

January 2017 News



Happy New Year – is it too late to still be saying that? (No reply needed).

Adverse Weather

Please make sure that you notify the school of any new mobile numbers (especially for those with new Christmas phones, as the authority will use text messages, twitter and the council website to inform parents of any emergency arrangements (if necessary).

Please inform us of changes to emergency contact details and phone numbers if necessary. Along with this newsletter you will find information on the new GroupCall system we are using. This can email letters etc. to you saving the problem of attempting to retrieve these items from school bags! Please let us know your up to date information.

REGISTRATION OF CHILDREN IN PRIMARY SCHOOLS SCHOOL SESSION 2017 – 2018

Children who reach the age of five years between - 1st March 2017 and 28th February 2018, should be registered for primary school on Wednesday 11th and Thursday 12th January 2017.

Pupils whose surname begins with the initials A to L should be presented on Wednesday 11th January 2017 and pupils whose surname begins with the initials M to Z should be presented on Thursday 12th January 2017.

Parents must register their child in their chosen denomination catchment primary school, on the above dates as appropriate, between the hours of 1.30pm and 3.00pm. You must register your child in the catchment denominational or non-denominational school **even if you are considering a placing request for another school.** This includes Primary 1 Gaelic Medium Education at Whinhill Primary School.

The following documents are required for registration:-

- Your child's birth certificate
- Your Council Tax demand notice for the current year, in your name
- A utility bill (i.e. gas, electricity, landline telephone or broadband) in your name and dated within the last six months.

If you are considering a placing request for your child, placing request application forms will be available from the end January 2017 and will outline all of the information on the placing request process.

M&M Panto Visit

Thanks to the generosity of our Parent partnership we will have a visit from M&M Theatre Productions next Tuesday as they perform Robin Hood for the whole school.

Awards for All – Lottery Funding



I am delighted to let you know that we have been successful in our bid for funding from Awards for All Scotland. We will now look to use the funding to develop outdoor learning and play for the pupils in our school. Talks are on-going, as they say, but we will keep you updated on any plans. All those scratch cards you've been buying are worth it after all!!

As you know, we often have additional teachers working with us in our classes. We are pleased to welcome Miss Rodgers to Primary 2/1 for the next few months. She will work alongside Mrs. Deveney and Miss Gilchrist.

A message from Nicola Sturgeon, First Minister.

We believe that reading has the power to change lives and that developing a love of reading in childhood can have a huge impact on educational attainment and future wellbeing. The First Minister wants to make sure every child in Scotland has an equal opportunity to experience the huge benefits that reading for pleasure brings.

The First Minister's Reading Challenge aims to build on the work already taking place in schools across the country to encourage children to read widely, explore a range of books and develop a love of reading. The main focus of the Challenge is to encourage reading for pleasure and support schools, libraries and communities to build reading cultures.

There will be a range of prizes awarded in June 2017 for schools and pupils to celebrate their reading journeys. The Challenge will also give the opportunity for every child's personal achievements to be recognised by their teachers and librarians.

Our pupils from Primary 4 – 7 will be bringing home their own Reading passport where they can record their reading journey over the next few months.

Some Dates for your Diary

January 2017

Wednesday 11 th	Registration of August P1 intake. Surnames A – L
Thursday 12 th	Registration of August P1 intake. Surnames M – Z
Monday 16 th	Pupils bringing home their latest Target sheets
Thursday 19 th	Drug Awareness talks for P7 pupils
Wednesday 25 th	Ruth Binks, Head of Schools visiting

February

Friday 3 rd	Community Wardens visiting school
Monday 6 th	February weekend holiday – School Closed
Tuesday 7 th	February weekend holiday – School Closed
Wednesday 8 th	In-Service Day – School Closed
Sunday 12 th	Catholic Education Week mass at 11am
Monday 13 th	Primary 7 leave for Lockerbie Manor Residential trip
	Childsmile for P1 – 4 pupils
Thursday 16 th	Cluster Mass to celebrate Catholic Education Week 7pm

March

Friday 31 st	School Closes for Spring Break 2.30pm
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April

Wednesday 19 th	School re-opens
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May

Monday 1 st	May Day Holiday
Saturday 6 th	First Communion 10am mass
Saturday 13 th	First Communion 10am mass
Friday 26 th	Holiday
Monday 29 th	Holiday
Tuesday 30 th	In Service Day – school closed for pupils

June

Thursday 1 st	Confirmation for P7 pupils 7pm in St. Mirin's Cathedral
Thursday 29 th	SCHOOL CLOSSES AT 1PM FOR SUMMER HOLIDAYS