

Parent Information Sheet  
Friday 6th September 2019

**READY**                      **KEY THREE...**                      **SAFE**  
**RESPECTFUL**

**PTA Family Picnic – TONIGHT 6.00-8.00pm**

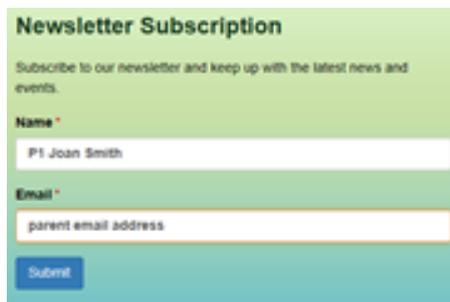
The PTA Family Picnic which had to be postponed in June will run tonight. The weather may be a little cooler than we had hoped but it is to be dry and so we would really encourage you to throw on a fleece and come along and have some fun. There will be a range of entertainment including active sports, football, drumming workshops, face painting and bouncy slide - all free of charge. We would love families to come along with their picnic (Tea and coffee will be available) and simply enjoy what the PTA have organised. It is a lovely way to kick off the year and for families, especially those new to Glencraig, to get to know each other in an informal way. All that is needed now is your support and of course some lovely late summer weather!

**Roof/Dinner Update**

A huge thank you for your patience regarding school dinners. Work was going relatively well if a little behind until the covers were removed from our hall floor to reveal considerable damage to our wooden floor. At the moment the contractors are trying to dry the floor out before assessing the full extent of the damage and what repair work will be required. I am hoping that we will be able to use the hall for dinners and assembly from the week beginning the 16th September. However the hall will not be suitable for PE until repairs have been made and at this point I haven't been given any timescale for that work.

**Friday Note**

Don't forget that the Friday note does not go home in paper copy. It and all the information within it are readily available on our school website and if you have signed up to receive it by email then you can read it on whatever digital device you use to retrieve your emails. If you would like the Friday Note emailed, simply log on to our website [www.glencraigips.co.uk](http://www.glencraigips.co.uk) and on the front page insert your CHILD'S class and name followed by YOUR email address in the appropriate boxes. As in the example below.



The image shows a 'Newsletter Subscription' form with a light green header. Below the header, it says 'Subscribe to our newsletter and keep up with the latest news and events.' There are two input fields: 'Name \*' with the text 'P1 Joan Smith' and 'Email \*' with the text 'parent email address'. A blue 'Submit' button is at the bottom.

**Parent Curriculum Meeting**

Thank you to so many parents who came along on Wednesday night to meet their child's teacher and find out a bit more about what's going on in each of the year groups. It is wonderful to see these meetings so well attended. It was also great to get positive feedback from parents on the work we are planning around behaviour this year. The "Key Three" seemed to strike a chord with many of you and the changes to the Dojo system in P3-P7 which will reward those children who are ready, respectful and safe every day was well received. Hopefully those children who meet our expectation of ready, respectful and safe (of which there are so many!!) will get the recognition they deserve and parents can see this on a daily basis. Parents will also be able to see if their child has not achieved the key three and hopefully support school by following up at home with a conversation about what they can do to achieve all three Dojos the following day.

Please complete and return any permission slips distributed in your packs as soon as possible. Thank you.

**PTA CRYSTAL BALL**

The Crystal Ball to celebrate our 15<sup>th</sup> year as an Integrated school is on Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> October at Clandeboye Lodge. Order forms went out at the end of last year but are also available from reception. This promises to be a great event with



almost hundred tickets already sold so please round up your friends and get your order form in so that you aren't disappointed.

Various businesses have already been in contact to offer their support for the ball, there are many ways to get involved from sponsorship to raffle prizes. Please contact [Juliemccusker@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:Juliemccusker@yahoo.co.uk) if you would like to be part of it or have any contacts that would like to offer their support.

### **School Fund**

In the pack of information sent home at the curriculum meetings was a letter regarding the School Fund voluntary contribution. As the letter explained this is a voluntary donation. In the past we have been very fortunate to have parents who have supported us financially by contributing to School Fund. Thank you so much. The funds that you have donated have helped reduce the impact of the decreasing budget that the school is managing and soften the impact of the cuts that we have had to make. I would therefore ask you to please consider contributing to the school fund. This year.

