

**Update to Parents and Carers**

Hello to All! It has been a very busy term which has seen a number of changes both short and long term.

* We have developed our assessment processes to ensure we make accurate judgements on your children’s progress. This allows us to plan effectively and ensure that children who require extra support receive it, and children that are making good progress are given the opportunities to excel in their learning. Training from the Local Authority has enabled us to carry out school moderation.
* We are looking at the children’s Learning Journey profiles to ensure that the observations, assessments and next steps are linked. We will also be adding in a section for parents to contribute, since you know your children best. Information on how Early Years Pupil Premium and the Disability Access Fund is being used and impacting on your children. New profiles will be trialled in two classes in the summer term. We welcome your input and ideas, ask a member of staff for more information.
* During summer term staff training will be on Maths, Understanding of the World and Phase 2 of Letters and Sounds.
* Leabank 3-4’s have at long last got Astro Turf in their garden!
* Thank you for supporting the Literacy Curriculum Day, staff worked hard over many months to plan an exciting day for you to share with your children. It is a fantastic opportunity to join in with their learning and find out about the Early Years Foundation Stage. We are already planning Curriculum Day for the summer term; the focus will be on Expressive Arts and Design.
* We now have a strong and supportive Governing Body; a number of our new Governors have already visited the school with more planned in the summer term. It is vital we continue to make progress and Governors are an important part of this process. We are very grateful for their time and support.
* Whilst Debbie the Head Teacher is off sick I have had additional support from Joy, Head Teacher of Grasmere Nursery School and Teresa, Business Manager from Rothesay Nursery School. I am very grateful for their ongoing support.
* We have several new members of staff join the Gill Blowers Team;

Hannah has joined our admin team, Emily has joined our SEN support team on the Leabank site, Kelly an Early Years Practitioner has joined the Leabank 3-4 team. We have recruited a new Teacher, Charlotte who will be joining us in September. We also have 3 new apprentices; Kelby, Tia and Aleenia. They are all very welcome additions to the school!

* We will be sorry to say goodbye to Fatheha who is leaving us to take on a new role. We wish her well for the future.
* We have exciting things planned for the Summer term:
* The Living Eggs (duck eggs) will be coming to nursery straight after the Easter Break, please feel free to come in and have a look.
* We are focussing on our outside environment next term, ‘Gill Blowers in Bloom’ will be all about developing our outside environment, to encourage the children’s curiosity. We will be planting and growing our own garden. If you are a keen gardener or would like to be part of our explorations please speak to a member of staff. We would very much welcome your time and involvement. If you would like to donate plants or gardening tools we would also be very grateful.
* Last term Martin the African Drummer visited us, it was a great success which totally enthralled and engaged your children. Martin is due to come in again in the summer term. I have also ordered 20 drums so that we can continue his inspiring work throughout the year.
* We have a trip to Paradise Park booked (more information coming soon).
* We will be taking part in National Safety Week in June; the staff are working hard to plan activities.
* Finally I would like to thank the staff for all their hard work, passion and commitment this term. They are the people along with the children that make Gill Blowers what it is and I am very proud of them.

I hope you have a fun packed Easter break with your children.

Take Care

Jo Iddenden - Deputy Head Teacher