



## Parent Council

### Head Teacher Update

22.05.19



#### Welcome

I am delighted to be delivering my first Head Teacher update at Hawthornden Primary since starting in mid January. It has been a very busy few weeks as you can imagine but I am gradually getting to know all the children and meeting parents / families along the way.

My vision is for our school to be the best it can be and to ensure that we have high standards for all our children with regards to learning, behaviour, manners and respect for each other and towards adults.

Your support is always valued and by working in partnership, we can achieve the very best for all the children at Hawthornden Primary.

#### Inspection Update

As you will be aware, we had received notification from Education Scotland about a follow up Inspection which was due to take place from 18<sup>th</sup> - 20<sup>th</sup> Feb. Just prior to stopping for the February break, we had further notification that the Inspection had been postponed until after Easter. I will let you all know when we have another date.

#### Staffing Update

I am delighted to inform you that Mrs Swanson ( Class 5b) is expecting a baby in the summer but is planning to start her maternity leave as the school finishes for the summer holiday.

Absence- We continue to have a number of staff (teaching and learning assistants) absent due to illness which does put pressure on us to ensure we have full cover in classes.

#### Behaviour

We are updating our school behaviour policy between now and Easter looking in particular at our 'Ready to Learn' framework and our rewards / sanctions. It is very important to me that we have high expectations of behaviour in our school and we continue to work with parents and other professionals when behaviour falls short of our school expectations.

Playtimes are often a catalyst for poor behaviour choices, therefore we are looking to develop playtimes giving greater choices for the children and looking at purchasing some additional equipment to give a range of choices at playtimes for all children to enjoy.

Assemblies this term will be focussing on RESPECT as our value.

I will keep parents updated on this policy and if you also have any suggestions/ thoughts on this area then please let me know.

## **Improvements to school building**

We are in the process of making the school building and site more secure. We have had additional high fencing put in place and we are awaiting work on the gates to ensure that only adults can open them.

Internally we are setting up keypad entry within the school which makes sure that our public areas are secure.

We will be having some internal decoration taking place in the next 6 months as part of a rolling programme to update the school internally and externally

## **Ideas/ Suggestions**

Within the next few weeks, I am going to put an ideas/ suggestions box at the front entrance for parents ( children will have their own ideas box). We would welcome your thoughts, ideas, suggestions but this is not the box to use for any concerns / worries or enquiries you may have. Please contact me directly by phone, letter or email regarding any concerns etc.

## **Communication**

It is really important that we have clear lines of communication so that parents are kept informed. We currently have our school APP and our school Twitter feed as well as letter, email, text and phone communication. I will be working over the next few months on updating the school website which will have a lot of information / documents available for parents.

I very much welcome an 'Open door' approach to contact - if you have a concern or worry then please come and speak to us in school - we can only deal with issues if we know about them. Please do not use social media to discuss the school negatively - we need to work together to make our school the best it can be and problems can be dealt with if we are given the chance to deal with them.

Next steps...

- Updating key policies in school.
- Working towards targets on our School Improvement Plan which includes planning for academic year 2019/20.
- Developing playtimes / lunchtimes and purchasing new equipment.
- Re-visiting our Vision statement and PRIDE values to ensure that they are a strong part of our school ethos and aims.
- Developing assemblies with a clear focus on values in particular Respect.
- Set up the parent and children's Ideas/ Suggestion boxes.

As ever if you need to contact me, please either phone the main office or send me an email to [c.elsey@mgfl.net](mailto:c.elsey@mgfl.net) or make an appointment to come and see me at a convenient time.