As in previous years this can be paid in full in September or in instalments and the payment can be made through the online payment system. A text message was sent on Thursday to let you know that the system was live and a similar text will be sent at the start of each term. You can check your online payment account at any time – no need to check with Mrs Jackson if you have already paid!

To those of you who have already made a donation can I say a HUGE THANK YOU - it is much appreciated!!

### **Much Needed Volunteers**

The P1-P3 Healthy Break Scheme is up and running again but Mrs Shaw is short some helpers on a Friday. The break can be prepared at 9.00am straight before or after drop off time. The more volunteers we have the quicker the job. Volunteers do not need to be parents - we have willing grandparents too. If you are interested in becoming involved and want more details, please speak to Mrs Shaw in P2. Help on Fridays would be really appreciated.

### **Punctuality - THANK YOU!**

On behalf of all the staff can I say a big thank you for how smoothly the start of term has gone and in particular how punctual the children have been. You have no idea what a positive difference this makes for the teachers and children in the classrooms. Please keep up this great work!

### **Nearly New Uniform**

If you are interested in purchasing any additional items of uniform at very reasonable prices. Mrs White will be bringing out the uniform rails next again on **Monday 9th September** both first thing in the morning and again at pick up times.

### **RAF Battle of Britain Wings Appeal**

For those of you would like to contribute to this year's Wings Appeal we will be circulating collection boxes next week and there will be a box in the foyer for those that would like to donate. The Wings Appeal helps raise the vital funds needed to support serving and former serving RAF personnel and their families, whenever they are in need. Whether it's

an injured airman fighting to get back onto his feet, a young child missing their parent away on overseas operations or a WWII veteran needing a shoulder to lean on, your donation however small ensures that help can be provided.

### **Other Charity appeals coming up - Action MS Sponsored Walk**

Action MS supports families living with multiple sclerosis in Northern Ireland including families within our own school community. This year we are going to support Action MS by taking part in one of their Walk For MS sponsored events. The whole school P1 to P7 will be taking part in a sponsored walk at Crawfordsburn Country Park on Friday 4th October. We'll keep you posted with lots more information in the lead up to the walk.

### **P7 Parent Reminder**

If your child is in P7 and is intending to sit one of the common entrance tests for our local grammar schools, the closing date for applications is **Friday 6th September** for AQE CEA assessment or **Friday 20th September** for the Post Primary Transfer Consortium GL assessment. Application forms are available through the local grammar schools or from the AQE or PPTC websites. Applying for these tests is solely the responsibility of parents.

### **Traffic**

As you are probably aware the traffic situation outside school requires all of us to show patience and

consideration even on the best of days. Keeping our children safe is our first priority however maintaining good relationships with the residents in the Seahill area and within the community of parents is also something we would encourage. One of the easiest ways to help is to simply arrive that little bit earlier, park a little bit further away and walk down to school so that you don't feel the need to drive as close as you possibly can at those peak times but to :-

- park a little further away from school and make your way the last few hundred meters on foot. We like punctuality but the safety of the children and other road users is more important
- DO NOT use the zig-zag lines as a drop off zone. They are there to provide a safe crossing area for children and parents
- observe a one way system avoiding "U" turns in the middle of the road into the path of oncoming traffic;
- do not reverse into driveways along the Seahill Road in order to do a U Turn as small children are making their way along the footpaths on foot or scooters and they are often difficult to see in your rear mirror
- avoid parking on the corner of Craigdarragh obscuring the view of drivers and breaching Highway Code rule 243 – *you must park 10m from a junction;*
- generally try to be considerate to residents, other road users and above all pedestrians who include our precious children.

We are focussing on keeping safe with our children in school and so it would seem more than appropriate that as adults we all set a good example and help them keep safe on our footpaths and roads.

**Dates to put in your diary...**

<b>Friday 4th Oct</b>	Walk For MS - Sponsored walk
<b>Saturday 5th Oct</b>	PTA Crystal Ball at Clandeboye Hotel
<b>Thurs. 12th Sept.</b>	P5 Swimming starts
<b>Tues. 1st Oct.</b>	P3 Shared Education Programme 19/20 starts
<b>Monday 7th Oct.</b>	SCHOOL CLOSED Staff Development Day
<b>Week beginning 21<sup>st</sup> Oct</b>	P1-P6 Parent/Teacher Interviews
<b>Mon 28<sup>th</sup> Oct – Fri. 1<sup>st</sup> Nov (incl )</b>	Half Term Holiday