

Gylemuir Primary School and Nursery Classes

Newsletter

January 2018



Dear Parents/Carers,

As we start a new year and new term, we can celebrate lots of achievements both big and small in school. The children have been engaged in lots of learning and this is clearly evidenced around our school. **Please continue to let us know about your child's achievements so that these can be shared in school.** In December, we welcomed many parents and relatives into school to enjoy our nativities and carol concerts. The children performed superbly all week in front of packed houses - thank you! So far this year parents have joined us for class assemblies and as we journey through the school year we hope you will be able to share in the children's learning at our class showcase events.

Regards,
Mrs A Smart
Head Teacher

Ethos

Our Nurture Base continues to go from strength to strength, providing an alternative learning space within the school. Some of the children using the room have been involved in choosing a new name for it, and it is now going to be called The Sunflower Room.

On behalf of Friends of Gylemuir, I would like to thank all our volunteers, who have helped at the Hallowe'en Disco's and the Christmas Fayre this year.

We are always looking for new members to join the Parent Council and Friends of Gylemuir, so if you would like to become a member of one of these committees or would just like to come along to a meeting please contact the school or look out for meeting information in Parent Mail.

Please take the time to complete the attached Parent/Carer Survey (see accompanying letters) which will be used in our whole school evaluation and will help to determine our ongoing targets.

Curriculum

This term all the children from nursery to P7 will be learning about **Respect Yourself** as part of our whole school Health and Wellbeing programme. In this unit we will be learning that:

- There is no one quite like me.
- Everyone has different strengths.
- I treat myself with respect.

As usual, there will be a family homework task to complete with your child/ren. These are displayed in the school and children are able to present their work at our sharing assembly. This has been a highlight of our assembly programme this year.

Important Notices and Dates

Staffing News Miss Handley joins the school team as P1a's new teacher on the 5th February. This is a little later than was originally expected. Mrs MacAskill begins her maternity leave on the 2nd March. Parents of P3c will be informed when a replacement teacher has been appointed. Mrs Dodsworth returned from maternity leave in December. She will be supporting the teaching of reading skills with groups of pupils across P3-P7 as part of our Raising Attainment work. Miss Ret will also be working, one day a week, on a Literacy Across The Curriculum programme linked to Raising Attainment.



Car Safety and Parking As always, we want to thank those parents and carers that access our school at drop off and collection times responsibly. Unfortunately, last term we, and local residents, have had cause for concern over occasions of irresponsible parking, including dropping pupils off in the school car park. At busy times of the day, and following discussions with our community police partners, please consider the safety of our children and those living in our neighbourhood and make sensible traffic choices.

A new Incredible Years group begins on Tuesday 20th February 9.15 - 11.15am at St Joseph's Primary School. This group is for parents who are finding the behaviour of their 3 to 6 year olds difficult. Application forms are available from the nursery or school office and if you require further information please contact Mrs Thomson.

Free School Meals - are you eligible?



Who qualifies?

All P1-P3 pupils are entitled to free school meals.

P4 and up pupils with parents in receipt of any of the following are entitled to free school meals:

- Income Support
- Income-Based Jobseeker's Allowance
- Any Income Related element of Employment & Support Allowance
- Child Tax Credit (with no working tax credit) and whose annual income is £16,105 or less
- Working Tax Credit and Child Tax Credit whose annual income is £6,420 or less
- Universal Credit where the monthly earned income does not exceed £610

P1-P7 pupils whose parents meet the criteria above are also entitled to **free school milk**.

How do I apply?

Applications can be completed online at www.edinburgh.gov.uk/schoolgrants, or scanned and emailed to school.grants@edinburgh.gov.uk. Alternatively, a form can be obtained from our school office or from Council Information Services, Libraries and Jobcentres.

When can I apply?

Application forms can be accepted from the middle of June each year. There is **no cut-off date** for applying, we can accept applications up to the last school day of the academic year, but please be aware that entitlement cannot be backdated.

What happens next?

Provided you receive a qualifying benefit, as detailed above, you will be notified, and the school your child/children attend will be notified automatically that they will now receive Free School Meals. Pupils can receive Free School Meals from P1 to S6, but a fresh application must be submitted each academic year.

✚ 9 th February	School closes
✚ 19 th February	School re-opens
✚ 20 th February	7-8.30pm Parent Council meeting - all welcome
✚ 22 nd March	6-9pm Parent Consultations
✚ 23 rd March	1-4pm Parent Consultations
✚ 29 th March	School closes - Easter holidays
✚ 17 th April	School re-opens