

Dear Team Carstairs Families

I apologise in advance - I started these updates in email format in a bid to cut down in the amount of information for you to read in the weekly newsletter - but this update has ended up longer than I'd hoped.....it *should* bring you right up to date though! 😊

Parent Partnership Praise

It has been another busy few weeks, here at Team Carstairs HQ. On Monday 6 November, we held our most recent Parent Partnership meeting, which included finalising plans for the first ever Winter Fundraiser and getting the ball rolling with planning for our Christmas Extravaganza 2023! 🎉

Our Parent Partnership's Winter Fundraiser has since been and gone, with this taking place, hugely successfully, last Saturday morning. The morning raised the **tremendous total of £684** and this is a testament to the hard work of all involved in organising and running the event, and also to the brilliant support shown by our local community. **Huge thanks go to all involved for the amazing total, but also for the lovely, warm, community spirited atmosphere achieved.** Thank you to all who contributed to this great success. ✨

Recent Classroom Visits

Week beginning 06 November saw the beginning of my most recent batch of **formal class visits**, looking closely at the quality of teaching and learning in all classes, and this has continued into this week. What a pleasure these visits have been. Our staff are continuing to work extremely hard to provide strong levels of **challenge and support**, as needed, within a wide variety of **engaging lessons**, across the curriculum. The **engagement levels observed have been very high** indeed, along with **high levels of motivation** and **huge doses of effort** – both from pupils and staff! Well done to all – and keep up the great work! ❤️

After School Clubs – Term 2

Owing to unforeseen circumstances, unfortunately, we had to cancel our P1 multi-sports club, which was scheduled for Monday 06 and Monday 20 November. We apologise for any inconvenience. **After school clubs are now on hold for the remainder of the term**, but the diary for these is filling up nicely for term 3 and we look forward to sharing a robust after school clubs package for term 3.

Play Pedagogy

This week Mrs Casserly completed the final morning of a batch of training on **Play Pedagogy** (Play Based Learning) and both she and Mrs Hardie are doing a superb job of rolling out all of the strategies and ideas shared by **Strathclyde University** around this approach to learning. The **impact of the professional learning** undertaken both by **Mrs Casserly and Mrs Hardie** can be seen very clearly in our Base 1 class and we are **very pleased with our school's progress in this area**, which is a target on our school improvement plan this session. Well done Mrs Casserly and Mrs Hardie – keep doing us proud! 😊

P5 Victorians Assembly

A huge well done to P5 for delivering their **Victorians assembly** to an audience of family members and all other classes, on Wednesday of this week. Our P5's did a very professional job of sharing key knowledge and understanding about **Victorian Childhood**, using **expressive arts** – and a 'trip' to the Museum of Victorian Childhood - as a vehicle to help others learn. **Well done to P5 and to Mrs Hunter.** Great job. ☆

Anti- Bullying

Today's assembly focused on the theme of **Anti-Bullying** and driving home the message that **bullying in any form is not acceptable**. Yan, one of our P3 pupils, said that to help speak up against bullying he would say – **be a FRIEND**. And Lyra, one of our P1 pupils, shared in assembly that to speak up against bullying, she would say **STOP** 🛑. *Excellent* answers from such young children – very impressive, and showing clear understanding of the messages given.

Our children were again encouraged to be always **be UPSTANDERS** and **never BYSTANDERS**. Our children talked about **having courage** and **believing in yourself** as important qualities in the quest to ensure that *anti-bullying* is upheld. Children were encouraged to recognise and *stand up against bullying* – to be **anti**-bullying - in all walks of life, and in all places, they spend time, both in person and online. Well done to our children for listening so well – and for the great, reflective and sensible answers shared in assembly. 💖

Christmas is Coming

Our next big push for the term, is to get everything ready and sparkling brightly for our **Christmas Extravaganza!** This is set to take place at **9.45 on Thursday 14 December**, with P1-3 treating us to some lovely Christmas songs to get the ball rolling, followed by our P4-P7 children delivering this year's Christmas show (No-one Wraps Like An Elf). A letter detailing all of our plans and requests for this will be shared **very soon – please watch out for 'Team Carstairs Christmas' information landing in your inbox**, which will have details of requests for support from you, as well as the lowdown on how to get the hottest tickets in town! 😊

A wee reminder, that if you happen to be Christmas shopping online, we would love it if you made use of Easyfundraising (www.easyfundraising.org.uk) to support our cause (Carstairs Primary School). Money is donated to our school through your purchases! Every little really helps us.

December Dates

Tuesday 21 November – 4.00 – 5.00 – P7 PE session at Lanark Grammar

Thursday 23 November – 9.30 – P6 Carstairs Connect – we look forward to welcoming P6 parents

Friday 25 November – Flu Immunisation Day

Wednesday 13 December – 9.45 - Christmas Show Dress Rehearsal

Thursday 14 December – 9.45 - Christmas Extravaganza – Whole School Event – pupil performances and Parent Partnership stalls

Monday 18 December – 9.30 – Carol Singing & Coffee Morning – School Hall

Tuesday 19 December – PM – P1, P2 and P3 Christmas Party

Wednesday 20 December – PM – P4 and P5 Christmas Party

Thursday 21 December – PM – P6 and P7 Christmas Party

Friday 22 December – **DRESS DOWN DAY** (Christmas jumpers welcome – but entirely optional)

Friday 22 December – 9.15 – Whole School Panto Treat (Hopscotch Theatre Company to our hall)

Friday 22 December – 11.00 – P5 to Beechgrove Care Home to treat residents to some Christmas Carols

Friday 22 December – School closes at 2.30pm for Festive Break

Thank you for your continued support for our school. Have a lovely weekend. 💖

Best wishes

Miss Sneddon, HT