



Learning, growing, caring, sharing



Illustration : alex leonard

U.N. Convention on the Rights of the Child: Article 1



Community Newsletter

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Introduction



Dear Pupils, Parents/Carers and Community Friends,
Welcome to our second newsletter of the year. Please don't forget, we hope you can take time to read it with your child and discuss the contents. It's always helpful for even the youngest children in our school to be aware of what's going on! We hope you all enjoy the forthcoming October break.

Health and safety



*UNCRC Article 19: Children should be safe from harm.
UNCRC Article 24: Every child has the right to the best possible health.*

Pupil use of school toilets

I am extremely sorry to report that we have had several instances of our toilets being used in extremely inappropriate ways. Last week's assembly was used to remind pupils of the nice and respectful ways to use our toilets, including a talk from Mr Morrison, the Head janitor at NCHS. We have a whole school charter for the use of the toilets area, which says everyone will respect the toilets by

- Keeping the toilets clean.
- Not throwing wet paper up on the ceiling.



It would be appreciated if you could discuss the above with your child.

School playground development

After the school holidays, all being well weather-wise, our playground equipment: trim trials, sand pit (which will be covered at the end of each day), climbing poles, will be installed.

For the first week back after the holidays, both playgrounds will be available for all children to use any of the equipment. Children will work in classes to think about how to be nice and respectful when using the new equipment.

After that, week beginning 26th October, a creative Play week is being planned, where children will work with Jennifer Brownlie from Midlothian Association of Play, to continue to think about how to use our outside appropriately.

We hope our playground transformation will support positive play and happy children.



School news



UNCRC Article 28: Children should be able to go to school.

Goodbye to Mrs Dawson, TLC teacher and Miss L Haggart , Music Specialist

Last week, we said goodbye to Mrs Dawson, our teacher in the TLC (nurture group). The TLC will continue supported by Mrs Brennan. This week, Miss Haggart is leaving us too. Miss Haggart has been our Music teacher for pupils in P3 - 7 and is also one of the staff at NCHS. We would like to say a huge thank you to both teachers for supporting our children and we wish them all the very best for the future.

Recycling News

Thank you to everyone who has handed in coffee pods, used pens over the past year. In addition to these items we are now collecting biscuit outer wrappers, any type of chocolate or cream biscuits. Money raised will be going towards buying equipment for school.

Many thanks, Mrs Chisholm.

Lost Property

Please continue to label all of your child's belongings as our Lost Property rail is now full of unlabelled clothing. Please remember to check Lost Property (which will be displayed in our Reception area) during Parents/Carers Consultation and claim anything that belongs to your child as these items will be disposed of shortly. Thank you for your co-operation.

Sponsored Walk to raise money for school funds

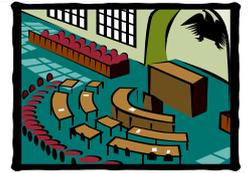
Your child should come home with a sponsor form today - we would be grateful if you can encourage your child in this venture. We will have a sponsored walk on **Thursday 22nd October 2015**. Please ensure that your child comes to school with warm clothing and suitable footwear. This will tie in to our Walk to School Week and give the school much needed funds for valuable and exciting resources for the school. Thank you for your support!!



Primary 7 Workshops

P7 pupils will be attending workshops at Newbattle Community High School on **Wednesday 28th October**. Children may bring a snack/drink with them or you may wish to give your child some money to spend at the "Bite Site" cash cafeteria during their morning break. As we will be walking down, can your child please be at school for 8:40am.

Parliament news



Rights Respecting Schools

UNCRC Article 1 and 2: All children have rights.

Thank you to all those children who participated in our start of term homework competition on bring nice a respectful. As a Rights Respecting group, we first agreed the criteria for the winning entries, which included:

- An appropriate message
- Clear and colourful illustrations.

From there we then chose our winners, who are as follows:

Class	Winner	Being nice and respectful means.....
P1a	Sophie D	Being kind to everyone.
P1b	Olivia H	Playing nicely with my family and sharing sweets.
P2a		
P2b	Teigan	Helping other people
P3	Jasmine	Treating other people how you would like to be treated.
P3/4	Kaylah	Being kind and helpful, thinking about others, looking at the person who's talking.
P4	Hailey	Helping others if they're hurt.
P5	Megan	Don't be a bully and help other people.
P6a		
P6b	Brooklyn	Having regard for people's feelings, wishes, rights of others.
P7	Kayley	Saying please and thank you, being kind, being polite to others.

Winners will receive a piece of treasure from the treasure chest in Mrs. MacFarlane office to say well done.

Please don't forget everyone:

Mayfield Primary School, expects everyone to be nice and respectful.

We hope this competition has reminded us about how important this is.



