Dear Parents and Carers

This first term is passing by very quickly already and we’ve well and truly settled back into school life following the lovely summer that we enjoyed. We’re very busy in school and looking forward to the challenges of this coming session.

This will be the last time that we send out the newsletter on paper. In future all newsletters will be accessible via our app and website.

Our app can be downloaded to all Apple and android phones. Go onto the Apple or Google Play store and search for PSA. Once you’ve opened the app just search for Kirklandpark Primary School and you will be able to see all of our latest events, news and messages.

Please note that almost all communication that does not require a written response will be communicated via our app and where appropriate, our twitter account and website.

Permission forms etc. will be sent home in the children’s bags.

As part of our ongoing work to support children in developing the four capacities outlined within Curriculum For Excellence we are encouraging them to develop their independence and organisation skills by doing as much as they can for themselves. This includes making sure that they collect resources and materials that they need for a task, taking on additional responsibilities within the class and school by having jobs that contribute to the care of our school building and community. These are age appropriate and range from being line leaders to helping to organise and tidy libraries etc.

Parents and carers can help too. Encouraging boys and girls to pack their school bags themselves (with a little supervision when they are little!) is a great way to help the children to develop their independence.

Children should bring a gym kit to change into on their P.E. days.

Our gym kit is:
- shorts and t-shirt (no vest tops please)

Children can wear their blue polo shirt to gym if they prefer not to change into a different t-shirt.

All children must have gym shoes / soft shoes to change into when they come indoors.

Please be very careful when driving and parking on the roads near to the school. We encourage our boys and girls to walk, cycle or scoot to school where possible but the high volume of parked cars is making this increasingly more dangerous for them. The children comment on how difficult it is to see when crossing the roads and there have also been issues relating to people doing three point turns in places that endanger pedestrians.

The Park and Stride in the George Allan car park should be used by parents dropping off children at the Kirklandpark Avenue entrance of the school to minimise traffic in the immediate vicinity of the school.

Clothing Grant and Free Meal Entitlement

As part of this initiative however it can be purchased for 20p per carton if you book it on Parent Pay. A list is generated each day and the children can ask for their carton when they go for lunch. Please note that milk cannot be provided for children unless it has been ordered on Parent Pay. The school kitchen no longer accepts cash directly.

Children eligible for South Lanarkshire Council’s free meal entitlement are the exception to this and they do receive free milk which does not need to be ordered on Parent Pay.

http://www.southlanarkshire.gov.uk/info/200186/primary_school_information/159/school_clothing_grants_and_free_school_meals
Labels On Clothing + Other Items

Please ensure that all of your child’s clothing and belongings are clearly labelled with their name. This helps us to return lost property quickly and prevents any mix-ups.

Absences

If your child is unwell and cannot attend school it is essential that you let us know. This ensures that all children are safe and accounted for. Please phone the school office on 01357 520177 to report an absence.

Holidays During Term Time

South Lanarkshire Council do not encourage family holidays to be taken during term time as they both disrupt children’s education and reduce learning time. Such absences will almost always be recorded as unauthorised unless in exceptional circumstances. The head teacher should be notified in writing prior to a child going on holiday.

Twitter Account

Don’t forget that we now have our very own Twitter Account and will be using this as a quick way to pass on reminders and information.

To request to follow us search for @kirklandparkps

Don’t forget that you can also find information on our website.

http://www.kirklandpark-pri.s-lanark.sch.uk

Dress Down Day

Throughout this year we will hold dress down days to raise money for charity and for school funds. We’ll tell the children and notify you via our App and for a cost of £1, the children can come to school dressed in their casual clothes.

Parent Council AGM

On Thursday 23rd August the Parent Council and PTA AGM was held in the school. Following a summary of the previous year’s business both groups met individually to allocate office bearers for this coming year.

