

**Gartconner**  
**Primary School**  
**Autumn**  
**Newsletter**  
**2022**



doing this term. Jessica in P3 thinks it would be great for her parents to get to see the classroom as they haven't been in there yet.

#### **4. Seesaw**

We hope that you are enjoying using Seesaw and if you have any issues please report this to Mrs. Ferris. [eferris@gartconner.e-dunbarton.sch.uk](mailto:eferris@gartconner.e-dunbarton.sch.uk)  
Seesaw is a vital part of school life and parents rate it very highly. Kyle in P3/2 thinks that doing work on Seesaw is fun. Cory, P6, thinks it is great to share things from class with your parents.

The Seesaw messaging service is not a requirement for staff but our staff volunteer to use it to help support our families. We would like to set up a staff/parent group to work on guidance to help make it a tool that continues to support the whole Gartconner Family. We are mindful that Seesaw has added greatly to teacher workload and although valuable for children, parents and staff, all users need to keep in mind that time spent on Seesaw takes away from the teachers' planning, preparation and correction time. Please keep it to a minimum and within working hours, approximately 8am-5.30pm. Remember that messages regarding appointments and pick-ups, buses and the like must come via the school office rather than via the teachers. You can call 0141 955 2323 or email [office@gartconner.e-dunbarton.sch.uk](mailto:office@gartconner.e-dunbarton.sch.uk).

#### **5. Parent Portal**

One of my friends has had her first experience as a parent of a P1 and joked that she needs a personal assistant to organise all the mail she receives on a daily basis from her child's school. This time of year is the worst for paperwork so we do appreciate it can be quite a lot of information all at once. One way to help manage all of this is through the use of the Parent Portal. It will help eliminate some of the back and forth forms for signing up for parents' nights and the like. Below is a link from EDC summarising the usefulness of the new parent portal. If you have any issues, then please contact the office. [office@gartconner.e-dunbarton.sch.uk](mailto:office@gartconner.e-dunbarton.sch.uk)

<https://www.eastdunbarton.gov.uk/residents/schools-early-years-and-learning/parents-portal>

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Welcome to the first newsletter of the new school year. Thanks to Mrs Ferris, Mrs Ewens and the pupils of the Junior Management Team who helped pull all of this together.

#### **1. Covid Update**

Click below for the latest Covid guidance in schools

<https://www.eastdunbarton.gov.uk/employee-news-2022-issue-07-covid-19-%E2%80%93-summary-latest-guidance>.

#### **2. Parents' Nights**

All parents will have an opportunity to speak to their child's teacher in November. We will use the new Parent Portal to book appointments this year so please ensure that you have signed up for this. Most parents are on, particularly in the younger classes, but please let the office know if you can't access this. The link is shown in section 5 below.

#### **3. Open Afternoon**

This year we will host an open afternoon on Thursday the 22<sup>nd</sup> September from 2-2.45pm. This will allow you to meet the teacher, see the classroom and the learning that your child will be

## 6.Extra-Curricular Clubs

This year we are planning to reintroduce more extra-curricular clubs.

P7 pupil coaches will continue the football coaching at lunchtimes on the pitch. We are happy to say that our Gartconner football team returned to action last session and lost out narrowly on goal difference in the Lenzie tournament.

Eve in P5 loved the baking club before covid and hopes that could be started up again.

Cory thinks that clubs are great for bringing children together.

## 7.Volunteers

**Extra-Curricular Clubs** - We are always looking for volunteers to enhance our range of extra-curricular activities/clubs, for example, sports, gardening, knitting, chess, Lego/construction. This could be either at lunchtime or after school.

**Lunch Duty** – we are looking for volunteers to support the school at lunchtime in our lunch hall. Enthusiasm and a willingness to get stuck in is the key for this role.

**Gardening** – we are looking for volunteers to help keep our school looking beautiful outside and continue to make it an enjoyable space for the children to play.

**Lost Property/Administration** – we would be grateful for any volunteers to help us with general jobs across the school, in particular, organising lost property and making and organising resources.

If you are able to help us with this, then please contact either Mrs. Ferris or Mrs. Ewens.

