



October 2021 Newsletter

Our Lady of Peace

Dear Parents/Carers,

October already and a successful Term 1 is coming to a close. I hope you are all keeping well and safe as the autumn draws in and the heating has to go on! I write to you with some school information which I hope you will find helpful.

Parent Evenings

As per guidance from the Director of Education, these will not be taking place as usual, at the end of Term 1. We will report on your child's progress towards the end of October /early November and the offer of discussing his/her learning, by telephone, will be offered to you. In the meantime, please continue to contact us should you have any questions, via Showbie and / the school email (gw17olopoffice@glow.ea.glasgow.sch.uk)

This is in line with advice from HQ:

Parents evenings Session 2021/22

- We do not expect parents' evenings in primary or secondary schools to take place in their pre-pandemic format before March 2022 when the position will be reviewed again.
- We would expect primary and secondary schools to continue their exploration of different approaches to reporting and discussing pupils' progress with parents and carers.
- This could involve on-line discussions or phone calls.
- For some families, it may be in the best interest of the child to have a face to face meeting with parents and carers, where this is the case, these should take place.

Free fruit

It is great to see the return of free fruit in schools two days per week, as from 4th October. The children will be offered bananas, apples or tangerines. It is encouraging to see children arrive with healthy playtime snacks. We continue to monitor the amount and nature of what they bring to school in our efforts to achieve health promoting school status. We discourage sending children to school with family sized packs of crisps, biscuits and chocolate. Some of our children have life threatening allergies so please...no nuts/containing nuts/traces of nuts.

School Uniform

Thank you for maintaining our high expectations on the wearing of full uniform. Almost all our children wear this daily. A minority continue to add items which are not school uniform. Leggings, joggers, brightly coloured fashion shoes, polo shirts, are some examples which result in standards slipping. Please help us continue the good work around uniform and appropriate dress code.

Football Team

We are super proud of the newly established OLoP football team managed by Mr McCoy (P7b class teacher) and his assistant coach, Mr McKerrell (Challenge Leader of Learning)! Please look out for the fixture list as posted on Twitter and I am sure you wish the team great success over the coming season! The children are certainly holding their own as a newly formed team...onwards and upwards!

School bags

Thank you to families who have supported us with minimising items brought to school. I would discourage the use of school bags for a host of reasons: the children are provided with resources needed to carry out their learning, bags can be a source of cross contamination, they create congestion in already busy classrooms and cloakroom areas and we always discourage personal items being brought to school. No toys are allowed.

It is best that they are left at home and your respect in adhering to this request is appreciated.

Covid 19 is still very much a presence in schools and just this morning we have had 5 reported, positive cases.

Showbie and Homework

Please sign up for Showbie, the online learning platform in order to complete important, regular homework. Please remember to join as a pupil and not as a parent. Homework is set weekly encompassing two literacy and two numeracy tasks. It really supports school learning and is of great benefit to children, especially if they require additional support and are not on track. We are working hard to close gaps in learning from Covid-19 lockdowns, absences, etc. Homework completion levels are not as expected at Our Lady of Peace and I ask that you ensure your child does all tasks set by the teacher.

School lunches

Please continue to wash down and empty packed lunch boxes daily, again to reduce risk of cross contamination between home and school. A reusable/disposable paper bag is the best thing to use. Plastic bags are not good for the environment and are potentially a hazard in school.

Opening up again....

Thankfully, we have been able to start allowing visitors and support agencies back into school in a measured and risk assessed manner:

- ❖ P1-4 have enjoyed music and singing from the Youth Music tutor and will take part in a citywide song about Planet Earth as part of the Cop26 activities...I am sure they will give you a rendition at home, if you ask!
- ❖ P1s will start a Determined to Dance block this week so watch out for some new moves...Strictly here we come!
- ❖ The whole school participated in the Great Scottish Run with laps of the pitch becoming a regular feature to chalk up those miles and raise fitness levels.
- ❖ Lost Woods project – a group of children from across the school will visit Cathkin Braes this week to take part in planting activities.
- ❖ Cop 26 – each class has displayed its pledge for Cop 26 and there has been a big focus this term (to continue into Term 2) on sustainability and looking after our world.
- ❖ Photographer will visit on 17th and 18th November and more details to follow
- ❖ Bonnie the seal is making a visit for P1s to continue the ‘caring for our environment’ message, on Thursday October 7th.
- ❖ Vision screening for P1 on 26th October
- ❖ The Business Digital teacher from St Andrew’s secondary will visit our P7s on Friday October 29th as part of transition.
- ❖ P7s will start a Bridges and Barriers 4 weeks programme from Active schools on Monday 3rd November.
- ❖ The Dog’s Trust will visit P3, 3/2 and P4s on Monday November 3rd too.
- ❖ Flu vaccinations in school on 10th November.
- ❖ Students are starting back in schools over the coming months.
- ❖ Barnardos and Lifelink counselling have returned to start work with our children and families.
- ❖ JRSO training has taken place for two new P6s who will be our Junior Road Safety officers and there is an important campaign for no zig zag parking! Please stop dropping off at the school gate.
- ❖ Hurling will start soon as an afterschool club.
- ❖ Tooth varnishing will also occur in Term2 and a date is to be confirmed.

