we expect the roof above the P2-4 block to be finished soon. The work will then move to the other end of the school. Windows, heating, new toilets, internal carpets and decoration are to follow over the next few months. Presently the work is on schedule to be completed ahead of August 2019.



Car Park and Car Parking

As noted in a recent email can I please reiterate that the school carpark is for staff only. This is at all times – there can be no drop-off or pickup, either from the school or the Munro Centre, at any time. This is especially dangerous when part of the carpark is also a builders' compound. Please, for everyone's safety, find an alternative before this becomes a police matter.



Important Dates

As December can be a busy time please note the important dates coming up for your diary.

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| 30.11.18 | Canine Reading Workshops (groups from P4-7) |
| 1.12.18 | Christmas Fayre |
| 10.12.18 | P7 WWII Open Afternoon (2-3pm) |
| 11.12.18 | Nursery Nativity at 9.30am |
| 11.12.18 | P3 Christmas Party pm |
| 14.12.18 | Nursery Christmas Songs 2.45pm |
| 17.12.18 | P5 Christmas Party pm |
| 18.12.18 | Whole school to Lyceum Theatre – 'Wendy and Peter Pan' ** Please ensure your children are in school for 8.50 prompt as buses leave from 9am. |
| 18.12.18 | P4 Christmas Party pm |
| 19.12.18 | Nursery AM Christmas Party |
| 19.12.18 | Nursery PM Christmas Party |
| 12.12.18 | P1 and P2 Christmas Show at 2pm |
| 13.12.18 | P6 Christmas Party am |
| 13.12.18 | P1 and P1 Christmas Show at 2pm |
| 14.12.18 | P1 and P2 Christmas Show at 9.30am |
| 14.12.18 | Christmas Jumper Day |
| 19.12.18 | P1 Christmas Party pm (Parents invited for Special Visitor at 2.30) |

20.12.18 P2 Christmas Party pm (Parents invited for Special Visitor at 2.30)
20.12.18 P7 Christmas Party pm

21.12.18 Christmas Service at Church
21.12.18 School closes at 12 noon for holiday.



Open Day

Thank you so much to everyone who came to our Open Day and provided us with such positive feedback. Both sessions were busy in school and we have collated and shared the feedback with pupils and staff.



Digital Refresh

We will soon be replacing a large number of our computers in school. This is part of a city-wide refresh of technology. Mrs Henderson has been working very hard on this and we expect it to happen between January and February.



Harvest Thanks

On behalf of the school and the North West Edinburgh Foodbank can I just say a huge thank you to everyone who contributed to our Harvest Collection and our weekly collections for the foodbank. The Harvest Assembly raised 263 kg of supplies which will go to help so many people. Thank you again.

