



Spring Newsletter 2019

Rounding last year off last year with such a great Nativity and concert was a wonderful way to show off our talented kids as well as celebrating the festival of Christmas. Our Spring service will be a little later this year as Easter weekend falls after the Easter holidays. Parents will be invited along to share in the service that will be on the afternoon of Thursday 18th April at 2pm. Details of the event, as always organised by our P7 pupils, will be shared nearer the time.

Additional Network Support Provision

Judy Moore, Network Support teacher, will rejoin the school this term until Summer 2019 and will provide additional challenge for high achieving pupils.

Bullying

When things are going well in school, parents may not know about the way we approach any allegations of bullying. If you are concerned about bullying we will listen to your concerns and speak sensitively to your child to establish how they are feeling. Bullying is more about the impact on an individual than what has happened. For all children, their age and stage of development can greatly influence how they feel about the actions of others. We will try to restore the damaged relationship between or amongst the children involved and find a solution that allows all parties to feel secure. If an incident falls into certain categories of concern, these incidents will be recorded on the school's information management system and will stay with the children involved throughout their time in school. If any future allegations are made, staff can check for previous problems

from earlier years between children. This is a very useful tool to help ensure that even when moving schools, e.g., primary to secondary, that any prior incidents will be available to help staff support finding solutions for pupils.

Staff Training

Staff, parents and pupils have all recently received training on Dyslexia and its impact on pupils. Further work by the pupil dyslexia group will share this with the rest of the school during Dyslexia Week.

I was invited along to a meeting with the GTCS, the professional association for teachers, to discuss the professional learning that has been ongoing within the school and the Kirkintilloch High cluster. I am delighted to say that they are coming to learn more about the work we do and this could result in an award for Excellence in Professional Learning. This will recognise the commitment of the staff to developing their skills and professional knowledge in numeracy and maths over the last 2 years. This has shown great rewards for our pupils and I would like to applaud the staff for all their hard work. I will keep you posted on the outcome of our nomination.

The staff team continue to welcome opportunities for development of their maths skills and Chris McKenna from Making Maths Count visited the school to train staff and pupils in numeracy techniques. We would love to share this with parents at a workshop to help support learning at home.

All members of staff have been learning about strategies to support reading development. This has been well received by staff and supported by Ms McGoldrick and Pamela Eadie who is an EDC Quality Improvement Officer.

Snacks and Packed Lunches



Healthy snacks are great to sustain your child throughout the school day. Thank you to all parents who support the school with this as it helps us all to reinforce the good eating habits that will lead to lifelong health and wellbeing.

1140 Hours Expansion in Nursery

Gartconner Early Learning and Childcare (ELCC) is expanding its provision in April 2019 to extended year and will be open over the school holiday periods. Rachel Travers, our current substantive Team Leader, who has been on maternity leave since early last year, was successful in a very competitive interview and will take up the new post of Depute Head of Centre in April 2019. She will be returning to post in March as Team Leader until the new position begins in April. Although Headteachers will continue to oversee the ELCC provision within schools, from April 2019 all nursery enquiries should go to Rachel Travers in the first instance.

MSP Rona Mackay

MSP Rona Mackay visited the school on Friday and was highly impressed with the excellent behaviour of our assembled children. She praised how well informed the children were and the excellent questions that they asked in the P5 and P6 Q&A session.

Parents' Nights

Our next parents' night meetings will be on Thursday 21st March from 3.15pm – 8.00pm in the school. This will give you an opportunity to see your child's progress in class. At your appointment time you can join your child's teacher for an update. Remember that at any time you can use the Class Dojo app to update the teacher or ask questions. We expect all parents to receive a parents' night report so

any parent that cannot make it on the evening will be invited in for another appointment.

ParTy With the SMT

Our diamond award winners came along for pizza and cake last Friday and some bangin' tunes (never lose the cool lingo). The kids really enjoyed it and boy can they eat!!!

We will have a final ParTy with SMT for this term at the end of March.

Parking



There will be additional work carried out by Scottish Water on some of the main roads around the school. Please remember that walking to school is a much healthier alternative for pupils and eases congestion around the school.

