



Glengowan Primary School

Newsletter - September 2018

Dear Parent/Carer

Lunch Price

Please note that the cost of a school lunch is £1.65

Helping your child to read

A significant number of parents attended this presentation on Wednesday 5th September. As a school, we appreciated your support with this event. We plan to hold this again next session at some point. Further information about Systematic Synthetic Phonics has been made available via the School App.

School App

Our App provider has assured me that the problem experienced by some Android phone users has now been solved. Thank you to the parents who notified the school about the issue. I hope that messages are now being received.

Pupil Leadership

We now have House Captains, House Vice-Captains, Wet Interval Monitors, ICT Officers and our Pupil Council representatives. Eco and Sports Committee Members will receive their badges at an assembly very soon.

The Glengowan Parent Group

We are very well supported by members of our Parent Group, but new volunteers are always welcome. The next meeting takes place on Tuesday 23rd October at 7pm. If you have any questions about joining this group, please feel free to get in touch with me.



School Improvement Plan

We have two significant improvement priorities this session.

- 1. A new programme for the teaching of reading and spelling (phonics) will be implemented for P1-4. This will link with our Reading for Success initiative which was started last year.*
- 2. 'Big Maths' will be used across the school to further develop all children's ability to solve mental calculations.*

Update

Reading and spelling (Phonics)

- A presentation for parents/carers took place on the 5th September.*
- Our support staff have received training on systematic synthetic phonics to support children.*
- New resources and planning are now in place for the teaching of phonics.*
- 'No Nonsense Phonics' has been introduced for individual children requiring additional support.*

Maths

- A video introducing 'Big Maths' has been posted on our App for parents/carers.*
- All class teachers have carried out assessments to inform their planning in maths for our children. This will be done on a regular basis to identify any gaps in your child's learning.*
- Daily sessions to support children in mental calculations are now in place.*

Volunteers

Our Parent Group has funded covers for many of our new reading books. With over 2000 books to cover, any volunteers who could come in for an hour (or more) to help would be made most welcome. Please contact the school office if you are available.



Dress Down Day

Our first 'Dress Down for £1' day takes place on Friday 28th September. If you wish your child to participate, school uniform does not need to be worn and £1 should be given to the class teacher during registration.

'Learn Its' from Big Maths

Almost all classes at the school have been given multiplication and/or addition facts to learn at home. These start with some simple addition stories and progress until your child becomes familiar with all the multiplication facts within the 12 times table.

As this is a new approach, class teachers have been instructed to go back to the facts assigned to previous year groups to ensure your child has no learning gaps and has the knowledge he/she needs in order to tackle more complex calculations. Please note that a simple fact such as '2 + 2 = 4' is used to explain '20 + 20 = 40, 200 + 200 = 400 and 0.2 + 0.2 = 0.4'. The positive response from the children and the progress made so far means that the pace of learning will increase following the October break. I would ask for your continued support with this as we aim to increase attainment in numeracy in line with the Scottish Government's National Improvement Framework.

Harvest Assembly and Food Bank Support

The children in Primary 4 will present their Harvest Assembly on Friday 5th October. Parents/carers of children in that year group should have received an invite by now. Once again, we intend to support the local food bank by making a donation of items. I have been in touch with the food bank and items which are in short supply are listed below. However, any type of tinned or packet foods would be appreciated. I would like to thank you in advance for supporting this cause. Items can be sent to the school between now and the 5th of October.

Suggested Items

Long Life Milk

Fruit Juice

Jam

Coffee

Tinned tomatoes

Tinned Fruit

Microwavable packets of pasta or rice

Custard—Tins or packets



Reading Books and Water Bottles

Those with older children at the school are aware of the significant investment made in reading books over the past 18 months. Most parents are surprised at how much each reading book costs. Currently, they range from £4 to £11.50 per copy to replace.

Please encourage your child to keep water bottles separate from the books sent home as we have had a number of damaged books returned to school already this session.

Clothing

We have a number of items of clothing in our lost and found area. Parents/carers are welcome to come and see these items. Please remember to label clothing. Also, I would request that you check labels to make sure your child hasn't brought something home in error.

Dates for your diary

Friday 28th September—Dress Down Day

Friday 5th October—P4 Harvest Assembly

Wednesday 10th October—Parents' Evening

Thursday 11th October—Flu Vaccinations

Thursday 11th October—Parents' Evening

Monday 15th October to Friday 19th October—October Week Holiday

Yours faithfully,

G Murray

Head Teacher