

# JAMES GILLESPIE'S PRIMARY SCHOOL

WHITEHOUSE LOAN, EDINBURGH, EH9 1BD

TELEPHONE: 0131 447 1014 FAX: 0131 447 1042

EMAIL: UNICORN@JAMESGILLESPIES-PRI.EDIN.SCH.UK

WEB: WWW.JAMESGILLESPIES-PRI.EDIN.SCH.UK

ANTHEA GRIERSON, HEAD TEACHER



5<sup>th</sup> March 2008

Dear Parent

### **E-mailing of Newsletters**

Over 200 parents have now signed up to receive newsletters by email. We aim to start emailing the newsletters next **Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> March**. If there are any other parents who would like to receive correspondence from the school by email please contact Mr David Santiuste or Mrs Enid Atkinson in the school reception.

### **Smartboards- demonstrations during parent consultations**

Miss Vaughan and Miss Estill will be demonstrating the use of Smart Boards with some of our P7 students during parent consultations tomorrow 6.00-8.00 and Friday 1.00-2.00. Please come along and find out how they work and view some of the programmes which teachers are using.

### **Edinburgh Schools Cross Country Event**

Some of our P6 and P7 pupils took part in this sporting event along with 300 children from other Edinburgh Schools on Monday. They were accompanied by Mr Briggs and Miss Vaughan. The children who took part all made a big effort and I would like to thank them all for representing their school so well. Special congratulations to Rosa Thuemmler in 7B who came second overall in the girls competition. I received an email from the organiser of the event, Beth Walker, saying that the behaviour of our pupils was exemplary and that they were a credit to their school.

### **World Book Day-Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> March 2008**

Every child at JGPS will come home tomorrow with a £1 book token which can be redeemed in part payment for any book or can be exchanged for one of 9 special world book day books at selected bookshops. Please encourage your child to bring a favourite book to school tomorrow to discuss with their class. Children may dress up as a character from a book or wear a "cryptic hat" if they wish. We will be celebrating World Book Day tomorrow with special assemblies in the afternoon.

### **P1 and P7 Dental Inspections**

Parents of P1 and P7 pupils will receive a letter from the community dentist about dental inspections. This is done routinely in all city of Edinburgh schools. The date for our inspection is Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> April.

### **Edinburgh Science Festival- 25<sup>th</sup> March -5<sup>th</sup> April**

A flyer about this event which takes place in the easter Holidays will come home today. Parents can log on to [www.sciencefestival.co.uk/competition](http://www.sciencefestival.co.uk/competition) to receive a free festival guide and enter to a competition to win three ipods or one of 5 faily tickets to Wonderama at the Assembly rooms.

### **P6 Cycle Training – Summer Term**

Our P6 classes will take part in cycle training next term. Qualified trainers will take the sessions but we do need parent help for both the playground and on road training. Any parent who is able to help please contact Mrs Bierman who will be organising the sessions.

#### **P4 Art Show**

P4 parents will be aware already of the special private viewing for our P4 Art Show to which they are invited on either Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> March 4.00-6.00 or Friday 14<sup>th</sup> March 11.00-12.30. Open viewing will be on Friday 14<sup>th</sup> March 1.00-3.00 or Monday 17<sup>th</sup> March 10.00-12.00. Please come along and view the children's work.

#### **Reception**

We hope that with the creation of our new Reception we have made it easier for parents to communicate with the school. Mrs Atkinson and Mr Santiuste are happy to take enquiries from parents between 8.30-9.15 and 2.45-3.30. At other times they can be contacted by telephone or email. Our Business Manager Mr Barraza has changed the intercom on the front door to indicate which button to press for Reception as there has been some confusion. Parents and Visitors will always be dealt with promptly and courteously. To ensure the security of pupils and staff we would ask you to speak into the intercom saying who you are and one of our staff will attend to you. I have asked pupils not to open the front door if they see someone there for their own security and school staff opening the door will direct parents to the Reception. Some parents are coming into the school at the end of the day through one of the side doors and I would ask that all **parents please come through the front door** so that office staff can deal with enquiries and requests. We want to ensure that parents and visitors feel welcome at Gillespie's but also need to ensure the safety of pupils and staff. Our office team have agreed this motto which is adapted from our own school one:

“Fidelis et Fortis”  
*Faithful and Strong*

—  
“Faithful to being courteous, prompt and accurate.  
Strong in our commitment to children and families at Gillespie's”

Yours sincerely

*Anthea Grierson*

Anthea Grierson  
Head Teacher