



DIGITAL SCHOOLS
AWARDS SCOTLAND

Milton Primary School

Our School Vision: To ensure every child achieves their full potential in a safe, kind, exciting and encouraging environment.

August Newsletter

Session 2023/2024

Tel:-01555 894282

www.milton-pri.s-lanark.sch.uk



@miltonslc

A warm welcome to all our Milton families. We are delighted to have our new and returning pupils back after the Summer break and enjoying time in their new classes and having lots of fun at playtimes in the playground.

Our monthly newsletter will be emailed to families but our August edition is substantially larger with important dates and information which I hope you will find helpful as a hard copy. Our website and twitter (X) are regularly updated and a copy of all newsletters can also be found on our website as well as information from our Parent Council under the Parent Area tab. Details on how to join our twitter (X) feed are shown overleaf.

All our boys and girls have quickly settled back into our school routines and have been showing beautiful 'Milton Manners' to everyone in school. Our new Primary 1 boys and girls have had a super first few days back at school and the Primary 7 buddies have been absolute stars in supporting them in various tasks throughout the day.

The pupils look very smart in their school uniform and I would ask for the continued support from our families to ensure that children come to school wearing the correct school uniform (including appropriate gym kit). More information regarding uniform can be found later in this newsletter.

As always, I will continue to be in and out of classes regularly to monitor and observe ongoing work, attainment and behaviour and look forward to working in partnership with you all again this session.

Lorna James
Head Teacher

Our Aims and Values

- * To ensure all pupils are nurtured, safe, active, healthy, achieving, included, respected and responsible.
- * To promote rights and responsibility and through this, aim for every member of the school community to be treated with equality, fairness and respect.
- * To provide a wide range of opportunities which give the children the capacity to become successful learners, confident individuals, responsible citizens and effective contributors.
- * To improve the achievement and attainment by providing high quality education.

At the Heart of Milton is...



Hard Work
Enthusiasm
Achievement
Respect
Team Work

Letters/Correspondence

We are proud of our welcoming, nurturing ethos and embrace our open door policy - if you have any queries or suggestions please do not hesitate to pop in and have a chat. Alternatively, if you have any queries, an email can be sent to our **office address** - office@milton-pri.s-lanark.sch.uk

All information is generally emailed to families but please also check your child's bag regularly for any letters or important information which may be passed on from your child's class teacher(s).

Milton Vision/Values and Motto

Our Pupil Council in 2021 worked together and surveyed all pupils in order to update our vision which is at the top of our newsletter. All our children are aware of our aims and are working hard to show the **Hard work, Enthusiasm, Achievement, Respect and Team work we share throughout the session.**

Our aim is to teach all our pupils about respect for themselves and others as well as the local environment and community they live in. We are proud to be a Rights Respecting School (RRS) and throughout Milton continue to use the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) in order to ensure these are included in the curriculum. All classes are currently busy working on their own class charter and will be reminded of our own school charter: -

* We have the right to learn (Article 28) and be safe (Article 19) and show respect by doing as we are asked to let others learn and be safe.

* All staff will respect our rights by teaching us and keeping us safe.

In addition, our class Making Rights Real education over the coming weeks will focus on our own motto:

'Learn from the past, plan for the future, focus on today.'

Free Meal Entitlement and Clothing Grant Support

Applications for the above can be made online at www.southlanarkshire.gov.uk or telephone 0303 123 1011. As part of the Scottish Government's initiative, all P1-5 children are entitled to Free School Meals this does not include milk which can be ordered via ParentPay at the cost of 20p. If your circumstances entitle you to any of the above benefits it is important you still apply for these each year as this would also cover the cost of milk each day.

Labels on Clothing/ Lost Property

Please remember to label all pieces of clothing. We have a growing collection of pre and post Summer clothes including jackets, jumpers and cardigans in our lost property box.

Annual Data Check

Annual data check forms, permissions letters for educational excursions, responsible internet use and photography permissions have all been distributed via pupil post. It is vital to have the correct details in school and I would ask for your support in alerting the school office as soon as possible if any details change over the coming session.

ParentPay and ParentsPortal

This session we will continue to be a fully cashless school for trips, lunches and events. New pupils will soon receive their activation letters for ParentPay. ParentPay allows families to pay for school meals, milk, educational excursions and school uniform. We urge any parent who has not already signed up to ParentPay to activate this as soon as possible. If you are having any difficulty in doing this, please phone our school office and Mrs Smith will be happy to assist you in this matter. We will be using ParentsPortal for upcoming correspondence, parents' evening booking appointments and pupil reports. More information about how to access ParentsPortal will be coming to all families shortly. There will also be drop in sessions to help families set up their ParentsPortal account.

Although there are times we send letters via pupil post, the majority of communication will come via email. This will be via the email address provided for ParentPay. If you require a paper copy of newsletters or any consent letters, please contact the school office who will be able to help.