[eferris@gartconner.e-dunbarton.sch.uk](mailto:eferris@gartconner.e-dunbarton.sch.uk)

[cewens@gartconner.e-dunbarton.sch.uk](mailto:cewens@gartconner.e-dunbarton.sch.uk)

## 8.Community Café

We are hoping to launch a Gartconner Community Café this session where you can come for a cuppa and a good chat! Dates and further information will follow soon. Lucy in P4 thinks that it will great to have everyone come in to try our baking.

We would ask that any donations for the uniform bank and the foodbank be handed in via the school

office. Thank you for the amazing support that you continue to show in helping those in need at this difficult time.

## 9.Head lice

It seems a long time since we have had any head lice in the school. They will make an inevitable return so please remember to check your child's hair every week. NHS provide great advice if you find head lice in your child's hair. Keeping hair tied back really helps with prevention of infestation and we would ask all children with long hair to have it tied back.

## 10. Leadership Groups and Committees

Our normal pattern of leadership activities involves pupils working together across the school in individual committees. We celebrate and encourage pupil voice through our leadership opportunities. These include:

- Junior Management Team
- Eco Committee
- Digital Leaders
- Rights Respecting School Committee
- EDC Pupil Forum Reps

### JMT:

JMT members are elected from classes across the school and the Eco Committee will also have representatives from different classes.

One of the first jobs for our JMT will be to support our local community by creating posters to encourage dog waste to be disposed of correctly. This will keep our local area safe and enjoyable for everyone.

The JMT will continue with our suggestion box across the school to ensure all children have the opportunity to share their voice.

Mirryn, the P7 rep on the JMT, thinks our main job is to help people and try to get new things for the school.

### Eco Committee:

This term our Eco Committee are proud to announce that we have achieved our Green Flag in recognition of the outstanding work we do in our school and community. To allow our pupils to celebrate this we are going to have a 'One Planet Picnic' on Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> of September. More information of this will follow.

## 11. Outdoor Play and Learning (OPAL)

## Play: Loose Parts

We are looking for any loose parts to supplement our P1-3 Play. Mrs. Ferris and Mrs. Ewens are collecting any loose parts at the office. There will be two green plastic tubs as you enter the school. These will be used for any donations you have. A detailed list of the types of loose parts that we need are listed below:

<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ Guttering</li><li>○ Old dress up items</li><li>○ Pebbles</li><li>○ Corks</li><li>○ Plastic bottle tops</li><li>○ Saucepans</li><li>○ Scarves (not woollen)</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ Pallets</li><li>○ Crates</li><li>○ Tarpaulin</li><li>○ Tents/sun tents</li><li>○ Atoms</li><li>○ Bungee cords</li><li>○ Rope</li></ul>
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You can watch a great video about the importance and benefits of loose parts play in the primary school. Click here to play the video: [Loose Parts Play Video](#)

## 12. Bikeability

P6 will be doing Bikeability level 1 with Mrs. Ewens and P7 will be doing Bikeability level 2 with Sustrans (Information to follow). This is excellent road safety training and is fully risk assessed by the experienced trainers.

P7 Bikeability begins 31st October for 3 weeks and pupils need helmets and appropriate attire for all weathers.

P6 Bikeability will be on the 15<sup>th</sup>, 16<sup>th</sup>, 29<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup> of September.

Bike to School Week begins on the 21<sup>st</sup> March and this year's theme is 'The Big Wheel and Walk' so please make a special effort to cycle or scoot to school. Please remember helmets. For more information, see the link below:

<https://bigwalkandwheel.org.uk/>

## 13. Maths Week Scotland

Maths Week Scotland launches on the 26<sup>th</sup> of September this year and we have lots of exciting lessons and activities for our pupils. In the next few weeks, look out for our Sway link with lots of home learning ideas for you to try during maths week. I

have attached a really short survey below to gather your feedback on how to best support our Gartconner families with the maths curriculum. It would be much appreciated if you could take the time to fill it in.

<https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=oyzTzM4WjOKVQTctawUZKd1JelwdQIZKI2ETIWck6m1UNOE1UzJDOEIRME1NREtGQjIQTEIUNUtJQS4u>

## 14. Earrings

As per EDC guidance, no child can do PE with earrings in. School staff can't help children remove earrings so children must be able to remove them independently or not have them in that day. I am often asked about this and I can't have any adaptations to the guidance as this is from EDC rather than the school. The ideal time to get ears pierced is the last week of summer term.

