



PARADYKES PRIMARY SCHOOL
& FAMILY LEARNING CENTRE
MAYBURN AVENUE
LOANHEAD
MIDLOTHIAN EH20 9HB

Telephone 0131-271 4650

Mrs Gillian Crangle
Head Teacher

13th December 2019

Dear Parent/ Carer

Selection of Loanhead Gala Court for 2020

Please see below sent on behalf of the Loanhead Children's Sports & Gala Day Association. We apologise for the late notice but ask that if you wish for your child to participate, you sign and return the attached slip by Tuesday 17th December.

Thank you for your prompt responses and continued support. Our apologies again for the lateness of this communication.

Regards

Jennifer Sommerville
Acting Depute Head

Loanhead Children's Day is the oldest and largest local festival in Midlothian and one of the largest community events of its kind in Scotland. With the exception of some years during the two World Wars, in every year since 1904 the main event of the annual festival has been the crowning of a Queen who is a pupil of one of the local schools. This will again be the case on Children's Day 2020 which will take place on Saturday 20 June.

All pupils in each of the P7 classes at Loanhead, Paradykes and St Margaret's Schools are eligible to be invited to take part as members of the Queen's Court. Invitation letters are issued by the Gala Committee to each child. To ensure compliance with data protection regulations, the school is only able to release the names and contact details of each pupil if we have the necessary consent to do so. **Accordingly, if you wish your child to receive an invitation to take part in the Gala Court, we must receive the enclosed form, duly signed, by not later than Tuesday 17th December 2019.**



Each of the schools is asked to nominate pupils to fill the roles of the Queen and the other Court principals, the invitation to fill particular roles being offered to the respective schools in rotation. The Queen and other Court principals must be resident in Loanhead (which includes Straiton and, for these purposes, also includes Nivensknowe, Pentland Park, Damhead and Old Pentland where such areas were within the catchment area of the school concerned when the pupil concerned first attended the school).

In nominating children for the principal roles, the Head Teacher and staff of each school are required to consider the diligence and conscientiousness shown by children throughout their school life, the thoughtfulness and consideration shown to others, the willingness shown to accept responsibilities, the ability to behave responsibly in and around school and the interest shown, and possible involvement in, our town and community life.

In general, the schools will aim to nominate children for the principal roles who, for the most part, are hardworking, considerate, reliable, responsible and respectful and, as such, the nomination will aim to reflect a child's worthiness to receive the honour of being chosen. In addition, the schools will aim to choose children who have shown certain leadership qualities. The schools will also bear in mind the other abilities, in terms of public performance, required of those selected as principals.

For those children selected as principals there is a greater degree of commitment than is the case for the remainder of the Court. The number of rehearsals for the crowning ceremony is rather greater for the principals and it is absolutely essential that the principals attend all rehearsals. The main principals also have roles to undertake in various of the other events during Gala Week.

For the children selected as the Queen and Herald the level of commitment is greater still. The Queen and Herald are required to attend certain public events and perform some public duties during the twelve months following the Children's Day. An example is the switching on of the town's Christmas lights. Most importantly, the Queen and Herald have roles in the Crowning Ceremony of the following year when they appear as the Retiring Queen and Retiring Herald. In accepting the positions of Queen and Herald, the children concerned are therefore also making a commitment to take part in the following year and to attend all of the rehearsals and other events in the following year.

It is important that all P7 pupils and their parents/guardians are fully aware of what is involved and are willing to make the commitments required prior to any pupil accepting a role as a principal. Accordingly, and to avoid any difficulties when the invitations are issued, each of the schools will only consider children for the principal roles (Queen, Herald, Mistress of the Robes, Champion, Britannia, Crown Bearer, Ladies in Waiting, Mace Bearer and Standard Bearers) if the enclosed form is returned to the school, signed by both the pupil and a parent/guardian, indicating that the pupil wishes to be considered for a position as a principal.

For the purposes of the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR), information released by the schools to the Gala Committee shall only be used by the Committee for the purpose of issuing invitations to take part in the 2019 Gala celebrations. It will not be used for any other purpose or released to any other party. A copy of the Data Protection and Privacy Policy of the Loanhead Children's Sports & Gala Day Association will be issued with each invitation and acceptance of invitations will be on the basis of the arrangements set out in that policy.



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Please complete this section if you wish your child to receive an invitation to take part in the Gala Court for 2020.

Name of pupil

It is acknowledged and agreed that the school may release the name and contact address for the above pupil to Loanhead Children's Sports & Gala Day Association to allow the Gala Committee to issue an invitation to be part of the Gala Court for 2020.

..... Signature of parent/guardian

Please also complete this section if you wish your child to be considered for possible nomination for a principal position in the Gala Court for 2020.

The above pupil wishes to be considered for possible nomination for a principal position in the Gala Court for Loanhead Children's Day 2020. If nominated for any of the principal roles, we acknowledge the level of commitment required and that the acceptance of any such role will signify our joint agreement to provide that level of commitment.

..... Signature of pupil

..... Signature of parent/guardian

**THIS FORM MUST BE RETURNED TO THE SCHOOL BY
NOT LATER THAN TUESDAY 17TH DECEMBER 2019**