Parent Council

We are lucky to have an active and supportive Parent Council who run various events throughout the session raising valuable funds, which the school uses to benefit all pupils. Our Parent Council meet in our school café on a Monday evening at 7pm - dates of meetings are posted on our school website under the Parent Area section. A warm welcome awaits any new or returning members. Our AGM will take place on Monday 19th September. Details and agenda will be posted on our website prior to the meeting. All welcome!

Mobile Phones

Technology is a wonderful thing and in emergencies on the way to or from school children may need to have the means of contacting help. We do not wish to impose an outright ban on bringing mobile phones to school but I ask that the following guidance is adhered to.

During the school day contact with children or their parents will be via the school office (01555 894282). The school will act as a link between home and school in cases where contact has to be made

Emergency contact numbers should be updated immediately if there are any changes throughout the year. All phones should be **switched off** and kept in bags during the school day or can be kept in the school office and picked up at 3 O'clock. Any phones brought to school will remain the responsibility of the individual.

Permission to take photographs or film children is sought by the school throughout the year as we cannot contravene guidelines on this issue. **Using mobile phones to photograph/film children or staff without their knowledge will be referred to Education Resources or other appropriate agencies.**

These measures are in place to ensure the safety of all within our establishment.

Absences

As a school, we have a legal obligation to ensure we know where all pupils are each day. If your child is going to be absent, **please report all absences to the school before 9.00am**. There is a large proportion of valuable support for learning time lost in the morning in order for staff to phone families of children who are absent. Please help to ensure that absences are reported via phone or email to our school office address. Messages can also be left overnight on our answering machine and will be picked up by staff in the morning. This is an area that requires improvement within Milton and we wish to work alongside families to ensure any barriers to getting to school are supported. Unless in exceptional circumstances, any holidays taken during the school term will be deemed unauthorised by South Lanarkshire Council. Contact details **MUST** be kept up to date and any changes sent to school in case of emergencies.

Uniform

We ask all parents/carers to support the school by encouraging your child(ren) to adhere to the agreed dress code and the wearing of our school uniform. The wearing of a school uniform helps promote the identity of the school in the local community and helps create an ethos of sharing and pride in the school. Our School uniform is:-

Jumper, cardigan or sweatshirt - red
Trousers - black or grey
Blouse, shirt or polo shirt - white

PE Kit:

White t-shirt (preferably plain, without logos)
Black shorts
Black leggings or joggers
No jewellery - if earrings cannot be taken out, they must be taped. No hoop earrings.
Suitable training shoes - no outdoor trainers

Please ensure all items of clothing are labelled with your child's name. We have many new and pre-loved items of uniform in our school bubble. If you require any items please drop in or send an email to the office and we can put these in school bags for you. There are also opportunities throughout the session for uniform picks ups.

Water & Healthy Snack/ Nut Free School

As a Gold Standard Health Promoting School, we are continuing to promote healthy living and healthy snacks at break times. Please remember to ensure your child has a labelled water bottle with them each day to drink in class (**plain water only**). Our water fountains are accessible on each floor and children can fill their water bottle throughout the day as required. **We are a nut-free school and have a number of pupils with severe allergies. Please do not send any snacks with nuts including Nutella and Bueno treats.**

Sharing our Learning

Throughout the session we will share our learning in a variety of ways including class assemblies, snapshot jotters, come and see events and bingo ball conversations. We look forward to telling you more about these events as the session progresses.

Promoting Positive Relationships Position

Statement

In Milton Primary School, all of our pupils strive to be the best they can be. Following on from consultation of parents, pupils and staff last session, we introduced a new Promoting Positive Relationships Policy which has worked well. It was evaluated by pupils in June who said they were happy with what was in place and didn't want to make any changes. Our Traffic Light Time is pupil directed and chosen by the class each month which celebrates the good behaviour shown in Milton Primary. Traffic Light Time includes a variety of fun team building exercises, outdoor learning and skill based activities. Our Policy can be accessed from our website on the About Us tab - Publications and Policies. Adults supervising in the playground will continue to reward positive play, good friendships and team work with our Milton smile tokens. For every 5 tokens awarded, pupils will receive a playground certificate and small pencil and certificate from the supervising adults.



