Dear Parents and Carers

What a quick academic year it has been! It is hard to believe that it is November already.

As always, the school is a hive of activity with never a dull moment and we wouldn’t have it any other way. We’re beginning to think about the imminent festive season, a time that we always enjoy and are very much looking forward to.

**Homework Club**

We are delighted to have started our Homework Club for children in P4-7 on a Wednesday afternoon.

We are running this in conjunction with KASC to offer children time and space to complete homework if they find this difficult to do within their home environment or have many other commitments in the evenings, resulting in a shortage of time.

Thanks to all of our staff who have kindly given up their own time to support our boys and girls.

**Halloween Disco**

Our PTA hosted two fantastic Halloween Discos for our boys and girls on Thursday 1st November.

Great fun was had by all adults and children and we’re very grateful to the PTA for their hard work in organising this event.

As always, Mr Colquhoun was a fabulous DJ and made the night!

**PTA News**

On behalf of everyone at Kirklandpark I would like to thank Roy Allan for all of his hard work as Chairperson of our PTA. Roy has worked tirelessly to support the school and help to lead the team in their many successful ventures.

Roy recently stood down as Chair and the position has now been filled by Lynn Oattes, previously Vice-Chair.

**Christmas Cards**

All of our children from Nursery to P7 created designs for Christmas cards and we are very grateful to everyone who placed orders for them. These were sent home earlier this week. Thanks to our PTA for coordinating this.

**Date For Your Diary:**

Our Christmas Fayre will be held on Thursday 6th December. Please note that this is a change to the original date that was given. The Fayre will begin at 6.30pm.

On Friday 23rd November we will be having a Dress Down Day. Rather than paying money, we are asking that you help our PTA by donating items as requested in the letter posted on the Facebook page and as a news item on our app.

Please note that alcohol donations should not be brought into school by children but should be handed into the school office by adults.

**Catchment Area Consultation**

Thanks to everyone who participated in South Lanarkshire Council’s catchment area consultation.

Sally Stewart came to visit the school on Wednesday 19th September and had an opportunity to speak with staff, parents and pupils.

**Diabetes Awareness**

Thanks to everyone who participated in our ‘Wear Your Onesie To School’ in aid of National Diabetes Awareness Day.

We have a number of children with Diabetes within the school and we very much appreciate the support that was shown across our school community.

Several members of our netball squad have taken part in recent Fun 5s festivals.

This gives the children the opportunity to play against teams from other schools within the East Kilbride area. The festivals are non-competitive and just for fun but enable the children to further develop their skills.

Thanks to Mrs Kinneiar and Mrs Smart our Netball coaches. As well as giving up their time to run the club they also give up their lunch intervals on days when the club cannot go ahead. They have also attended training courses in recent weeks in order to support our boys and girls.

We are also delighted to be assisted by four very able 2nd year Strathaven Academy pupils who are sharing their knowledge with our boys and girls.

It has been great to have 56 Sports Leaders from Strathaven Academy in the school during lunch time on a Tuesday. The young people have been helping our Primary 5 children improve and develop their Club Golf skills.

Thanks also to Strathaven Academy PE staff and to our Active Schools Co-ordinator who have been on hand to provide help and advice.
We will let you know when the results of the consultation and the final decision regarding any changes to our catchment area are released.

Demolition

Our colleagues from Housing and Technical Resources have undertaken initial meetings with the contractors to make arrangements for the demolition of the old school. The removal of services is underway and risk assessments are being carried out.

I will make you aware of further information as it becomes available.

Football Success

Mr Lindsay, Mr Beebee and some of our football squad recently took part in the EK Primaries League.

The teams played extremely well together and we’re delighted to have won two out of our three games.

Well done everyone!

Eco Week

Each of our classes took part in Eco Week which was held on the week beginning Monday 22nd October.

Thanks to Miss Ferrie and the children in the Eco Committee who have organised activities for each of the classes to participate in.

The Eco Committee also gave a presentation to the whole school during assembly. They demonstrated how much waste is produced and shared the findings of their litter collection.