Church matters

We welcomed Fr. Francis last week in school to discuss getting the children back to Mass. The aim is to take two classes at a time to 9.30am Mass on Tuesdays/Thursdays from Term 2. We will advise you of dates for your child’s class visit, nearer the time.

This month is dedicated to Our Lady, the Blessed Virgin Mary. The children will continue to learn about the Rosary, its meaning and support to us in prayer.



Congratulations to Fr. Francis Okereke also on his Silver Jubilee of 25 years

Twitter

Please follow us on Twitter. There will be a ‘Tweet of the Week’ from each class and any other notable events at Our Lady of Peace.

Family Learning

Mr Zeb (acting Principal Teacher) has had a great response to the questionnaire on developing Family Learning opportunities at Our Lady of Peace, thank you. In particular, families at P1, P4 and P6 responded in good numbers and parents offered responses at every stage, i.e. from P1-7. Your feedback is highly valued and will be used to help us move forward on what to provide and how we can do this safely. As much as I am tempted, I am afraid we are unable to provide wine tasting!

Xpressions app

Please see attached the information on downloading the Xpressions app. If we can get enough parents to engage with this it will save a lot of paper and printing/copying costs to the school. If you require any support with it please email the school (gw17olopoffice@glow.ea.glasgow.sch.uk)

Late coming and Early pick up

Our late coming levels have been improving and this is much appreciated. It supports the smooth running of the school and cuts out disruptions at the main, front door and to teaching and learning. It is important that a child arrives for school on time and enters via the main gate to join the line and starts the school day as part of his/her class. Good timekeeping is something we would want to instil in the children.

Your child should only be picked up before 3pm at the office area if he/she has an appointment or there is an emergency/extenuating circumstance.

Covid careful- Entry and exit reminders

- ❖ Please socially distance and advice is to wear a mask at the drop off and pick up times.
- ❖ The parents/carers of P1a, P1b, P2, P3/2 and P3 classes only, will be allowed to wait in the playground at the designated areas. I ask that you remain in the designated area and keep 1 metre apart.
- ❖ It is very important that once your child has been collected, that you leave the playground and school gate areas, as quickly as possible.
- ❖ Only one adult/young person should collect a child to reduce congestion in and around the school.
- ❖ Please avoid speaking to teaching staff at exit time – we are trying to all keep safe and well. Just call for an appointment or to speak with us.
- ❖ For health and safety reasons, younger siblings should remain under the supervision of parents as they wait for the 3pm bell.

Hallowe'en

Plans for any school events in relation to Hallowe'en will be issued after the October week holiday.

Cop 26 pledges and more to follow!

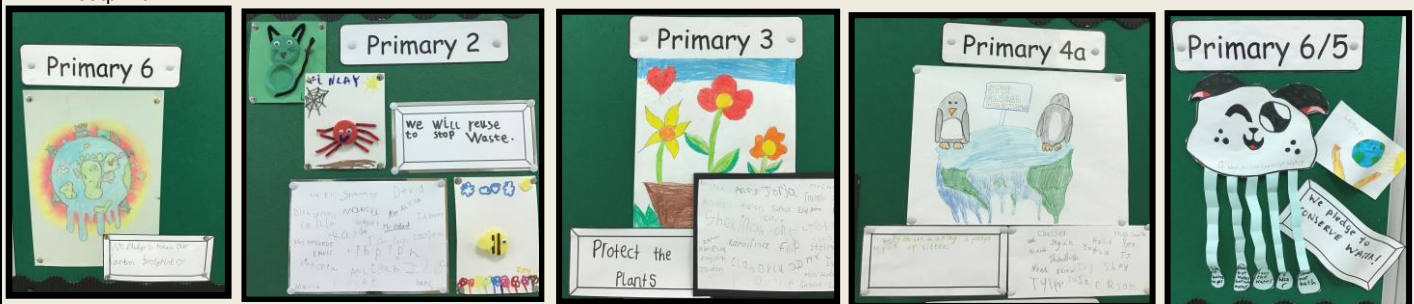
Reduce Carbon footprint.

Let's re-use: Bottle top art!

Plants are so important.

Don't be a Litter Bug!

Save water



Please keep in touch with any questions you may have, big or small!

School closes to pupils on Thursday 7th October and reopens on Monday 18th October.

Take care and have lovely holiday.

Mrs A M McDonald

Headteacher

Email Headteacher@ourladyofpeace-pri.glasgow.sch.uk

Telephone 0141 773 0550

Safe

Ready

Respectful