

Newsletter

- For staff, parents, carers and the local community -

Issue 1

August
2015

WELCOME BACK

I hope you have all had a restful holiday and enjoyed the break.

I am delighted to welcome the children back and to welcome the new Primary 1 children. I hope all of the children are looking forward to the new year. Staff have been working hard over the last two days, but also over the holidays, to ensure that they provide a positive, interesting educational experience for their pupils.

There have been one or two staff changes from last year. The updated staff list is as follows:

Nursery:

Early Years Team Leader	Miss Lesley Stewart
Teacher	Mrs Sharon Goodwin
Early Years Worker	Mrs Lorna Shaw

	Teacher	Support Staff Member
Primary 1/2	Mrs Sharon Alexander (Mon, Wed, Fri) Mrs Kirsty Bailie (Tues, Thur)	Mrs Helen Cochrane
Primary 2/3	Miss Nicola Lindsay (Tue - Fri) Miss Melissa Oswald (Mon, Tues)	Mrs Elizabeth Scott
Primary 3/4	Mrs Anne Smart (Mon, Tues, alternate Wed) Mrs Lynne McLeod-Kerr (alternate Wed, Thur, Fri)	Mrs Karen Shearer
Primary 4/5	Mrs Anne Coubrough (Mon, Tues, alternate Wed) Miss Melissa Oswald (alternate Wed, Thur, Fri)	Mrs Lesley McInnes
Primary 5/6	Miss Hazel Whitefield	Mrs Tracy Porteous (Mon - Thur)
Primary 7	Mrs Lisa McRae	Mrs Clare Gallant (Wed)

CCC will be covered in P3/4 by Mrs Bailie and in P5/6 and P7 by Mrs Goodwin.

Mrs Kerr's absence will continue and will be covered by Miss Oswald.

Both Mrs Knights and Mrs Graham have got new jobs over the holidays. While we are very sorry to lose both ladies we wish them well in their new posts. Mrs Graham will continue with us this week prior to starting in her new job.



Should you have any queries or concerns regarding your child please speak to their class teacher in the first instance. They are the person who knows your child best and who is most likely to be able to answer your questions. If, however, you feel that the class teacher has been unable to deal with your query/concern please feel free to contact me either in person or by phone.

Achieved Rights Respecting School Award

June 2010



Achieved Fairtrade School Award

June 2010



Achieved Gold Health Promoting School Award

June 2007

and

Achieved Health Promoting

Nursery Gold Award



NEED TO CONTACT SOMEONE OR MAKE A COMPLAINT?

School Contact

Head Teacher: Pamela L. Easton Principal Teacher: Sharon Alexander Office: June Clydesdale

Phone: 01555 840263

Email: office@carnwath-pri.s-lanark.sch.uk



Gail Ramsay

Parent Council Chairperson

Phone: 01555 840263 and your contact details will be passed on

Education Resources

Phone: 01698 454545



WEBSITE

Please visit the nursery and school website where you will find lots more information including photos

<http://carnwath-pri.s-lanark.sch.uk>

PUPIL FORUMS

We will have 7 Pupil Forums running throughout this year:

Media	Mrs Goodwin and Mrs Shearer
Eco	Mrs Coubrough, Miss Oswald and Mrs Cochrane
Fairtrade	Miss Whitefield
Respect Me!	Mrs Smart
Health and Wellbeing	Miss Lindsay and Mrs Scott
School Grounds	Mrs Alexander, Mrs Bailie and Mrs McInnes
Charity	Mrs L. McRae



Forums will be led by the children. Each Forum has a minute taker. The Pupil Council will discuss minutes of all Forums. This process allows every pupil to have a voice and to contribute to the life and work of the school.

While all the above forums have pupil and staff members I would be delighted to have a parent representative on each forum. If you could spare a half hour once a month we would be very pleased to have you. Please let us know if you would like to join one of our forums which will be held on a Tuesday between 2pm and 3pm.

GENERAL INFORMATION

School Uniform

We would be grateful if all children could attend school wearing the correct uniform. This identifies the children as our pupils and makes them all look very smart. We would be grateful if girls' skirts could be of a reasonable length. School uniform can be purchased from Mrs Cochrane, in the office, at any time of the year. Please feel free to ask.

All children should have gym shoes to change into while in school and also shorts and t-shirts for gym days.

I would also be grateful if all items of clothing could have your child's name marked on them. This allows us to give back lost items.

Assemblies

The timing of assemblies is being changed this year. They will be on Mondays at 2.15pm or Thursdays at 9.20am. We hope this change will enable all members of staff to attend over the course of the year and having them in both the morning and the afternoon allows all nursery children to attend too. We have not completed our assembly calendar yet but once it is finalised I will let you know when the class assemblies are since I know that parents/carers are keen to attend and support their child.

Finance

In line with South Lanarkshire Council's financial procedures any money handed in to school must be receipted. Your child will be issued with a receipt for any money they give to the class teacher and nursery parents will be issued with a receipt for the snack money that they hand in on Mondays. We feel we now have a procedure in place which will minimise the disruption to your child's education. All money is banked on a daily basis.