ICT Refresh

Recently some of our equipment has been replaced with newer models and our software has been upgraded too.

Audrey’s Visit

Audrey our local Librarian visited us during assembly and told us that she was amazed by the large number of boys and girls who took part in the summer reading project with almost one third of our school population getting involved.

Unfortunately we didn’t win the overall prize for the school with the largest percentage of participants but we’re still very proud of everyone who took part – Go Team KP!

As part of the annual programme of activities our P4 children recently visited the library to learn about the organisation and to develop their research skills.

As part of Scottish Book Week the children in P1, 2 and 3 are being gifted book bags from the Scottish Government. Our P1 children will be visiting the library to read the books with Audrey and to take part in some associated activities.

During the last week of term our Nursery, P1, 2 & 3 children will have the opportunity to visit the library to enjoy some Christmas themed stories.

Inservice Day

Don’t forget that Monday 19th November is an inservice Day and that means that the children will have a day off.

PTA Family Day

On Saturday 15th September many of us enjoyed catching up at the family day held by our PTA.

There were representatives from many local groups and organisations as well as a visit from the Fire Service, a barbecue, bouncy castle and much more!

Thanks to everyone who came along and especially to our PTA for all their hard work.

Sports Hall Athletics

Primary 6 & 7 enjoyed their first session of Sports Hall Athletics on Friday 28th September.

The children took part in a range of athletics activities and enjoyed the chance to compete against local schools putting all of their weekly training to good use.

Snowy Weather

Should the weather change and become snowy and icy we would like to give the children the chance to make the most of it. On such days it would be really helpful if you could put a spare set of clothes into your child’s bag. This will allow them to change if they get wet.

Planning Ahead For Inclement Weather

It may be necessary to close the school at short notice if the weather takes a significant turn for the worse.

In the event that this happens we will contact you by sending out a message on our app. If we can get into school we will also send a group text. Our twitter page and our website will also convey the same information.

Please note that the only other official sources of information would be from South Lanarkshire Council themselves or via the local radio or news.

We will not release the children unless collected by an adult or we have received word from you personally (by speaking to you on the phone) to let them leave. Please make your way to the school as safely and quickly as possible. Should you be some distance away we would be most appreciative if you could arrange for a friend or neighbour to collect and care for your child until you get home*. This will enable our teachers and support staff to make their way home safely too.

*Please phone us to let us know if you have authorised somebody other than yourself to collect your child.

It is essential that we have the correct contact phone numbers and email details on file for you. Please let us know if there have been any changes.

Again, any decision to keep the school closed prior to 9.00am will be communicated via our app, on Twitter and posted on the school and council websites. It is also likely to be announced on local radio and we will send out a group text if we are able to enter the school to access the appropriate software.

Extra-Curricular Clubs
Children who sign up for a club are expected to attend every week. If your child cannot attend due to an appointment, please send in a note to let us know.

Recently a great deal of worry has been caused and a lot of time spent by staff checking that children are safe as they have not attended clubs they were expected to be at.

Our Credit Union runs on a Friday morning.

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An Anti-bullying Week inspired message from our House Captains......

‘You don’t have to be perfect to be amazing so always try your best and be yourself.’

Well done boys and girls!

Our Pupil Council representatives met with Mrs Goodwin from Facilities Management last month. They had spoken with the children in their classes and were able to provide Mrs Goodwin with lots of feedback both positive and constructive, regarding the summer menu. They also asked lots of sensible questions and Mrs Goodwin has said that she will provide our school with opportunities to sample new menu suggestions.

Next week the children will be working on a presentation to help others to think about our school values. This presentation will be based on honesty.

Message from our Pupil Council:

Remember that it is always better to tell the truth. Honesty is one of our most important school values.

**J.R.S.O.s**

Miss Purse has been working with our two Junior Road Safety Officers, Emma Carenduff and Rebecca Stuart throughout this session.

Currently they are thinking about air pollution around the school, particularly around drop off and pick-up time. The girls will be working with staff from South Lanarkshire Council to take this further. They will also be encouraging others to participate in a competition that is being run by SEPA.

