



## Head Teacher Update

7<sup>th</sup> October 2022

Dear Parent / Carer,

As October week is rapidly approaching, I would like to share with you what has been happening in school since my last update two weeks ago.

1. From Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> September, the Pastoral team have been carrying out S1 settling in interviews. The vast majority of pupils should have had their interview by now – however if this is not the case, or if any parent has something to discuss, please do not hesitate to contact your child's pastoral teacher on 0300 300 1331.
2. Week beginning Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> September was Maths week. The Maths team carried out a range of puzzles and activities with classes all week, and it finished with all of our seven associated primary schools coming up on Friday 30<sup>th</sup> of September for a morning of maths fun which included a relay event in the assembly hall.
3. On Friday 30<sup>th</sup> September 2022 we had an unplanned fire alarm. One of the sensors was triggered in the PE dance studio, and despite the janitorial team's best efforts, it continued to trip each time it was reset even though there was no smoke or fire. The individual sensor was eventually deactivated and has since been repaired by the fire alarm company. During the alarm, as the weather was so poor, I made the decision for the pupils to muster in the sports hub. The pupils and staff were outdoors in the rain for approx. 10-15 mins. On return to school, we extended the lunchbreak and set the heating to full. We issued many items of replacement uniform from our recycled uniform stock. We also allowed pupils to change into PE kit. This was a very challenging afternoon for pupils, staff and parents alike and thank you all for your patience and support.
4. S1 and S3 got their photos taken on Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> October. Thanks to all parents and carers for making sure the young people were in full school uniform and looking their best.
5. On Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> October we held a very successful p7 Open Evening. This was the first since 2019 and we received really positive feedback from parents, pupils and the staff in attendance. Over the years the sessions have become increasingly more interactive, and this session we had p7s making metal key rings, playing drums, and taking part in PE endurance challenges.
6. Each week myself and the DHTs meet to discuss a range of areas. Amongst many other things, this week we discussed plans and activities for Halloween, Children in Need and Christmas. The pupils haven't had a 'normal' Christmas in school (i.e. without restrictions) for such a long time and I'm very hopeful we make this one memorable.

7. Miss Smith (RMPS) left Johnstone High School on Friday 7<sup>th</sup> October to take up a new post in the special education sector. It is with great sadness we see her go, but we wish her all the very best as she sets off on a new chapter of her career. (I am interviewing for a RMPS teacher early this week.)
8. Also on Friday, members of staff met with Derek Gall from Cani coaching. We have secured another pupil leadership themed residential course for a small group of junior pupils. This will take place in January 2023. More information will be with pupils very soon.
9. Finally, on Friday morning we had a visit from Cllr Ian MacMillan and our new link education manager, Julie Colquhoun. They had a tour of the school, and both were impressed with the calm and orderly feeling in the school, along with the great work they saw in classes. I received a call from Director Steven Quinn at the end of the school day to congratulate the pupils and staff on a very successful visit.

#### **Forthcoming diary dates:**

- Monday 10<sup>th</sup> October is S4 assessment week.
- There will be a wider achievement assembly for S1 on Tuesday, p1. This is when we will introduce to our newest pupils our 'colours' programme to acknowledge their achievements out of the classroom (both in school and in the community).
- There will be a non-uniform day for the Renfrewshire Foodbank on Friday 14<sup>th</sup>, the usual donation is tinned goods/non-perishables.
- Pupils finish for the holiday at 2.50pm on Friday 14<sup>th</sup>. There is also an in-service day on Monday 24<sup>th</sup>, so pupils resume school at 8.45am (for an 8.50am start) on Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> October.
- On Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> October is S5/6 assessment week.
- School careers week is Mon 31 Oct – Friday 4 November.

With best wishes to you and your family,

*Lynne Hollywood*

Lynne Hollywood, Head Teacher

If you need to contact us, please call 0300 300 1331 and ask to speak to your child's pastoral teacher:

	<b>PASTORAL PT</b>	<b>DEPUTE HEAD TEACHER</b>
ARRAN	Mr Rainey	Mrs O'Malley
IONA	Miss Docherty	Ms Cole
MULL	Miss McFadden (acting)	Mrs Davidson (acting)
SKYE	Mr Kennedy	Ms Price (acting)