Clubs

I have been in discussion with Active Schools to establish a better format for lunchtime and afterschool clubs. We have been severely impacted by the loss of the all weather and ash pitches for the last 3 months but we have now opened the new 3G grass pitch and await the repairs to the all weather pitch. The new 3G pitch is a wonderful resource and will allow us to put clubs on all year round.

Clubs from the start of session 19/20 will run as follows to allow all pupils to get access to a club during the school year:

	Infant P1-3	Junior P4-5	Senior P6-7
Term 1 (Sept-Nov)	Tue	Wed	Thu
Term 2 (Jan-Mar)	Wed	Thur	Tue
Term 3 (Apr-Jun)	Thu	Tue	Wed

There are many clubs that pupils already attend outside school and to avoid them missing out on school clubs we will rotate the days to allow all pupils to get a chance to access a club in school at least once per year.

There will be 3 clubs for each pupil on offer through the year. The leadership groups will be discussing what pupils would like for clubs for next session and we will publish the clubs on the school website well in advance to help families to plan childcare and the like for pupils.

If you would like to join as a coach we would be delighted to offer training. PVG checks are provided free by active schools so just bring your enthusiasm.

Parental Involvement in Schools



Thanks go to our excellent Parent Council volunteers and PTA for their continued contribution in working together to support the school. New members are always welcome and you can contact the chairs Pamela Lucas (PC) and Alana Callaghan (PTA) with ideas or suggestions via the school office or join the facebook page.

Leadership Groups

Leadership groups are started back up on Friday 1st March and will run for 4 weeks. All pupils will be involved in using their skills to help other pupils, the school and develop skills for life.

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/>

News from the Classes by the Newshounds

Our teachers and pupils will be keeping you updated on all the events within the class via Class Dojo.

We are creating a Newshounds Newsletter so we can share all the news of our class activities with all parents.

P7 Transition Events

P7 Parents have been issued with dates for the transition programme to support pupils moving to Kirkintilloch High School. I have included them in the dates for the diary below.

Texts

We are no longer allowed to send texts that exceed 140 characters so texts will be very brief. There will be information coming out after Easter regarding "Xpressions" which is a free app you can sign up for and download which will allow longer messages.

School Absence

Please remember to inform the school office if your child is unwell and won't be attending.

Out of hours you can EMAIL:

office@gartconner.e-dunbarton.sch.uk or

TEXT :447860030117 and after 9am please call 0141 955 2323.

Mar 2019			
18/3/19		Fair Trade Event	
21/3/19	3.15-8.00pm	Parents' Evening	
26/3/19	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	1.30pm	Art Gallery Showcase and refreshments	GPS hall All welcome
18/4/19	2.00pm	Easter Service	GPS hall All welcome
19/4/19		HOLIDAY	
22/4/19		HOLIDAY	
23/4/19	6.30pm - 7.30pm	Kirkintilloch High School P7 Transition Family Learning Sessions	Kirkintilloch High School P7 families only
25/4/19	3.00pm-4.00pm	KHS Pupil After School Sessions	Kirkintilloch High School P7 pupils only
30/4/19		Enhanced Transition Pre 5	GPS hall
30/4/19	6.30pm - 7.30pm	Kirkintilloch High School P7 Transition Family Learning Sessions	Kirkintilloch High School P7 families only
May 2019			
2/5/19	3.00pm-4.00pm	KHS Pupil After School Sessions	Kirkintilloch High School P7 pupils only
6/5/19		HOLIDAY	
7/5/19	6.30pm - 7.30pm	Kirkintilloch High School P7 Transition Family Learning Sessions	Kirkintilloch High School P7 families only
8/5/19		Pre 5 Transition & Buddy Letters	
9/5/19	3.00pm-4.00pm	KHS Pupil After School Sessions	Kirkintilloch High School P7 pupils only
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
4/6/19	6.30pm – 7.30pm	KHS Pupil/Parent Information Evening	Kirkintilloch High School P7 pupils and parents only
5/6/19	1.30 pm - 3.00 pm	KHS Pupil Induction Days	Kirkintilloch High School P7 pupils

6/6/19	9.30am – 3.00 pm	KHS Pupil Induction Days	Kirkintilloch High School P7 pupils
7/6/19	8.55am – 3.00pm	KHS Pupil Induction Days	Kirkintilloch High School P7 pupils
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	Edinburgh Zoo
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	