



Hillhead Primary School
110 Otago Street
Glasgow
G12 8NS
0141-339-1365

office@hillhead-pri.glasgow.sch.uk
www.hillheadprimaryglasgow.org

25 November 2016

Dear Parent/Carer

There are several important pieces of information we would like to share with you.

Moving away from communicating to parents through sending letters home

We have been aware for some time that sending letters home in a child's school bag is not always the most efficient way of communicating. The letters do not also reach their intended destination; parents with more than one child get multiple copies of the same information, and importantly, we use a lot of paper and resources sending our paper copies to our parents.

From now on, when it is at all possible, we would like to communicate to our parents by sending a text alerting all intended recipients that a letter has been issued and directing them to our website where the correspondence will be uploaded and available.

We feel this system will be much more efficient and would more accurately reflect our commitment to being an Eco Friendly school. This newsletter announces the pilot of this initiative and we will run with it until the end of February when we will review it, with the hope that it is viable and successful.

We understand that it means that information sent home cannot be read immediately but once located the information will be accessible by all any time and any place. We believe that all of our parents have access to the internet but if any parent needs a paper copy of the letter the School Office can print out a copy if the parent calls into the school office. We will also send this information to parents for whom we have an email address.

There will be occasions when we still have to send communication in paper form to parents (consent forms/required returns for example) but we should be able to reduce the current levels of paper communication significantly.

We are currently re organising our School Website to make the communication section more accessible. Parents can access parent letters on <http://hillheadprimaryglasgow.org/> We will include this address in the texts alerting you to a new letter when possible (we have a restriction on the number of characters we can use) and we are also exploring using twitter more effectively.

We hope that this will be used positively by our parent and would be very happy to receive feedback from you on this, or any other matter. Please email office@hillhead-pri.glasgow.sch.uk

Space Week

As you know we were extremely fortunate to receive on loan actual Moon Rock samples from NASA. Every class in the school was timetabled to visit the Media Suite where our exhibition was held. We also invited Kelvin Park Early Years Centre to experience this unique event.

We were delighted that over 150 parents also managed to visit the exhibition. Many thanks to you for attending and to Laura Mackie for securing this wonderful opportunity!

Book Fair

Our recent Book Fair proved to be very popular with book sales totalling £4488. This is very reassuring given the concerns there are that children generally are not choosing to read books in their leisure time. It is also very good news for the school. We chose to take commission on books for our library and Gary Thomson and members of the Pupil Council are now carefully choosing books for the School Library to the value of nearly £2700. Well Done Gary and many thanks to everyone who bought a book. We intend making the Book Fair a feature at future Parents' Evening.

Food Week

We have just completed a very enjoyable Food Week which included a careers' fair and many visitors from many aspects of the food industry. Our new mobile cooker also chose the Food Week to announce its arrival and we have officially launched it with a group of parents working with Sumayya Usmani, renowned writer and cook. Many thanks to her and Waitrose for sponsoring this event.

Well done Melissa Caulfield for her excellent organisation of the Food Week and many thanks to the Parents who work in the Food Service Industry and gave of their time to support this series of events.

Parent Council Hallowe'en Disco

Many thanks to the Parent Council and especially Amanda Buchanan and her team for organising a fun filled Hallowe'en Disco for our P6 and P7 pupils. We look forward now to our International Evening on Thursday 1 December. Separate details have been sent out.

Enrolment

Enrolment took place on Monday 7 November PM and Wednesday 9 November AM. The next enrolment dates are in January. If you wish to enrol your child for the start of a new session in August, your child must have attained the age of 5 years between 1 March 2012 and 29 February 2013. You should enrol at your local school for your address and you are required to bring your child's birth certificate and either a council tax bill or mortgage/rental agreement as proof of your address.

Lost Property

We will be putting all current lost property out on display on tables in the Social Area all next week. Please take the time to check and see if any of the numerous items belong to your child.

Please also check your children's clothes to see if he/she has maybe brought someone else's clothing home in error.

It is a good time to remind everyone that all children's clothing should have their name or an identifying symbol on all items of clothing.

Once we have displayed all lost clothing for a week we will bag all remaining items and donate these items to a relevant charity.

Thank you for your cooperation with this.

Winter Weather

We have now experienced ice and snow this year. Our procedures are as follows:

- The janitors will grit and attempt to clear a path on the ramp leading down from Kelvinway
- The janitors will grit and attempt to clear a path at the Otago Street entrance
- These two entrances will be our priority due to the amount of staff we have and the time available
- If the school is unable to open we will send a text message to our parents as early as possible. Information will also be available from Glasgow City Council's website and twitter, www.glasgow.gov.uk @GlasgowCC, on Hillhead Primary's twitter, @HillheadPrimary and from local media websites, radio and TV
- If you receive a message the school is closed please do not continue with your journey to school with your child
- **In inclement weather pupils should not be sent to school unaccompanied**
- Please ensure that all children are appropriately dressed for the weather
- If we have to close the school once children have arrived please arrange for your child to be collected as soon as possible
- We have a check out system in place when we have to send children home. Friends and relatives can collect children provided we have your permission
- It is essential that we have current contact details of all our parents
- Please continue to follow media reports when the school is closed. We will endeavour to reopen as soon as possible, once it is safe to do so

Hopefully we will not need to adopt any of these policies.

Forest Education

We are very fortunate to have a parent who runs an outdoor education session for each class in conjunction with the class teacher and supported by some parent volunteers.

Our intention is to run this class weekly throughout the year. For this to be successful the children need to come to school with the appropriate clothing. At this time of the year appropriate clothing would be a hat, a scarf, a pair of gloves, a coat/jacket, thick socks and sturdy footwear. There is no need for specialist expensive clothes; we just need to ensure the children can keep warm as temperatures drop. Some children have a base layer to

wear; others prefer several thin layers of clothing. The school has waterproof trousers and waterproof jackets for a class to wear when it is raining.

We will send a text at the beginning of the week your child's class is due to participate and we would be very grateful for your cooperation with this. Thank you.

I think that is all. A Calendar of Events from now until the end of December is attached to this newsletter. If you would like to receive newsletters by email please reply to office@hillhead-pri.glasgow.sch.uk

Many thanks for your support and cooperation.

Best Wishes

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Francis Donaghy". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Francis Donaghy
Head Teacher



Calendar of Events
Hillhead Primary School



December 2016

Thursday 1 st December 2016	International Night 6-8pm
Friday 2 nd December 2016	Choir Performance at St Enoch Centre :12:30pm Raising Money for The Prince and Princess of Wales Hospice
Friday 9 th December 2016	Choir Performance at St Enoch Centre :11-12pm Raising Money for Cancer Support Scotland
Monday 12 th December 2016	Infant Show Dress Rehearsal: 10:30am P4 Party PM
Tuesday 13 th December 2016	Infant Show for P3 Parents: 10:30am P5 Party PM Choir Performance at Kelvingrove Art Galleries: 12:15-1pm Public Performance
Wednesday 14 th December 2016	Infant Show for P2 Parents: 10:30am P6 Party: PM
Thursday 15 th December 2016	Infant Show for P1 Parents: 10:30am Christmas Lunch in Dinner Hall
Friday 16 th December 2016	Assembly - Hillhead Orchestra: AM P3 Party: PM
Monday 19 th December 2016	P1 Party (Social Space): PM P2 Party (Dinner Hall): PM
Tuesday 20 th December 2016	P7 Party: PM
Wednesday 21 st December 2016	Close for Holidays: 2:30pm
Thursday 5 th January 2017	School Returns: 9:00am