Chaplaincy Team

The Education (Scotland) Act 1980 states that there is a statutory obligation on local authorities to provide religious observance and religious education in schools. Religious and moral education is a statutory core subject for all pupils attending primary and secondary education, and it is their entitlement to have this taught in a meaningful and progressive way. This session we are pleased to welcome our Chaplaincy team to support in the development of all curricular content. The chaplain's key function is to assist the establishment in the delivery of religious Under the terms of the Education (Scotland) Act 1980, parents/carers have the right to ask for their children to be withdrawn from religious observance and should notify the school office should this be required. Our Chaplaincy team this session consists of;

Rev Morag Garrett - Lesmahagow Parish
Callum Keys - Clydesdale Christian Youth Trust

Taxi/Bus Transport Arrangements

A register for any child on taxi or bus transport will be taken each morning. Children who use school transport will exit via the front office entrance door. A member of staff will again take a register and ensure all pupils are on the correct buses. Primary 1 and 2 pupils will have an older bus buddy to escort them to the entrance. If for any reason your child will be picked up instead of on the bus/taxi - please phone the school ASAP to ensure we know of any changes.

Home Lunch/End of Day/Parking Arrangements

Any pupil having a home lunch must be collected from the front office by an adult waiting outside at 12.15. When returning from a home lunch, children must enter the front office entrance and sanitise their hands before going into the playground.

At home time the School car park gates will be closed when the car park is full. Mr Mitchell will be at the gates to advise if the car park is full and there are no spaces at that time. The car park turning circle **MUST be kept clear** to allow emergency access and staff to attend meetings/courses. You will be asked to move into a designated bay if you are parked on the turning circle and I would ask for your cooperation in this matter as the carpark was becoming increasingly dangerous at times last session.

The drop off zone in the morning is a **drop off zone only** and will be used by school transport vehicles at the end of the school day. The two designated blue badge spaces require access for badge holders at all times. There is no stopping/parking in the bus bays outside the school. Council signage can be found on the posts at these areas - this is a legal requirement and not a school request.

Legacy Garden

Our legacy garden will continue to be cared for and maintained by the House and Vice Captains this year. We are delighted to accept any donations of plants, seeds, bulbs or soil/compost to continue to develop our garden which will be enjoyed by all classes as part of our outdoor learning activities.

X - formerly Twitter @miltonslc

We use our X - Twitter account to share information of what is going on in classes, reminders of assemblies, trips, special school lunches etc. as well as showing photographs of events that are ongoing throughout our school session. We will also use it to keep in touch with families of days of inclement weather or possible closures etc. In line with Council policy, the X - Twitter account will be private and friend requests will need to be approved by myself, Mrs Prentice or Mrs Bunten. Following advice from South Lanarkshire Council, we need to seek permission from parents/carers to share photographs of pupils. These will mainly be group or class photographs showing activities, excursions or sporting events. Please be assured that only family and friends of Milton Primary School will be able to see our 'Tweets'. Please note we will be unable to reply to anything posted on twitter.

We are receiving more followers for our twitter account @miltonslc every day, which is fantastic. However, in order to verify the authenticity of your account due to an unknown twitter name we ask that you please email your twitter handle and full name to theict@milton-pri.s-lanark.sch.uk account which will allow us to approve your account. For example - @miltonslc Lorna James. Please note we will not be able to directly reply to tweets.

After School/Lunch Clubs

We have a number of lunch time and after school clubs which run at various times throughout session which will resume soon. We are very grateful to the staff and parent volunteers who run the clubs and are always looking to expand the opportunities for extra-curricular activities wherever possible. If you would be interested in helping with a club - even for a short time - please let us know.

Wet Weather

In the event of wet weather at break or lunchtimes, all pupils will remain in their classes and have their snack with their friends, supervised by staff. If the rain is light, all pupils will be out in order to get fresh air and time to play outside. Please ensure your child has appropriate clothing/footwear for this. A change of clothing - socks or shoes etc. can be left in school should you wish. Please ensure you child has a jacket that they can put on in the playground if the weather changes suddenly and the rain starts - which let's be honest, happens a lot!!



Dates for your Diary

Each month a newsletter will be issued, this will list dates for the diary for the coming month. We endeavour to give as much notice as possible as we are very aware of work commitments and other pressures which can occur. There are unfortunately times where notice is shorter - this may be due to last minute deals that the school has been given as a 'one off' special price or if there are events organised by various committees throughout the year. Mistakes do happen (although we try our very best that they don't!) if there is any discrepancy in timing that you may notice from newsletters or class letters, please let us know and we can rectify this ASAP. We do try to keep in mind the commitments parents/carers have and always try our best to keep our school community informed via pupil post, website, newsletters and X (twitter).

Dates for your Diary - August/September

Tues 29th - Bikeability, Level 1 - Primary 5 (all day - more info will be sent to P5 families).

Wed 30th - Fri 1st Sept - 50p iced biscuit sale at break time (to raise funds for playground games and resources)

Tues 5th Sept - House and Vice Captain Election

Wed 6th - ParentsPortal drop in session 1 (9-3.30)

Tues 5th, Wed 6th, Thurs 7th - Bikeability, Level 2 - Primary 6 (more info will be sent to P6 families).

Mon 18th - Parent Council 7pm in school

Fri 22nd - Mon 25th - September weekend holiday