Parent Council Office Bearers
Chair: Mrs Nicola Gilmour
Vice Chair: t.b.c.
Secretary: Mrs Siobhan Mackenzie / Mrs Julia Jamieson

PTA Office Bearers
Chair: Roy Allen
Secretary: Heather Howarth
Treasurer: Andrea Smith
Vice Chair: Lynn Oattes

P.T.A. Fun Day

Please join us on Saturday 15th September from 12.00noon until 2.00pm for a family fun day.

Many local clubs and groups will have stalls and there is tearoom, home baking, book stall, tombola, bouncy castle, treasure hunt and bbq.

Parent Pay

As from Tuesday 25th September we will be ‘cashless’ with all school meals, trips and items such as school show tickets paid for via Parent Pay.

There will be some exceptions to this such as our tuck shop and charity fundraisers.

If you haven’t already signed up to Parent Pay and would like further details please contact our school office.

Homework Club

This year we will be running an extra-curricular homework club for children in P4-7. It will be held in conjunction with staff from KASC and will take place in the atrium from 3.00pm – 3.45pm on a Wednesday afternoon. The first session will take place on the 19th September. Please look out for information in your child’s bag.

School Gates

Although our school gates are open early in each day, boys and girls shouldn’t come to school before 8.30am in the morning.

On extremely wet days we will open the school doors at the earlier time of 8.50am to allow children to come straight inside.

Children coming from the Kirklandpark Avenue side of the school should enter via the fire doors leading to gym hall.

Children coming from the Lethame Road side of the school should enter the playground as usual and come into the building via their usual doors.

Religious And Moral Education

We teach Religious And Moral Education as part of Scotland’s Curriculum For Excellence.

In addition to this we have monthly assemblies conducted by Rev. Paterson from Trinity Church and Rev. Telfer from Avendale Parish Church.

We also visit Trinity Church for our Harvest, Easter and Summer services each year.

If you do not wish your child to participate in Religious and Moral Education and Religious Observance please inform me in writing.

Parents’ Night

Our first Parents’ Evening of this session will be held on Wednesday 10th October. Stickers with appointment times will be inserted into the children’s homework diaries.

We are looking forward to a good turnout and a chance to inform you of your child’s progress so far this term.

Bookshop

During the week leading up to Parents’ Evening the mobile bookshop will be in the school. Our boys and girls will have a chance to browse the shelves and if you would like to purchase any of the books they will be available to buy on Parents’ Evening.
The books are normally collected early on the Friday following Parents’ Evening, so please ensure that you make your purchases before they’re taken away.

House Captains

On Thursday 23rd August we held our House Captain and Vice House Captain elections. The candidates made some super speeches and the results were very close.

This year our successful candidates are:

- **Avon**
  - House Captain: Eva Baker-Gostelow
  - Vice Captain: Jamie Martin
- **Brook**
  - House Captain: Toby Dodds
  - Vice Captain: Harrison Mackenzie
- **Castle**
  - House Captain: Corrie Gilroy
  - Vice Captain: Eilidh Irons
- **Glebe**
  - House Captain: Ruth McCurry
  - Vice Captain: Logan Martin

Well done boys and girls!

Pupil Council

Our Pupil Council representatives met for the first time on Wednesday 29th August.

This year our committee members are:

- Amy Pollock & Luke Ward
- Sam Black & Lucy Brown
- Hannah Jones & Samantha Lutoto
- Zoe Farquharson & James Speirs
- Luca Rattray & Dale Neilson
- Belle MacGregor & Matilda Frew
- Aurelia MacKenna Sales & Cara McClean
- Chloe Amott & Kaeden McCaffrey
- Taylor Woods & Nathan Barnfather
- Millie Reid & Ross Anderson

The boys and girls are hard at work already and have organised for children to vote for this year’s charity donation, are going to be creating a leaflet to help the other children learn about our establishment plan and will be meeting with Mrs Goodwin from our catering services.

J.R.S.O.s

Miss Purse will be working with our two Junior Road Safety Officers, Emma Carenduff and Rebecca Stuart this coming session.

