

# Newsletter

## December 2009



# Gypsy Traveller Creative Learning Group

In conjunction with Larkhall Academy  
and Universal Connections

## Newsletter

Welcome to our first Newsletter which will help to inform our families and colleagues of recent events and important information from Larkhall Academy Gypsy/Traveller Group, based at Universal Connections. We aim to issue future newsletters at the end of every school term.



## Contacts

Laura Bernstein (Larkhall Academy) has been running the group for several years and is now joined by Fiona McLaren (Craigbank Primary). Both Principal Teachers can be contacted at **Universal Connections, 23 Union Street, Larkhall, (01698 - 883725).**

## Attendance

If any pupils are travelling, or absent, please let us know so that we can help to continue their schoolwork. **Pupils need to attend regularly** if they are to make good progress and registers are taken every day. Parents will be contacted if attendance is a matter for concern.



## Fun Friday

In order to reward **regular attenders**, we are introducing a monthly 'Fun Friday.' Pupils who have no more than 2 absences in the calendar month will qualify to take part in a special, monthly trip which will include visits such as Escape, Edinburgh, Quad biking, Go-Karting and many other activities. However, a place on these trips must be earned by good attendance.

## Dance Group

The girls are enjoying their 6 week block of dance lessons which are being provided by Danceworx. This is supporting our current focus on health by encouraging the girls to be even more active through fun exercise. There will also be a Youth Achievement Award given to all pupils who complete this course.



## Healthy Eating

We are learning about different ways in which we can **improve our general health**. Fizzy drinks have been banned and pupils and staff now bring in healthy packed lunches. We are filling in Health Diaries that help us to keep track of our own health in various areas including professional contacts, diet, and exercise. Smoking and drug abuse will also be investigated.



## Christmas holidays

The group's last day before we break up for Christmas will be Thursday **17<sup>th</sup> December** where there will be a special Christmas treat for the pupils. We start back again on Thursday **7<sup>th</sup> January** 2010.

## Pantomime

A group outing is currently being organised to a local pantomime. Details will follow shortly.

## Hairdressing Course

A local hairdresser will shortly be delivering a 6 week course on Hairdressing and Beautician Techniques to a selection of our

girls. The opportunity for work experience in the salon has also been secured for 2 of our older pupils. The course will include written work, based on the SVQ module. At the end of the course, we will invite families and guests to participate in a 'make-over' party.



## D.J. Master Blaster

A course for the boys has been arranged to include mixing music and recording skills in the studio.

## Core Subjects

We are focusing strongly on Maths and Language skills and are in the process of buying new programmes of work for these areas in all levels. All pupils are being tested to get a clear idea of their abilities and next steps. ASDAN is also being well used to give learning opportunities in all areas.



## French

We are working closely with a Modern Languages teacher from the Academy to deliver a block of French lessons in the next term. The children are enjoying their introduction into this area through games and are picking up the language well.

## Merry Christmas!

To all our pupils, families and colleagues, we wish you a very merry Christmas and health and happiness in the New Year. Very best wishes from all at the G.T.C.L.G.