Any earrings worn to school at any time must be stud earrings.

## 15. Dates for the Diary

Every year we produce an outline plan of the year ahead and dates for key events. I have included the provisional list below for dates but with the caution that events and dates may be changed. If dates are changed, a new list will be issued in the next newsletter and older versions will be disregarded to ensure there is no confusion with dates.

<b>September</b>	<b>Correct as of 23 September 2022</b>	<b>Notes</b>
15 <sup>th</sup> , 16 <sup>th</sup> , 29 <sup>th</sup> and 30 <sup>th</sup>	P6 Bikeability	
20 <sup>th</sup>	Flu Vaccines	9am -12noon
22 <sup>nd</sup>	Open Afternoon	2pm (Parents can collect children after)
23 <sup>rd</sup>	HOLIDAY	Sept Weekend
26 <sup>th</sup>	HOLIDAY	Sept Weekend
27 <sup>th</sup> -30 <sup>th</sup>	Maths Week Scotland	Home Learning Activities will be available.
30 <sup>th</sup>	One Planet Picnic	
<b>October</b>		
14 <sup>th</sup>	In-service Day	Pupils should not attend
17 <sup>th</sup> -21 <sup>st</sup>	October Week HOLIDAY	
24 <sup>th</sup>	P7 Bikeability	P7 will commence this week. Day TBC
27 <sup>th</sup>	P7 Bikeability	P7 for four Fridays
31 <sup>st</sup>	P7 Bikeability	P7 All Day
<b>November</b>		
7 <sup>th</sup>	P7 Bikeability	P7 All day.
9 <sup>th</sup>	Parents' Evening	3.15-6.00pm
10 <sup>th</sup>	Parents' Evening	5.45-8.00pm
<b>December</b>		
13 <sup>th</sup>	PTA Christmas Fayre	2.00 - 4.00pm
15 <sup>th</sup>	P1A Retelling of Christmas Story	(Parents to attend)
16 <sup>th</sup>	P1B Retelling of Christmas Story Christmas Assembly	(Parents to attend)
19 <sup>th</sup>	Christmas Parties Christmas Film	AM PM
21 <sup>st</sup>	Christmas Carol Karaoke	PM P2-7 parents welcome. Times will be sent out nearer the performance.
22 <sup>nd</sup>	Last day and early finish	2.30pm
<b>January</b>		
9 <sup>th</sup>	Pupils & Staff return	
<b>February</b>		
13 <sup>th</sup> -14 <sup>th</sup>	HOLIDAY	
15 <sup>th</sup>	In-service Day	Pupils should not attend
20 <sup>th</sup> -24 <sup>th</sup>	Lendrick Muir P7 Residential Trip	
<b>March</b>		
3 <sup>rd</sup>	World Book Day	
21 <sup>st</sup>	Big Wheel and Walk	Walking and biking to school
31 <sup>st</sup>	Written reports issued to parents	Whole School
<b>April</b>		
3 <sup>rd</sup> – 14 <sup>th</sup>	Easter HOLIDAY	
17 <sup>th</sup>	Pupils & Staff Return	
<b>May</b>		
1 <sup>st</sup>	HOLIDAY	
2 <sup>nd</sup>	Inservice Day	Pupils should not attend
17 <sup>th</sup>	Parents' Evening	3.15-6pm
18 <sup>th</sup>	Parents' Evening	5.45 – 8pm
22 <sup>nd</sup>	Health Week	All Week
23 <sup>rd</sup>	Sports Day	P1-7 afternoon
24 <sup>th</sup>	Woodland Walk	

26 <sup>th</sup> & 29 <sup>th</sup>	HOLIDAY	
<b>June</b>		
16 <sup>th</sup>	P7 Silent Disco	
23 <sup>rd</sup>	Gartconner's Got Talent Prize Giving Afternoon	AM Finalist parents to be invited PM Select prize winners parents to be invited.
26 <sup>th</sup>	P7 Graduation P7 Treat	2pm School hall 3pm food and trip (to be decided by pupils)
28 <sup>th</sup>	Final day of school early finish 1pm	

