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20 January 2017

Dear Parent/Carer

January Newsletter

The children have now been back a few weeks and the school is settled and everyone is working well. Long may this continue!

There are a number of points to draw to your attention.

Lost Property

Just before our holidays in December we asked everyone to check our Lost Property to ensure that children were reunited with lost items of clothing. Mrs Thomson went through over ONE HUNDRED items of clothing and was able to return FORTY EIGHT pieces of clothing to children because their names were on the clothing. However EIGHTY FOUR items remained unclaimed (this does not include scarves, hats or gloves) because there was no identification on the clothing.

We are currently reviewing our practices with regards to retention of Lost Property and our new procedures will be shared with you as soon as possible. We have put up a new Lost Property sign in the outdoor classroom (this is the open area that looks on to the river and is very close to the Otago Street entrance). This point is accessible to parents and children and we would ask you to check on a regular basis for any missing clothing or lunch boxes.

We will be significantly reducing the amount of time we hold items of clothing in Lost Property as the volume of unclaimed clothing inhibits parents' ability to locate missing items. Any piece of clothing that has a name on it will be returned to the owner and we would urge all of our parents to either buy some labels or look at our website which gives details of embroidering options on new purchases or to write your child's name on all clothing and possessions (including lunch boxes, school bags, hats and gloves) with an indelible pen.

For a very little outlay every family could make a substantial saving as they will not have to replace unmarked lost property. We ask for your full cooperation with this matter. Thank you.

Upcoming Events

Friday 20 January – a group of P7 pupils have organised a drop in café (hot chocolate and a home-made cake for £1) to raise money for the people in Haiti who are still recovering from the damage done during the last major hurricane (Hurricane Matthew) in October 2016. This

country is still recovering from the devastating earthquake in 2010. Very well done to Menaal, Jewel, Betty, Matilda and Robin for planning and organising this very worthwhile social enterprise activity.

Two other pupils – Lily and Ava in P6b – have also been involved in a fundraiser. Lily is raising money for Whoops a Daisy, a charity dedicated to supporting children with Cerebral Palsy and Ava is raising money for Water Aid, a charity that seeks to provide fresh drinking water in areas where there is none. The girls have joined together and have a blog and a fundraising page <https://lilyandavareadingcharity.wordpress.com> and have set themselves a book reading challenge to try to raise funds. Well done girls! You too are an inspiration to all of us!

Burns Day – 25 January, various classes will be celebrating this annual event. P1s will have their ceilidh to mark this event in the Social Space next Friday

Chinese New Year will take place on Saturday 28 January and we wish Kung Hei Fat Choi to all of our families who celebrate this event! This year is the Year of the Rooster.

Thursday 2 February – Disco for P4 and P5 pupils from 6:30-8pm. Tickets, costing £2, are on sale in the School Office. Many thanks to our Parent Council for organising this.

Friday 3 February – A group of children from our P5 and P6 classes who have been learning Italian will be attending (and performing at) the Modern Languages Award Ceremony in the City Chambers. Good Luck!

Up to date information

We have, thus far, avoided any severe weather. We have previously sent out our procedures for inclement weather/emergency procedures. It is very important that we have current phone numbers of all contacts. Please ensure the numbers we have are the most current.

Thank you for your cooperation with this.

Important Information

We have been informed that engineering works in Otago Street, immediately outside of our school, on behalf of Scottish Water will re commence at the end of January and will last for several weeks. This will reduce the road to one lane and parking restrictions will be enforced. This is a good time to remind everyone that no parents' cars should be in this vicinity at any time but especially during this period.

I think that is all.

Here's to a very successful New Year!

Best Wishes



Francis Donaghy
Head Teacher