Entering School Building

Children who arrive at school after the lines have been taken in must enter the building by the main entrance. I would also remind parents/carers that if they are visiting the school they must also come to the main entrance.

Medication

If your child requires medication during the school day I would be grateful if you could see Mrs Clydesdale, in the office, to fill in the appropriate forms. We are unable to administer medication without a current form being completed and signed by a parent/carers. I would also be grateful if an adult could deliver any medication to the office rather than ask a child to bring it with them. Medicines must be brought in their packaging with the chemist's sticker with your child's name and the correct dosage on it.



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original

Thank you very much for your help with all of the above matters.

PARENT COUNCIL

As a parent/carer of a child in our school you are automatically a member of our Parent Forum. From our Parent Forum we form a Parent Council which meets monthly to discuss general issues relating to the school. We discuss issues relating to the whole school rather than regarding individual children (concerns about your child or their class should be raised with the class teacher).

The Parent Council play a valuable roll in raising money for the benefit of all children in the nursery and school. This money is used for many things that benefit the children. Classes may go out of school on an educational trip (eg Edinburgh Castle), they may have a visit from a group who provide a workshop (eg circus skills workshop) or resources may be purchased (e.g. new reading books). The work of the Parent Council in this respect is vital to enhancing the educational experience of all children and widening their access to resources which support their learning.

The Parent Council also support development within the school. Their opinion is sought and they contribute to the life and work of the school in this way.

We will be having our AGM on Tuesday, 1st September at 7pm in the staffroom at school. We will appoint the new committee and refreshments are always on offer. New members are always welcome. Please consider coming along to join us. We would value your opinion and welcome new talents.



The Parent Council are currently organising a family cinema night. We hope you will be able to come along, with

GOOD TO BE GREEN

We use a 'Good to be Green' behaviour system in school. Staff work hard to encourage children to behave well and make the right choices. I have included the steps in the system as a reminder of what happens if your child chooses not to do as they are asked. Your child will start each day on green.

Green: verbal reminder

Yellow: warning

If your child can show that the yellow warning has encouraged them to improve their behaviour and has made an impact they will be able to move back to green at this point.

Red: at this point your child will lose 6 minutes of their Golden Time

Blue: your child will miss their next playtime

Pink: your child will be sent to the Head Teacher or Principal Teacher



At the end of each term there will be a certificate for each child who has remained on green during that term. Each child will be allowed to use one 'chance' card between August and December and again between January and June to invalidate a yellow, red or blue card. The 'chance' card cannot be used to invalidate a pink card. Children who have been 'green' all year will be awarded a special certificate in June.

'Good to be Green' information will be added to your child's home-school planner. Children will receive a green dot at the end of each day if they remain on green. If they are not on green then you will be told what colour they reached

SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT

I look forward to a very busy year for staff and pupils. We have a very full Improvement Plan in place for the coming session which will help us develop our practice in order to help every child reach their potential. As part of our improvement agenda I look forward to engaging with all parents/carers in order to ensure that your opinions and ideas are taken into account.

Each year the school produces an Improvement Plan which must follow guidelines set by South Lanarkshire Council but be relevant to Carnwath Primary School and Nursery Class as well as the Biggar Learning Community. It's aim is to improve the quality of learning and teaching, the environment in which the children learn and the work with parents as partners in their child's education.

You will receive a summary of this year's plan so that you are aware of what we are working on.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

AUGUST

17th	Pupils return to school
20th	P2 from P1/2 class and P2/3 to forest in afternoon
21st	P1 information morning and cafeteria lunch
24th	P1 attending school all day
27th	Carnwath Bank of Treasures first collection of the year

SEPTEMBER

1st	7pm Parent Council AGM
3rd	Junior Road Safety Officer training
11th	Parent Council cinema night
25th-28th	School closed for September Weekend
29th	Forum meeting

OCTOBER

1st	Parent - pupil - teacher consultation evening
2nd	Pupil Council meeting
7th	Parent - pupil - teacher consultation evening
9th	Harvest assembly
12th-16th	School closed for October Week holiday
20th	School photographs to be taken
26th-30th	P7 to Lockerbie Manor

Please note that the above dates may change due to unforeseen circumstances.

ECO SCHOOL

As an Eco School it is important to us to reduce the amount of paper we use whenever it is possible to do this. This copy of the newsletter is being sent as a hard copy but we would be grateful if you would give us your email address when you update your child's Annual Data Check. This will allow us to send you an electronic version of the newsletter which cuts down considerably on the amount of paper we use. Some newsletters will continue to be sent as a paper copy due to the amount of photos making them too large to email.



Thank you very much for your help with this.

BOTTLE LID COLLECTION

We would be grateful if you could collect and send in clean, plastic bottle tops from milk cartons, juice and water bottles etc. so that we can use them to make art works to display in the school. Mrs Alexander is about to start working with the children on this but she needs more bottle tops. Many thanks for your help with this initiative.



EDUCATION SERVICES
Executive Director: Jim Gilhooly
Carnwath Primary School: Head Teacher - Pamela L. Easton