The girls will be talking to children about keeping safe when crossing roads, organising competitions and lots of other things too!

This week they are busy carrying out the annual travel survey – well done girls!

Credit Union

Our Credit Union will resume on the 28th September and run thereafter on a Friday morning.

If you would like to open an account for your child please contact our school office and we’ll send home an application form.

Harvest Service

Due to unforeseen circumstances our Harvest Service will now be held in Trinity Church at 10.00am on Tuesday 9th October and not Monday 8th October as previously intimated.

We would like to collect items to take to a local foodbank and would be grateful for anything that you can spare for our Harvest Table. Donations can be sent in from Wednesday 3rd October.

Parents and carers are most welcome to join us in the church and if you can help to supervise the children on the walk to and from the school we would be very grateful.

Fruity Friday Points

On a Friday we encourage the boys and girls to bring fruit for their snack. As well as being healthy it will earn them points for their house.

Photographer

Last week we were visited by our school photographer. Please remember to send in orders by Friday.

Establishment Plan

This year our priorities for school development work will be to:

- Update our ASN position statement
- Refresh approaches to all
- Further develop and implement nurturing schools strategies
- Develop digital literacy across the school
- Update our Music programme of study
- Update our punctuation and grammar programme of study
- Create a Scots Language programme of study within Language 1 + 2 framework
- Create prompts to help parents support their children’s Maths development
- Implement a new reward system
- Implement target setting across all stages
- Adopt and implement the GL Pass assessment to identify vulnerabilities within children’s mental health and wellbeing that are not already known to us
- Develop a programme of activities to support positive growth mindset and positive mental health approaches

‘Meet The Teacher’ Workshop

Thank you to everyone who attended our ‘Meet The Teacher’ afternoon on 28/8/18. It was a great opportunity for teachers and parents to meet and for the children to show their loved ones around their new classroom.

Friday Run

Every Friday, weather permitting, our boys and girls take part in a 10 minute run. Our aim is to help increase their stamina and contribute towards improving their fitness levels.

Catchment Area Consultation

A public meeting was held in St. Patrick’s Primary on 28th August to discuss South Lanarkshire Council’s proposals to realign the
catchment areas of Wester Overton and our school.

People had the opportunity to give their opinions and these were recorded by Council representatives.

Written comments should be submitted to South Lanarkshire Council by Friday 14th September.

Ms S. Stewart from Education Scotland will be visiting the school to meet with parents, pupils and staff on Wednesday 19th September to provide a further opportunity for people to share their views.

Macmillan Coffee Morning

We will be holding a Macmillan Coffee Morning for our boys and girls on Friday 28th September. For a small charge of 50p our boys and girls will have an opportunity to decorate their own cake before eating the finished product and all for a good cause!

School Calendar

The school calendar was sent home earlier this term however it can also be accessed online via our website.

Visitors To Our School

During the next few weeks we will be visited by the following agencies:

Wednesday 19th September
Hopscotch Theatre Company - Numeracy Based Production for P5-7

Thursday 20th September
Inland Revenue (to deliver Junior Tax Facts workshops)

Friday 28th September
SSPCA

Extra Curricular Clubs

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.

Our Parent Council will soon be in touch with those who have already volunteered to help at Golden Time.

Extra-curricular clubs due to start very soon include football, sports hall athletics, netball, club golf and badminton.

We also have a choir who will be performing during our Harvest Service.

We held our first Chit Chat session with the boys and girls a couple of weeks ago and our focus was Digital Technology.

The children told us lots about how they use digital technology at home and what they enjoy doing in school.

Many of them also said that they would enjoy using ICT within their homework activities.

Parent / Grandparent Helpers

Thanks to everyone who has kindly volunteered to be a parent / grandparent helper. We are delighted to have such a great response and will be in touch very soon to clarify arrangements for you to come into school to work with us.

Kind regards
D. Laing
Head Teacher