



### Head Teacher Newsletter November 2021

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## November 2021 Newsletter

Pupils and staff at Park View are now settled into a great routine across the school and taking advantage of as much normality as we can - last November's 'Tier 4' lockdown a distant and unwelcome memory! Every area in the school is used for engaging, purposeful learning where all pupils are being supported and challenged for their every need – be it literacy, maths or their health and wellbeing. As much as it feels busy and we have very little extra space for flexibility, it really is lovely to walk around and see groups of children working and engaged everywhere you go.

As part of our Quality Assurance procedures, I have been visiting, and will visit, all classes this week and next. It has been lovely to see the progress the pupils are making and the high levels of engagement in every class. Thank you to the teachers and support staff who have contributed to this and to parents who are putting the hard work in at home too.

### Homework

We know that Homework can be a challenge for many families but equally we know that many children benefit from the extra support. As a school, we are looking into ways to run 'supported study sessions' to help those families who struggle to do homework at home. We will keep you posted on this.

### Attendance

The attendance across the school since August has been quite low in comparison to previous years. We know that Covid has a part to play in this, but with no isolation period for close contacts (if a negative test is provided), then it should be affecting us less than last year. As part of the Government and Council policy, we need to monitor attendance and follow it up, if it falls below a certain level. 90% attendance is the equivalent of having an extra month off school every year and many of our pupils fall way below this. Attendance has a direct link to the children's progress. We want to work with the families in our community and if you need our help, please just contact the school. Mr McKissock tracks all pupils' attendance and this table below shows the attendance for the month of October. On the run up to and after the October we noticed a dip in attendance and a significant dip on the day after Halloween. As we get closer to Christmas, please keep this in mind, and send your children in every day. We will be aiming for continued learning right to the end with lots of Christmas fun in between. Every day absent is lost education!

<b>P1</b>	<b>91.1%</b>
<b>P2</b>	<b>96.2%</b>
<b>P3</b>	<b>93.6%</b>
<b>P4</b>	<b>94.8%</b>
<b>P5</b>	<b>90.6%</b>
<b>P6</b>	<b>90.6%</b>
<b>P7</b>	<b>89.1%</b>
<b>Whole School</b>	<b>92.3%</b>



### Freestyle Friday

Miss Beattie our JRSO (Junior Road Safety Officer) Leader, is organising an 'Be Bright' dress down day. This is to highlight the safety of wearing bright colours in the dark winter months so that cars can see you in the dark. As usual our dress down events are £1 and all funds raised will go back to the school. This will take place on Friday 26<sup>th</sup> November.

## KEEPING PARENTS INFORMED

**Parents Night** – Hopefully everyone received their Parents Night call and it was a good opportunity to hear about your children’s progress from their class teacher. Similar to last year, we feel that it worked well in the current circumstances and we want to keep parents involved as much as possible; however, we are aware that during such restrictions our community spirit is difficult to keep hold of. Remote parent’s night is one of the drawbacks from a whole school community perspective, and parents especially miss out on actually seeing their child’s work. The younger classes have Seesaw where parents get regular access to their own child’s work, but we are aware that our older children don’t get the same chance to share work. As a staff, we want to spend some time discussing how we can improve this as we recognise how much you value this part of Parents Night. If anyone has any further questions about how you can support your child at home, please contact the school and we will be happy to help.

### Uniform Swap Shop



Mrs Longmuir has taken charge of our uniform swap Shop and it is going well. Massive thank you to those of you who have donated items and equally to those who have benefitted from it too, we have weekly requests and I’m glad people are making use of it. Not only does it help everyone out financially, but it also means that we are contributing positively to climate change too and we all know how important this is right now. Mrs Longmuir would encourage anyone who needs winter jackets or warmer uniform to please put your requests in.

Indoor shoes – with the wet weather well and truly here, we ask that all pupils have indoor shoes. The black sandshoes are ideal or any old trainers or shoes. It keeps our school clean and children aren’t walking about with damp shoes all day. Again, we have plenty of indoor shoes available too so please just put your requests in.

### Book Fayre

The Scholastic Book fayre was very busy with many purchases. Thank you for your support in this! Over £800 was spent by parents. As yet, we do not know how much this translates into books for the school.

As a staff, we felt that the Book Fayre was quite expensive this year and we are always wary of putting parents under financial pressure. Next time we will look into seeing if there are cheaper options whilst still promoting a love of books and reading. If you have any feedback on the book fayre, please let us know your thoughts.



### Participatory Budget

As you will be aware, the whole school community voted on how we spend some of our budget from the government. By far the biggest vote was for school trips. This money will go towards paying for the buses for all trips for the rest of the year as these are quite expensive and make school trips very limited. As Head Teacher, I know how much pupils enjoy and benefit from these experiences and how that translates into their engagement and love of learning in school and beyond. We will aim to provide all

classes one trip per term, which is a huge improvement from one trip per year. So to kick start this spending, we are pleased to announce that the whole school will be going to a pantomime (Oh yes we are!) at Rutherglen Town Hall on Thursday the 9<sup>th</sup> of December to see Sleeping Beauty. This will be free of charge to all pupils. Class trips will incur a small fee but these will all be subsidised by the Participatory Budget.

## CHRISTMAS

On the note of Christmas, we will once again try to make December as festive as we can whilst being aware that we cannot come together as a whole school community. Our P1-3 have already started their nativity rehearsals with actual songs and singing this year! Unfortunately, we will not be able to have any live viewings in school, but the whole nativity will be filmed and made available for all parents and families.

**Christmas Lunch** will take place on Wednesday 15th December 2021 - a Google form has been sent out for you to chose your child's choice of Christmas Lunch. Please make sure your child has enough money available on Parent Pay for this. Only 90 children have ordered their lunch for this. Even if your child does not want Christmas lunch, can you please let us know so that we know you will not be ordering – thank you!



**Dates for parties** - Children can come in dressed for their party on that day.



P1 – P3 – Friday 17<sup>th</sup> December

P4&5 – Monday 20<sup>th</sup> December

P6&7 – Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> December

**Personalised Christmas gifts** – we are still awaiting the arrival of the Christmas cards and mugs designed by your child. As soon as these arrive, we will get these out to you. There was a delay in the company collecting these which is why it is taking longer than last year.

## Christmas Enterprise Week - Week beginning 6th December

This year we have decided to have a full Christmas Enterprise week where pupils will all have the chance to make Christmas crafts then at the end of the week on Friday 10<sup>th</sup> December, we will hold our own in-house Christmas

Fayre where children will have the chance to buy these Christmas crafts and other goods.

We would also welcome donations of old toys and books (in good condition) so that children have the opportunity to 'bring and buy'. It is an ideal time to have a clearout before Christmas so if anyone has any of the items below, please start to look them out and we can take these donations in school to contribute to our fayre:



- Toy stall (donated pre-loved toys in good condition)
- Book Stall (donated pre-loved books in good condition)
- Cake stall (donated shop bought cakes and biscuits – due to covid restrictions it is safer to stick to shop bought)
- Christmas crafts (made by pupils)
- Stationary stall (pencils, rubbers etc)
- Gift buying stall (donated candles, toiletry sets, gift sets etc that the children could buy as a present for their parents)

## We are here to help!

As usual, we are here to help and as it approaches Christmas, I'm sure we will be offered the same level of support within the community as we did last year. Christmas can take a financial toll on most families so if anyone needs any form of support, we can always try to help ourselves or point you in the right direction.

Take care and stay safe.

Mrs J McColl  
Head Teacher