

# Biggar Primary and Nursery Class



# This is Biggar Primary School!

Believe, Prepare, Succeed!

Respect, Honesty, Fairness,  
Kindness, Ambition, Determination

## August 2017

### August 2017

#### **Tuesday 22nd**

Brass  
P4-7 rugby

#### **Wednesday 23rd**

P5 swimming

#### **Thursday 25<sup>th</sup>**

P5 swimming  
Meet the teacher, 6.30-8.00

#### **Tuesday 29<sup>th</sup>**

Rugby P4-7  
Brass

#### **Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup>**

P5 swimming

#### **Thursday 31<sup>st</sup>**

Meet the teacher, 6.30-8.00

### Welcome!

Welcome to the new school term, session 17/18. I hope everyone was able to enjoy a relaxing summer break despite the fact that the sun didn't shine too often!

Staff and pupils have returned with renewed energy to embrace the opportunities and challenges of another session.

### Staff Allocation

#### School

During the holidays South Lanarkshire Council personnel department continued with their recruitment and deployment of cover which has resulted in a few changes to the last communication I had provided in the June newsletter. The main change is that we have retained Miss Stonebanks as a member of staff and she will be teaching P3. Mrs Harper has been redeployed to share the role of providing class contact cover time with Mrs Pilpel.

#### Nursery

There will also be quite a few new faces to get to know in the nursery as a result of staffing required to allow us to be phase 1 of the 1140 hours.

We welcome three temporary members of staff who will be with us until the jobs are filled on a permanent basis.

- Jill Carswell
- Wendy Bryson
- Sarah Hutchings
- Debra White

#### Support Team

We would also like to welcome to our support team

- Elly Newbold- Mon, Tue and Friday mornings
- Gail Ramsay- Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday & Friday
- Stacey Roberts- Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday

## Staffing and PE Days

<b>Class</b>	<b>Teacher</b>		<b>PE Days</b>
Nursery	Mrs Donald Mrs Brown-team leader Jill Goldie Tracy Hicks Debra White Jill Carswell Wendy Bryson	Increasing termly to maximum of 53	Daily
P1	Mrs Ellwood	24	Tuesday & Thursday
P2	Mrs McCaffery	28	Wednesday & Friday
P3	Miss Stonebanks	27	Monday & Wednesday
P3/4	Miss Cromie	24	Thursday & Friday
P4	Miss Fraser	32	Wednesday & Friday
P5	Mrs McQuoney	32	Wednesday & Thursday
P6	Mrs McLelland	28	Monday & Thursday
P6/7	Miss Galloway	22	Monday & Tuesday
P7	Miss Dowie	21	Tuesday & Friday
CCR	Mrs Pilpel ( Mon,Tue & Wed) & Mrs Harper (Tue,Wed&Thu)		
Area cover teacher for Clydesdale	Sinead Lavery ( Mon & Tue) Rachel Shilliday ( Thur & Fri)		

## New families

We welcomed 24 primary 1's this session and they have settled well even although it has only been a few days.

Ten new families have joined Biggar Primary over the summer break. Logan Botha, Lucas Botha, Finnian Pollock, Ellie Houston, Ashton Millar, Isla McNicol, Lara McNicol, Harrison Sutton, Mitchell Taylor, Logan Taylor, Lewis McMunn, Orla Cuthbert and Erin Haynes. We hope they and their families enjoy being part of the Biggar Primary School community.

## Parent Forum →Parent Council

All Parents are members of the Parent Forum. All members of the Parent Forum are eligible to join the Parent Council. The first meeting of the Parent Council will take place in the school on Monday 11<sup>th</sup> September at 7:00pm.

## P5 Swimming

Swimming lessons start on Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> August for 12 weeks and a letter has been issued with additional details. The children in P5 look forward to this activity. Swimming skills are very important and the experience encourages independence as well as providing the opportunity for promoting skills with their peer group.

## Rugby Sessions

Our active schools coordinator and Biggar Rugby Club have organised a four week block of taster sessions of rugby to take place for P4-P7. Sessions for p1-3 will be offered later in the session.

## Diaries

The school diary for session 17-18 has undergone some minor changes and staff will focus on the diaries as part of 'Meet the Teacher evening' but please find some notes in the interim.

- Pupils are required to bring their diary to school daily and to take pride in them.
- Parents are encouraged to use the diaries as a mode of communication (notes and comments section at the start of every week) and to sign them on a Thursday evening (dedicated section at the end of each week)
- Behaviour will still be communicated between school and home on a daily basis using our assertive discipline code. A green square for excellent behaviour, amber for a warning and red for consistent misdemeanours or a serious incident.
- Pages 98-100 detail our school charter. The citizenship committee worked very hard to devise this charter in line with the UNCRC. Your child has signed the charter and made a promise to adhere to our Biggar Bees.

## Uniform

There has been extensive research carried out nationally which links school uniform to attainment and achievement. It is also important within the life of the school to promote a strong sense of identity, pride and equality.

As the session starts I would like to take this opportunity to highlight school policy and appeal for parental support.

**School-**The core uniform is the blue school sweatshirt and a white polo shirt.

The preferable base colour for skirts and trousers is grey.

Black shoes are preferred for footwear.

**Black jumpers and cardigans are associated with Biggar High School.**

We also request that all children change into indoor shoes on arrival at school.

Please..please...please make sure that your child's name is marked on their nursery or school clothing- in particular sweatshirts and polo shirts.

Jewellery worn at school can be a health and safety issue and we would ask that this is taken into consideration. All children will be asked to remove items of jewellery for PE lessons.

## Travelling to school

If children are being dropped off/picked up at school this should be carried out from Station Road/Market Road. Parking is available in various locations at the top of Market Road in close proximity to the school.

If children are travelling by bus they will be escorted to and from the bus bay by janitor/support staff.

The crossing pad outside the main entrance to the school should be used as the crossing point as this increases visibility.

The safe route should also be used and this is detailed on the last page of the school diary.

If children are not accompanied by an adult they will be directed to exit via Market Road and up onto High Street using the safe route.

## Reminders

- In order to ensure the best security all parents are requested to report to the main office before entering the school building.
- In order to minimise confusion regarding finances all parents are requested to send all monies to the class teacher and not to the main office.
- Yesterday some children arrived at school as early as 8.10am in the morning. Please note that playground supervision is only available from 8.40am onwards.

- **Nut Free Zone**

Please note that Biggar Primary and Nursery are nut free zones. It is essential to be vigilant with regard nuts as we have several children who are anaphylactic and nuts are fatal if they come into contact with them. Last session we had cause for concern as some children brought Nutella sandwiches to school.

## Returns

Last week an envelope was sent home with consent forms and emergency contact details. It is very important for the health and safety of your child that the school is fully informed and has current information. Please consider your named emergency contact carefully and ensure that these are kept up-to-date throughout the school year.

Please return completed information forms by Wednesday 23rd August.

## **Invitation to all Parents of Biggar Primary School :- Thursday 31st August 6.30pm**

All parents are invited to an information evening at Biggar Primary on 31/8/17.

The purpose of the evening is two fold:

- to present the improvement plan priorities for the session 17/18
- to provide you with the opportunity to meet your child/children's new teacher and learn more about the curriculum, ethos and expectations.

We are looking forward to welcoming as many parents to this event as possible.

Please return the attached tear off slip prior to this meeting.

Please note that the nursery team will be hosting separate open mornings and afternoons. Further details to follow.

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### **Information Evening on Thursday 31st August 2017 at 6.30pm**

I will be able to attend.

Sorry, I will be unable to attend

**Family Name:**

**Signature:**

**Class**

