

HERE COMES THE SUN...HOPEFULLY!



This term is already proving to be very busy with the events coming 'thick and fast'. I have up-dated the 'Dates For Your Diary' section at the end of the newsletter with a summary of the remaining events. Please feel free to contact the school office if you require clarification in relation to any of these. Please also look out for your child's class newsletter and homework sheets, both of which will give you extra detail.



As the weather improves, we will be enjoying lots of outdoor learning. As such, you may wish to consider applying sun screen to your child before school in the morning. A cap or sun hat (with your child's name) may also be useful. As

always, we would encourage the children to bring a water bottle which they can refill at school.

The summer term can be a time when the usual uniform standards 'slip' a little. Please help us to ensure that this is not the case. In particular, I would like to encourage the wearing of school coloured sweatshirts and jumpers rather than hoodies or sports tops.

THANKS FOR YOUR FEEDBACK



At our most recent 'Parents' Night', many of you were kind enough to take time to complete a parental survey. I have read every form and the results have been carefully collated in order to show which comments occurred on a number of forms. I'm pleased to say that the comments were overwhelmingly positive; thank you for the many encouraging words, which mean a great deal to the staff.

This year, in terms of aspects you would like to see changed / developed, there was not a clear consensus. Instead, parents put forward a range of suggestions. I will discuss these with the staff team and the Parent Council.

Parents were very positive about the changes we made to homework arrangements this year. A number of helpful suggestions were also made about how we could further improve the timing, content and communication of homework.

MIND HOW YOU GO



A number of parents have again expressed concerns about inconsiderate driving and parking around the school. May I ask you to be very mindful of these issues? In particular:

- Please do not park on the yellow zig-zags at the school gates.
- Please take great care if you are turning in front of the school gates.

- When parking, please do not obstruct our neighbours' drives.
- Please mind your speed when driving near the school.

CLASSES FOR NEXT YEAR



I'm aware that, at this time of year, parents and children often begin to think about classes for next year. I have started to work on this issue, both in terms of staffing and configuration. As soon as I am in a position to share the provisional plan with you, I will do so.



In the meantime, transition work for our new P1 pupils and our outgoing P7 pupils is well under way. The new P1 children have already enjoyed two 'playdates' at Howwood. Our P7 pupils recently benefitted from a workshop that was delivered by one of the modern languages teachers from Johnstone High. The P7 pupils are currently part way through a series of lessons from the English department at Johnstone High and we are hoping to be involved in a joint music project later in the term.

MUNCH TIME



Please note that the new school lunch menu will be in place from Monday 8th May. Printed copies of this menu will be sent home in the children's bags. The rota will start at week two.

As ever, we are keen to encourage healthy eating both in terms of snacks and packed lunches. The warmer Spring weather can be a great time to think about making some snack 'swaps' from less healthy to healthier alternatives. The 'Food Standards Scotland' website has some great ideas in terms of how to go about this. The more people who do this, the easier it becomes, as children often feel peer pressure to be eating chocolate and sweets.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Wednesday 24th May
4.00-6.00PM
Selected Pupils to Football Tournament
Johnstone High School

Thursday 25th May
In-service day - Pupils do not attend

Friday 26th and Monday 29th
May
Holiday

Tuesday 30th May
P1 Trip to 'The People's Palace'

Friday 2nd June
P7 and P6 Trip to Belfast

Monday 5th June
Active Health Day

Friday 9th June - 1.15PM
Sports Day

Tuesday 13th June - 9.30AM
P1 Prize Giving

Monday 19th June
Possible joint evening event for P7 pupils at Johnstone High School

Wednesday 21st June
9.30AM
P7 Prize Giving



14th, 15th and 16th June
P7 Transition Days
Johnstone High School

Tuesday 27th June - 1.30PM
Church Service
Howwood Parish Church

Wednesday 28th June
Final day of session

Best Wishes

Alan Shields
Acting Head Teacher