

JAMES GILLESPIE'S PRIMARY SCHOOL
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ANTHEA GRIERSON, HEAD TEACHER



26th August 2009

Dear Parent

Welcome back to JGPS!

I hope all children and their families have had a restful break and enjoyed some of the sunshine that has been around. The children all seemed excited to be back and I hope the weather stays fair so that they can enjoy our wonderful grounds as much as possible.

A big thank you to all JGPS parents for ensuring that the children have come back well equipped to school with uniform, pencil case and gym kit. Class newsletters will be coming home next week which will give parents more information about programmes of study and individual class timetables. I hope you find these useful.

We are having an Open Session on **Monday 31st August 3.30-4.30**. Please come along and meet your child's teacher, see their classroom and have a look round the school.

SEEMIS Update forms

Coming home with this first newsletter are a number of forms. We are trying to ensure that we use as little paper as possible but there are two important documents that need to be printed separately and signed by parents. The first one is the above SEEMIS form which is a summary of all the information we currently hold about your child at school. **It is vital that we have up-to-date relevant information so please check this form, make any changes/additions then sign the form and return to the school.**

EE2 form

This form goes out to parents every August and is required to take pupils out of school on excursions. Instead of having to complete a form every time we take your child out, one form for the year is sufficient provided that the details on it haven't changed. You will always be informed if your child goes out of school and will be asked to confirm that the details you completed on this yearly EE2 form are still correct. If they are not, for example if your child is on medication, you will need to complete a blank form and return this to school. **Please complete this form and return with your signature as soon as possible.** We will send home a copy of the form together with a blank EE2 for future reference in the next couple of weeks.

Clubs Booklet – September-December 2009

Our new clubs booklet will be up on our website by the weekend. Please have a look at the wide variety of clubs available and if your child is interested in joining one of the them complete one of the club slips and post it in the relevant drawer by **Friday 4th September**. The slips will be given to all pupils by their class teacher and additional copies are available from Reception.

School Lunches

Coming home with this newsletter is a pamphlet describing our new school lunch menu. We hope that children will try the new menu which provides good value for money. Lunch money is collected on a **Thursday for the following week** and cost **£1.75** per day. Please send the money in an envelope with your child's name, class and the days you wish them to have lunch clearly marked on the outside. Alternatively you can pay for the whole term, from **Monday 31st August to Thursday 15th August, 4 days a week Monday-Thursday**. This would cost **£47.25** For parents who pay termly and haven't paid since the start of term please send **£57.75** to school tomorrow to cover the cost of last week. Please note cheques should be made payable to the **City of Edinburgh Council**.

The Scottish Government has introduced a new qualifying benefit for Free School Meals. Families who are in receipt of both **Child Tax Credit and Working Tax Credit** with an annual income of less than £6420 will now qualify for help with meals. Application forms are available from Mr Milne in the office

Swine Flu Update

Coming home with this newsletter is a letter updating parents about Swine Flu. If parents have any doubts about whether or not they or their child may have Swine Flu please telephone the NHS helpline.

Fun and Funds coffee morning

The Fun and Funds group are holding a coffee morning in the P1/P2 playground this Friday from 11.30-12.15 (weather permitting) to welcome new P1 parents - come and meet other parents, and find out more about the Fun and Funds group's activities. P2-P7 parents are also welcome!

Fruit at JGPS for P3-7 pupils

I hope the children have been enjoying the seasonal fruit this week at school. The school has paid for all pupils to receive fruit this week to encourage healthy eating. P1 and 2 pupils receive free fruit from the council. We are able to offer pupils in P3-7 a piece of seasonal fruit every day this term at the cost of £5.00 (£2.50 income support). If you would like your child to receive fruit as a snack at school please complete the form below and return to school in an envelope with the money (cheque preferable) by **Monday 31st August**.

Yours sincerely
Anthea Grierson
Head Teacher

P3-7 Fruit at School

I would like my child _____ (name) Class _____

to receive a fresh piece of fruit every day at school this term. I enclose £5.00/£2.50.

Signature of Parent _____ Date _____