



Autumn Newsletter

A warm welcome back to all of our families and I hope that you all had a lovely summer. The end of the year was quite a challenge with the school being closed for 4 days. We crammed as much as we could into our last morning to ensure that we had a chance to say goodbye to our P7 and nursery graduates. I hope they are all doing well in their new schools. Our P1 pupils are now in for full days and there are a few Monday morning tears as they get used to their new routine.

Blair Drummond Trip



The rescheduled school trip to Blair Drummond was a huge success. Thanks to the staff, parent volunteers and our pupils for all working together to make the day go smoothly. The monkeys jumping on the bus and putting on a show for us was great fun and the children would have gladly taken one home as our new school pet. We are already thinking about our trip for next year and we have pencilled in a date in the diary for June 2019.

Events Diary

We have planned out dates for all our school events for this year and you will find them in the table below. This is our master copy and although we will try not to make any changes sometimes the weather, industrial action or staff absence can result in some rescheduling. We will inform you of any changes to these dates as soon as possible. This is marked as Version 1 so any future changed versions should replace this if issued.

Gartconner's Got Talent



Beatson Fundraiser

We had an amazing turnout for the Gartconner's Got Talent show at the end of last session. We had originally envisaged a small turnout with a few parents and a few acts to raise money for the Beatson Hospital. This was the idea of Mrs Jackson who wanted to honour Cathy our long serving dinner lady who had been battling cancer. The guest of honour thoroughly enjoyed the show and the sentiment. She was delighted to see the children put on such a great show of talent.

Sadly, Cathy passed away the following week and our thoughts and prayers are with her family. She was a warm, friendly lady who had a smile for all our children every day. That smile and her enduring kindness will be sadly missed by all of the Gartconner family.



A cheque for £603.25 will be presented on her behalf to the Beatson Hospital Charity. My most sincere thanks to all the parents and grandparents who supported our fundraiser.

Congratulations to all our pupils for participating in the show, and, in particular, to Ellie for her excellent singing performance. She was Cathy's golden buzzer winner and her trophy will be presented at our next big event. The next community fundraiser is for the MacMillan Coffee Morning on the 28th September at 10am in the school hall and all parents, families and friends are welcome.

School Uniform

I have received feedback from parents about the difficulties in the supply of school uniforms this session. Staff had tried to intervene but the company were unwilling to speak to school staff about individual accounts. I will be meeting the parent council soon to discuss the issues and will report back on progress with the suppliers to ensure that this is not repeated next session. Thank you for doing your best to send our pupils back to us so well turned out in full uniform.

School Lunches



The school lunchtime service has continued to be delivered very consistently. The new recording system, introduced at the end of last session, has helped keep pupils matched to the correct lunch choice.



Snacks and Packed Lunches

It is great to see such healthy snacks coming into school. There are so many benefits for a youngster in coming to school well rested and well fed as they can play, think and learn with their friends. Parents often worry that they are not getting enough to eat for their snack or in their packed lunch and include treat items such as chocolate bars and crisps. It is better to leave these items out as children will eat two bites of their sandwich and then have the sugary and fatty options or in some cases just eat the treats and bin the sandwiches. We try to monitor this as you would do at home but with over 200 pupils having lunch in our hall most days it is pretty challenging.

All Weather Pitch

I don't have a timeframe for the installation of the 3G artificial grass pitch which will replace the red ash pitch but I have been in contact with the council as the all weather pitch has developed cracks in the surface. Following an inspection of the surface by the council on Friday we have been told to close the all

weather pitch to all users. It was installed through Lottery Funding so we may have to find a repair option and complete the work ourselves. I will provide further updates if we can find a cost effective solution.

Meet the Teacher

I hope that our pupils are enjoying the new session with their class and teacher. We have a few new faces in the staff team this year and it is always good for parents to get to meet the teacher and receive a few pointers on how to help their child at home with their learning. We will be having an afternoon for parents to come in and meet their child's teacher on Thursday 20th September at 1.30pm. This will be a chance to have a look at the learning materials and work within the class. I hope that you will be able to come along that afternoon.

Parking



Please avoid bringing cars to the school as the roads around the school are unable to cope with the volume of traffic at 9am and 3pm. I have had road rage incidents reported to me where inappropriate language and aggressive behaviour was shown in front of children. We have a zero tolerance approach to aggressive behaviour in our school and wider community and I would urge any witnesses to call the police and report any incidents.

Clubs



We will again have a range of afterschool and lunchtime clubs for our pupils to enjoy and details of these will be sent out as they are established. I will thank, in advance, the wonderful parent, staff, pupil and community volunteers for their support in running the clubs. Any more volunteers out there who could spare an hour per week would be greatly appreciated.

Parental Involvement in Schools

We really value all our stakeholders and the contribution that they make to the school.

We want to fully involve parents and pupils in the creation of our policies and procedures to ensure that we fulfil our vision, values and aim of **teamwork**. I will be discussing the best way to do this for our parents at the upcoming Parent Council AGM on 27 September at 7pm in Kirkintilloch High School.