Thanks to Mrs Mitchell and Mrs Oattes for their help in taking this work forward.

A message from our J.R.S.O.s

‘Sometimes you need to go left to be right. Be careful on the roads when you are out and about, especially when it is dark.’

**Right Respecting Schools Reps**

Next week our Rights Respecting Schools Group will be working with Mr Marshall to establish our school charter. Soon, they will also be delivering their first PowerPoint presentation to the children during assembly.

This month our focus is on the SHANARRI indicator ‘respect’ as part of ‘Anti-bullying Week.’ The committee members will help the children to think of ways that they are respected at home, in school and in the wider community.

The children will then return to their classes to complete their own personal statements on their SHANARRI wheels.

**Golden Time**

During the last four weeks our Golden Time has taken a different approach.

Children in P1-7 have been given an opportunity to opt into adult led activities to develop a new interest or skill.

We are calling these ‘Golden Zones’ and some of the activities included are:

- Baking
- Art and Craft
- Basketball
- Sewing
- Outdoor Learning

**J.R.S.O.s**

Thanks to everyone who supported our Macmillan Coffee Morning on Friday 28th September. It was a child only event and much fun was enjoyed as cakes were decorated and devoured!

The next Parent Council meeting will be held on Thursday 15th November at 6.45pm.

Thanks to everyone for their hard work when putting together the Family Anti-bullying event on Thursday 15th November.

Each of our departments have been working on collaborative projects to enable our children to develop their learning, skills and communication with others.

Our P1 & 2 classes worked together on outdoor learning activities over a three week period. They had a super time learning from each other.

Children in P3 and 4 are undertaking work that will culminate in a St. Andrews Celebration on the 30th November.

Our P5, 6 & 7 children have been working together to develop their knowledge and understanding of internet safety.

Thanks to all of our teachers who have enabled the children to work in mixed stage groupings and to share their learning with a wider and different audience from usual.

A huge thanks to all of the parents and carers who have helped us to run these activities.
As always Kirklandpark is a busy place with lots of opportunities for our children. At present the following extra-curricular clubs are running:

**Monday**
- Football Training Gymnastics Club

**Tuesday**
- Handball Club

**Wednesday**
- Homework Club Netball Club
- P4 Multi-sports Club Sports Hall Athletics Club

**Thursday**
- Cricket Club

**Friday**
- Pantomime

I would like to thank all of our older children, parents and staff members who give up their time to offer these opportunities and those that have already concluded to the children.

Please don’t hesitate to contact us if you have any interests or expertise and could run a club for our children. It can run for as many weeks as you wish and would be greatly appreciated by our children.

We are currently asking the children to tell us about their hobbies to enable us to extend the provision that we offer within the spring and summer terms. If possible, we aim to offer activities to our younger children as most clubs tend to be targeted from P4 upwards.

This year we are going to Hamilton Town House to see Jack And The Beanstalk. It’s sure to be lots of fun and we’re all looking forward to this.

Thanks to our PTA who have donated £600 towards our trip. This has enabled us to reduce the cost from £9.50.

Please return permission forms by Friday 16th November. Payment should be made via Parent Pay.

Unfortunately we are unable to take children who do not have written consent to attend.

**Milk**

Please remember to click on the box (on Parent Pay) if you wish to order milk for your child. The children having milk varies on a daily basis and each morning a list of those who have ordered is printed. Please note that we can only provide those who are on the list with milk.

**Harvest Service**

Thanks so much to everyone who provided food for our Harvest Service.

We were disappointed that the weather was so awful and we didn’t manage to go to the church, something that we enjoy doing very much.

We did however, go ahead with the service within the school but unfortunately we were not able to accommodate all parents / carers due to our increased school population and fire regulations.

The children sang beautifully and we were very proud of how hard they had worked to learn such tricky songs.

We were entertained by Mrs Smith’s choir who were amazing.

Some of the children in Room 3 told us the story of the Little Red Hen via a traditional picture talk and we heard some fantastic Harvest poems.

We were delighted to be joined by Rev. Paterson and Rev. Telfer for our service.

