Dear Parents/ Carers
Our pupils are now settled into their routines in their new classes and I'm delighted to welcome our 42 new Primary 1 pupils who have been supported in their routines by our buddies from Primary 7. I'm also very pleased to report that our pupils are looking extremely smart in their Machanhill uniform.
Our School Captains and House Captains have been chosen at our annual vote and will spend the session being excellent ambassadors for the school and promoting our values: Happiness, Achievement, Respect, Knowledge.

School Photographs
The school photographer this session will be Caireen Harvey Photography. She will be in school on Wed 3rd and Thur 4th October to take class and individual photographs. The Parent Council helped us to source a new photographer as several parents had commented that they'd like to change. We welcome feedback from you about the quality of this session’s photographs.

Lockerbie Manor Residential
Our current P7 children have the opportunity to attend a residential trip to Lockerbie Manor for 5 days in March. An information evening has been arranged for parents of our P7 children on Tuesday 28th August at 7pm. If you would like your child to attend the excursion but are unable to attend the meeting please let Mrs Boyle know.

PARENT COUNCIL MEETING
The next Parent Council meeting will take place on Tuesday 28th August at 7pm. The Parent Council intend to hold their AGM on Tuesday 18th September at 7pm. Any parents who would like to come along and be involved in the work of the parent council are very welcome.

Religious Education and Observance
Rev. McKillop is the main member in our school chaplaincy team. We are keen to continue to have links with St Machan's Church. Our Easter Assembly will be in the local church and visits from Rev. McKillop will be organised across the session where our pupils will participate in religious observance.
Scottish Government Ministers consider that religious observance complements religious education and is an important contribution to pupils' development. It should also have a role in promoting the ethos of a school by bringing pupils together and creating a sense of community.
Parents have the right to withdraw children from participation in religious observance. Should you wish your child to be withdrawn, a letter should be sent to the head teacher at the start of each session.

Meet Your Child’s New Teacher
On Thursday 30th August at 6pm we will be hosting a curriculum evening. All parents are invited to come along and hear about our plans for the session ahead. There will be an opportunity for you to meet your child’s teacher and ask any questions you have about the curriculum, see resources that will be used and meet other parents. For our new parents it is also an opportunity to wander round and view the school. There will also be a ½ price book fayre at the event with good quality books.
Children will have had the opportunity to view books with their teacher during the school day.

MEDICATION
If your child requires medication during the school day, please inform the office. For health and safety reasons, all medicines and tablets should be kept by Mrs Wallace at the school office and a parent consent form must be completed.
PETS
Please note that dogs are NOT permitted on school property whether they are tethered to a lead or not. School property includes the playground, MUGA and car park area of the school.

School Meals / Packed Lunches
Pupils in P1-3 receive a free school lunch. Lunches for pupils in P4-7 are £1.65 unless they are in receipt of a free school meal entitlement. Water is the only drink offered free at lunch time therefore your child can bring a carton of juice for lunch or purchase a carton of milk for 20p. No glass bottles or fizzy juice are allowed. Water bottles should have sports lids and contain only plain water. Juice and flavoured water, if spilled on books and jotters is sticky and ruins them. Please note pupils are asked not to bring NUTS or products containing nuts e.g. Nutella into school because of allergies.

P.E.
We ask for safety that all pupils remove their jewellery including watches prior to any PE lessons. If ear-rings cannot be removed, then plasters need to be worn. (Plasters to be provided from home.) Should your child be unable to participate in PE, then a letter must be provided.

Book Fayre
Mrs Carson has sourced a book fayre for next week. All book will be ½ price! Children will have the opportunity to visit the book fayre with their teacher and peers. Should they see a book they’d like to purchase they will be given a slip with the book and how much it costs for your approval. Parents can then purchase the book for their children at our ‘Meet the Teacher Evening’ or send the money to school with their child on Thursday 30th August.

Wet Mornings
When dropping your children off at school please leave them at the gym hall next to the main entrance. To ensure security and safety for pupils and staff, should you need to speak to an adult, we ask that all parents report to the school office and enter the school by the front door.

SCHOOL ABSENCE
If your child needs to be off please telephone the school.
Could you please ensure that a note is sent to school with your child on their return from any absence they may have. If no note is sent to school the absence will be recorded as unauthorised (even if a phone call has been made earlier). Absences below 90% will result in the attendance officer being contacted.

Parking
The safety of our pupils is paramount therefore our school carpark is closed each day at 2.30pm and re-opened at 3.10pm. Anyone choosing to park in the staff carpark will be unable to exit before this time. When parking vehicles near to the school, please park your car with consideration for our neighbours. Please keep driveways clear and be aware that a Road Traffic Order is in place outside the school and parking on the yellow lines can result in fines being issued.

Scottish National Standardised Assessments
The new assessments will be completed by pupils in P1, P4 and P7 during this session. Staff training is ongoing throughout the session. If you would like more information on these, please contact me at the school or visit the government website: https://www.education.gov.scot/parentzone/Documents/parent-leaflet-assessing-progress.pdf

Diary Dates
An overview with planned events is attached for information. Please note that dates may change as we progress through the session but we will notify you if this is the case.

Clothing
Across the session we are left with high volumes of jackets, sweatshirts, lunch boxes, gloves, scarves and water bottles. PLEASE CLEARLY LABEL ALL YOUR CHILD’S BELONGINGS so that we can return lost items quickly and easily to their owner.