Leadership Groups

Our new leadership groups have been established and all P2-7 pupils have been placed in their first choice group. The P1s were placed in their buddy's group to help them to transition to working with other children and adults from across the school.

The groups ensure that the pupils help to drive forward change in the school by working together to look at different aspects of school life and how we can make Gartconner the best it can be for our whole community.

I am excited to find out what has been happening within the groups and our

Newshounds will be in charge of keeping you up to date with the latest news in the classes and across the school.

Open Door

Please remember that I am always available for parents. Your child's concerns, however small they may seem to us as adults, may be a great worry for them so please let me know as early as possible to ensure that your child is happy at school.

Website

Our new school website is now live and can be accessed at:

<http://www.gartconner.e-dunbarton.sch.uk/>

Sept 2018			
10/9/18		Numeracy Week	Whole School
11/9/18	3pm	Football (P1&P2 girls) 5 weeks	Gartconner Primary School (GPS) Hall/ Playground
20/9/18	1.30pm - 3pm	P1-P7 Meet the Teacher	GPS
21/9/18		HOLIDAY	
24/9/18		HOLIDAY	
26/9/18	AM	School/Nursery Photographs	GPS hall
27/9/18	7pm	Parent Council AGM All parents welcome	Kirkintilloch High School
28/9/18	10am	MacMillan Coffee Morning & Non- Uniform Day	GPS hall All welcome
Oct 2018			
9/10/18	1pm	Luggiewatch Walk Pupil, staff and parent volunteers	GPS to Luggie stepping stones and back.
11/10/18	9.30am	Harvest Service & Food Bank Collection	GPS hall Pupils only
11/10/18	3.15pm - 8.00pm	Parents Evening	GPS
12/10/18		In Service Day	
15/10/18 – 19/10/18		October holiday	School reopens on Monday 22/10/18
15/10/18	3pm	Running (P1-P4) 4 weeks	GPS Playground
24/10/18	3pm	Running (P5-P7) 4 weeks	GPS Playground
31/10/18	1-3pm	Hallowe'en Parties	GPS Hall
Nov 2018			
16/11/18		Flu Immunisation	GPS
Dec 2018			
14/12/18	9.30	Nativity, Christmas Service Tea and Coffee	GPS hall All welcome
14/12/18	10.45-	Christmas Fayre PTA Enterprise Day	All welcome
18/12/18		Christmas Lunch & Christmas Jumper Day	GPS hall
19/12/18	1-3 pm	Christmas Parties	GPS hall
20/12/18	1pm	Beauty & The Beast Panto	GPS hall
21/12/18	2.30pm	School closes for Christmas	
Jan 2019			
7/1/19	9am	School Reopens	
14/1/19		Registration Week P1	GPS
Feb 2019			
11/2/19		HOLIDAY	
12/2/19		HOLIDAY	
13/2/19		In Service Day	

18/2/19	Mon-Fri	Lendrick Muir P7	Return 12 noon 22/2/18
Mar 2019			
7/3/19		World Book Day	
18/3/19		Fair Trade Event	
21/3/19	3.15-8.00pm	Parents' Evening	
26/3/18	1.15-1.45pm	Pre 5 School Tour	GPS
29/3/19	2.30pm	Close for Easter Break	
April 2019			
15/4/19	9am	School Reopens	
16/4/19	9am	Enhance Transition Pre 5	GPS hall
18/4/19	Time TBC	Easter Service & Art Gallery Showcase	GPS hall All welcome
19/4/19		HOLIDAY	
22/4/19		HOLIDAY	
30/4/19		Enhanced Transition Pre 5	GPS hall
May 2019			
6/5/19		HOLIDAY	
8/5/19		Pre 5 Transition & Buddy Letters	
14/5/19	12.30pm	Pre 5 Transition Come Dine With Us	GPS hall
22/5/19	1.30pm -3.00pm	Parents' Open Afternoon	GPS hall
23/5/19		In Service Day	
24/5/19		HOLIDAY	
27/5/19		HOLIDAY	
31/5/19		Heats for Gartconner's Got Talent	Pupils only
June 2019			
4/6/19	9.30am	Induction P1	GPS hall
14/6/19	3pm	Report Cards Issued	
17-21 June		Wellbeing Week Various events	GPS
18/6/19	1pm	Sports Day	GPS Playground
19/6/19	1pm	Luggiewatch Walk Pupils, staff and parent volunteers	GPS to Luggie stepping stones and back.
20/6/19	All day	School Trip	Venue TBC
21/6/19		Summer Service & Prizegiving	GPS hall
24/6/19	1.30 Service	P7 Graduation P7 Trip	3.00pm depart school for trip. Pupils to decide venue and activity.
25/6/19	1pm	House Rewards Afternoon	GPS playground
27/6/19	1pm	Close for Summer Break	