Happy New Year to one and all! We welcome all pupils and staff back to school.

Last term was very busy with so many highlights! The P1 & P2 Nativity: A King is Born, The Choir singing at many venues, Thank you to Dan McHale for providing the music for the choir, Christmas parties, Christmas lunch provided by our superb kitchen staff, Christmas Art Day and not forgetting the Christmas Fair! Thank you to all involved!

**Climate Change – Make a Difference!**
But as we pack away the tinsel we are all ready to step into the New Year, new decade and new term. January is a good time to look at resolutions or improvements we can make.

At Paradykes Primary we would like to do something to make a difference towards the growing concern of Climate Change. Primary 6 and 7 took part in a Climate Change march. The children made banners and posters with clear messages about what we can do - **Small changes can make a big difference.** So with that in mind,

We would ask that all children and staff bring a reusable water bottle to school every-day! (many already do!)

The Paradykes Coffee Hut will still be operating but what about bringing along a travel mug for your coffee?

The ECO committee will continue to look at positive changes we can make over the next few weeks - particularly our use of energy and paper waste. Watch this space!

**Nut Allergy!**
We have a number of pupils and staff who are allergic to nuts. Please ensure your child does not bring either a snack or packed lunch containing nuts. This includes Nutella.

**Staffing Updates**
Our new Deputy Head Teacher, Mrs Helen Reed will be joining the staff in February. Mrs Reed will be at the Parent Council meeting on the 14th of January. She is looking forward to meeting as many parents /carers as possible.

We have also appointed two new learning assistants. Mrs Coutts started in the school this week and Miss Lavin will be joining us in the next few weeks. A warm welcome to Paradykes.

**Inclement Weather**
Living in Scotland, our weather is still very unpredictable but we do like the children to get outside in most weathe rs. Can you ensure that your child has a waterproof jacket, appropriate clothing and suitable footwear each day. The grassy areas of the playground are quite muddy so we ask all children to have suitable indoor shoes that they can change into. These can be gym shoes or old clean trainers.

**PE Kit**
We have a growing issue with children not having PE kit in school. Appropriate PE kit is very important for reasons of safety and hygiene. All children participate in two hours of PE or movement a week. Some PE lessons are outdoors. Can you ensure that your child/children have suitable PE kit in school each week. Thank you.
Money in School

Can we encourage the use of Parentpay as the quickest, easiest and most secure method of sending money into school. If you need help accessing the system please contact the office and we will be happy to help. If it is unavoidable that cash is sent into school please ensure the money is in an envelope and clearly labelled with your child’s name, class and the purpose of the money. Thank you!

Some Important Dates

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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<td>Tues 14th Jan</td>
<td>Parent Council Meeting 7pm</td>
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<td>Tues 21st Jan</td>
<td>Interschool P6/7 Athletics Team</td>
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<td>Mon 27th Jan</td>
<td>Annual Scots Recitation</td>
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<td>Thurs 6th Feb</td>
<td>Film Night for Primary 5 &amp; 6s</td>
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<td>Thurs 6th Feb</td>
<td>Nursery Vista Photographs</td>
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<td>Fri 7th Feb</td>
<td>Mid Term Break</td>
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<td>Mon 17th Feb</td>
<td>All pupils resume</td>
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<td>Mon 17th Feb</td>
<td>Benmore Week</td>
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<td>Thurs 20th Feb</td>
<td>Generation Science in School</td>
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<td>Mon 2nd March</td>
<td>Book Fair in school</td>
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<td>Tues 3rd March</td>
<td>Parent Consultations</td>
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<td>Thurs 5th March</td>
<td>Parent Consultations</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wed 1st April</td>
<td>P1 &amp; P2 Easter Party</td>
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<td>Fri 3rd April</td>
<td>School closes for Easter Break</td>
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<td>Mon 20th April</td>
<td>School Resumes</td>
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<td>Fri 8th May</td>
<td>May Day Holiday</td>
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<td>Mon 18th May</td>
<td>Staff Inservice Day</td>
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<td>Tues 19th May</td>
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<td>Fri 5th June</td>
<td>Fun Day</td>
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<td>Fri 26th June</td>
<td>End of Session</td>
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