**Anti-bullying Week**

This week all classes are taking part in Anti-bullying week.

We kick started the week with Odd Socks Day, a national event to celebrate individuality. We had a short assembly to identify the types of characteristics and traits that make us unique. We also spent some time thinking about the definition of bullying and clarifying what it is and what it isn’t. This led us to identify bullying behaviours.

During the remainder of the week we will think about what we can do to stop bullying, why some people behave in this way and also how our actions affect others.

Tuesday is International Day of Kindness so we will be celebrating random acts of kindness throughout the day.

The results showed that almost all of our children enjoy reading both in school and at home but would like more time and opportunity to do so. The children also told us that they preferred using traditional ‘tree’ books rather than reading on electronic devices.

We don’t want any of our children to miss out on opportunities that are provided via the school and we are keen to help if we can.

Please get in touch if your family is experiencing financial difficulties or if you are on a low income as we subsidise or pay to enable children to participate.

We are very grateful to everyone who has given support to fundraisers to date. There are quite a few things running close together throughout this month and we appreciate anything that you can donate to support us. Unfortunately this could not be avoided due to the availability of resources and timing of charity focus days.

Our staff have been busy working on the targets set out in our improvement plan and at present we have divided into groups to tackle different areas.

Already, we have:
- updated our ASN policy and approaches
- undertaken ‘Pupil Assessement of Self and School’ surveys with children in P1-7
- established our homework club (in conjunction with KASC)
- organised for whole staff training from Nurture UK
- updated our planning and assessment recording procedures for all curricular areas
- established a whole school framework to develop children's punctuation and grammar skills

Our Staff Improvement Groups are developing:
- Scots Language
- Music
- ICT
- Positive Growth Mindset

In addition to this, during the forthcoming inservice day we will be working on prompts that we hope will help parents to support their child’s mathematical learning at home.

Learning Community Vision, Values & Aims

As part of the Strathaven Learning Community Improvement Plan, all schools are working together to form a collective vision for our community.

So far, all children have been given the opportunity to select values from a list given (or select their own). This information has been collated by Strathaven Academy Pupils.

Two members of our Pupil Council recently attended a ‘Community Pupil Council’ meeting to hear about the results and our staff will join with others from across the learning community to discuss our next steps during the inservice day.

Dates For Your Diary

Friday 16th November
Children In Need – Please donate any spare changed that you have to help us to fill our Pudsy.

Monday 19th November
Inservice Day – No school for the children

Tuesday 20th November
Book Bug Bags will be sent home to P1, 2 & 3 children
R8 are visiting the Odeon to see The Greatest Showman

Wednesday 21st November
P1 Library Visit
Room 3 Assembly @ 9.30am
Football Tournament

Thursday 22nd November
Nursery & P1-7 Sponsored Bounce
(Information will be sent home by Mr Beebee)

Friday 23rd November
Dress Down for our Xmas Fayre

Monday 26th November
Christmas Lunch Slips to be returned by 3.00pm today

Wednesday 28th November
Room 8 Assembly @ 9.30am
Day

Thursday 29th November
Room 8 Roman Topic Trip

Monday 3rd December
P1-5 Jack And The Beanstalk Pantomime Visit

Tuesday 4th December
P6 & 7 Jack & The Beanstalk Pantomime Visit

Thursday 6th December
Christmas Fayre @ 6.30pm

Tuesday 11th December
P6 Christmas Party
P7 Ceilidh (7.00pm – 9.00pm)

Wednesday 12th December
P5 Christmas Party

Thursday 13th December
P4 Christmas Party
Christmas Lunch

Friday 14th December
P3 Christmas Party

Monday 17th December
Nursery Nativity
P2 Christmas Party

Tuesday 18th December
P1-3 Nativity @ 9.30am
P4 - 7 Christmas Service @ 11.00am
P1 Christmas Party

Wednesday 19th December
Nursery Christmas Party
P2 & 3 Library Visit

Thursday 20th December
Nursery and P1 Library Visits

Friday 21st December
School Closes At 2.30pm

Thanks again for all your support.

Kind Regards
D. Laing
Head Teacher