

Udston Primary School

August Newsletter

NEW

New Newsletter Format!

You may have noticed that we have updated the format of our School Newsletter! Once we have all Photograph Permission Forms returned, we will be in a position to include photographs in our Newsletters to share visuals of what is going on in our classes and the wider school.

Please remember to follow us on Twitter:

@udston_primary



Please also download **School App for Parents** and select 'Udston Primary School'. This is our main form of communication.

Welcome Back!

A very warm welcome back to all families - we are delighted to have our children back in school! They are settling in well to their new classrooms and enjoying building positive relationships with the adults and their classmates. Everyone is looking extremely smart in their uniform, the children really are a credit to themselves and their families.

The last couple of years have been testing times for everyone but we remain hopeful that this year will see less disruption to school life. We will continue to follow the mitigations in place, outlined in the letter shared via our School App on 13th August, to keep everyone safe, whilst also enjoying more aspects of 'normal' school life. We must continue to work together as a school community to keep each other safe and limit the spread of the virus. The letter shared with families via our School App also outlined the arrangements for Term 1 in terms of Entrance & Exit Gates, the need for adults to wear face coverings at the school gates and a reminder that only one adult should be present at drop-off and pick-up times.



Important – ParentPay

Please note, ALL school letters will now be sent via ParentPay to families. It is therefore really important that you have access to ParentPay. If you have misplaced your login details, or need some help with how to access this, please email our School Office gw14udstonpsoffice@glow.sch.uk.



Calendar Dates

We are currently in the process of reviewing our Annual School Calendar to ensure it is as diverse and inclusive as possible. In the meantime, please note the following calendar dates below:

September

Monday 20th
Thursday 23rd

Parent Council AGM at 6.30pm
Sponsored Fun Day
(more details to follow)
September Weekend

Fri 24th & Mon 27th

October

Mon 11th – Fri 15th October Break



Well Done, Primary 1!

We are incredibly proud of how well our new Primary 1 pupils have settled into school life at Udston. We have been sharing photographs via our new @UdstonP1s Twitter Page which has been set up exclusively for parents/carers of P1 children. It has been lovely getting to know our wonderful new children and observing them as they get to know one another! Don't they all look smart in their school uniforms?



Buddy Time

Our Primary 6 children have had the opportunity to meet with their Primary 1 Buddies outside in the playground for some Paired Reading. Our P6s have been extremely enthusiastic about their role as a Buddy and they are working hard to build trusting and nurturing relationships with our new P1 pupils. There are more 'Buddy Time' activities planned over the coming weeks.

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Participatory Budget – Parent/Carer Volunteers Required!

A letter was sent out to families via ParentPay asking for parent/carers to become part of a new Participatory Budget Working Group. This group will work closely with the school to help identify innovative ways of spending 5% of our Pupil Equity Funding which is used to close the poverty-related attainment gap. Anyone interested in joining this group should contact the school as soon as possible.



Promoting Positive Relationships: Guidance for Families

On 24th August, we shared our updated Promoting Positive Behaviour Guidance for Families on our School App. This is based on the principles of Attachment Theory and The Solihull Approach. The guidance document outlines our 'On Track/Off Track' system for managing behaviour and the introduction of 'Reflection Time', a short restorative and solution-focused activity, for anyone whose behaviour is 'Off Track'. We will continue to encourage and recognise positive behaviours by celebrating pupils/classes who demonstrate a commitment to our School Values. Our previous 'weekly certificates' will no longer be used, instead we will be aiming to recognise more pupils over the course of the year through a new 'Values in Action' approach and 'Celebrating Success Ceremony'. More information regarding this will be shared with families soon.

We would be grateful if all families could familiarise themselves with the Promoting Positive Relationships Guidance to ensure consistency and to enable us to work together.



Liaison Time

We are extremely lucky at Udston to have a brilliant team of teaching and support staff who work really hard to ensure the best possible outcomes for our children. To enable class teachers and support staff to work together as effectively as possible, we have introduced 30 minutes of 'Liaison Time' per week where the teacher and support staff member meet to discuss the learning focuses for the week ahead. During this time, a member of SLT or the CCC teacher goes into class to deliver a lesson on one of our School Values. This week, we have been focusing on 'Trust', what this means and what it looks like in action. We have asked pupils to become 'Trust Detectives' and try to notice examples of 'Trust' at home and in school. Please chat to your child about this as it really helps reinforce the importance of our School Values. Thank you!

HOMeWORK

Homework Programme

Our Homework Programme will start week beginning 6th September. More information regarding this will be shared with families soon. Class teachers will also be sharing new passwords for Glow and the code for children's new Google Classroom shortly.



Play-Based Learning Development

This session, our Primary 1 staff team are working together to carefully plan and embed more opportunities for play-based learning within our infant classrooms. Using Education Scotland's 'Realising the Ambition' Guidance, the team are meeting to review the research, develop new planning approaches and resources. Over the coming weeks, we will be sharing our Rationale and Shared Understanding of the Value of Play with our P1 families.

Watch this space!



Talk for Writing

Talk for Writing Implementation

In September, we will be implementing the Talk for Writing Programme across the school. All staff have now received training and our Leadership Group have worked hard to create planning materials to support the delivery of this new programme. Over the coming weeks we will share more information with families about the Talk for Writing programme and ways to support your child at home.



School Improvement Plan and Standards & Quality Report

A summary of our School Improvement Plan Priorities and Key Actions will be shared with families shortly. The full version of our School Improvement Plan and Standards & Quality Report can be found on our school website www.udston-pri.s-Lanark.sch.uk for anyone wishing to read these.



School Reminders

- ✓ Please remember to provide your child with a bottle of plain drinking water each day. This should be big enough to last them the whole day. Unlimited water is also available in the Dining Hall.
- ✓ As a Health Promoting School, please ensure your child brings a **healthy snack** to school.
- ✓ Children can come to school wearing their full P.E. kit on their allocated P.E. days - plain shorts/jogging bottoms/sports leggings (navy, grey or royal blue - no geometric prints), plain white or royal blue t-shirt or polo shirt & suitable outdoor trainers (Velcro for our infant pupils) & waterproof jacket.
- ✓ Please ensure your child's belongings are clearly labelled with their full name.

Thank you!