School Growth Plan (SGP)



Our School growth plan shows what Mayfield Primary School hopes to work on during the coming year.

Play

UNCRC Article 31: Every child has the right to play.

Last year, we worked on our outdoor play. This year, we want to develop play both in and out of the classroom. Play is important because it keeps us healthy in mind and body and we have a right to a life too. Our work this year will help us meet our rights. In classrooms, we are going to look at how play can help us learn in all areas of the curriculum.

Visible learning

UNCRC Article 28: Children should be able to go to school.

Learning is really important because you need to learn to get a good job. If you are going to work in a shop when you're older, then you need to count for example. All schools in Midlothian are developing an approach to learning called Visible learning. This ensures that children are aware as much as possible about what they are learning and why. Teachers are going to start thinking about the language of learning.

Numeracy

UNCRC Article 28: Children should be able to go to school.

Last year, Mayfield Primary School worked hard to improve learning in Numeracy. We want to continue this work again this session. Numeracy is important as it can help with our daily lives eg shopping, getting a bus and helping us get a job. Last year some classes started to use some new resources called SEAL. These resources will be organised so that more classes will be able to use them.

French

UNCRC Article 30: Every child has the right to learn and use the language of their family.

All classes will be learning French this year. Learning languages is important because it is kind. For example, if you know a French person it is respectful to speak to them in their language. It also helps us learn more about the world. This year, all children will learn French, and we will be supported by our French assistant, Anne.

Parent/Carer



UNCRC Article 18: Both parents share responsibility for bringing up their child and should always consider what is best for the child.

Feedback from Meet and Greet

It was lovely to see so many parents and carers supporting our recent Meet and Greet event on Friday 25th September. At the event, we asked for your feedback on the P7 presentation on our School Growth Plan. Your comments are below, with our feedback in italics:

What do you like about our plan?

- The class dojo app - very easy to keep track on children.
- Focus on visible learning and the 3Rs.
- Dojo system excellent and we're grateful to teachers for making the commitment.
- The Rules.
- Everything!
- P6bDojo - brilliant idea and way to keep lines of communication open between Teachers and Parents which can only help the children's progress.
- Plan in place seems to be working and is very effective.
- Class Dojo is a great idea.
- It appears to be well structured and it is good that they are learning about respect.
- Good.
- Teaching children to be respectful towards others as well as having respect for themselves.
- Dojo is a good system as it rewards good behaviour as well as discouraging bad behaviours by removing points.
- Dojo is a great addition.
- Plan is a very positive one.
- Plan run smoothly and understanding for children.
- Everything sounds great, children will learn lots of life skills.
- I like the idea of linking learning to work and jobs. Class Dojo brilliant as well.
- Class Dojo rules and 3Rs.
- Growth plan is great and will be very effective on behaviour- love class Dojo.
- P7s explained very well and The P6s 3Rs.
- Great ideas.
- Wonderful - well presented - well executed and the children were awesome.
- Better communication between school and home.
- Good communication from teachers to pupils and parents on class Dojo.
- Well presented and I'm pleased to say mirrors my own thoughts on allowing the kids to express themselves with thoughts for others.
- Promoting respect and how to treat others properly.
- Class Dojo, but some teachers seem to give more freely whilst others do not- is this fair for children?
- *The review of our Behaviour policy will aim to address any inconsistency.*
- I thought it was very good.

Is there anything you'd like to add?

- Loved the Rainbow song
- Thanks to senior pupils for a great presentation.
- My child is absolutely LOVING school - huge thanks to all staff
- Class Dojo should have a structure that all teachers follow
- The Growth Plan is very positive and HT enthusiastic about it
- The Dojo system is fantastic from a parent's perspective.
- Instead of play why not encourage extracurricular activity e.g. football, dancing, gymnastics etc something with structure and learning.

- *Play is important as it encourages socialisation, creativity and can support learning and this is why we wish to develop this, this session. We set up as many extracurricular activities as we can through Active Schools, staff volunteers and parent /carer helpers.*
- It was perfect
- Teach them that they will be respected too- lacks at this school.
- More teachers seem to be informative with the app and all should follow suit
- More pushing about how bad bullying is and will NOT be TOLERATED
- *Our behaviour policy is currently being reviewed by all staff and once updated, will be shared with parents/carers, including the Parent Council.*

Is there anything you'd like to know?

- Parent Council meeting minutes available.
- *The parent council will publish minutes on our school website as soon as possible.*
- As much as you can tell us.
- What is happening with playground improvements.
- No, feel well informed.
- I think the presentation was all the information needed.
- Everything was explained really well.
- What happens with bad behaviour?
- No - but direct communication with teacher when anything is needed.
- No - would cover anything through class Dojo.
- What is happening with playground development, for children's play development.
- *The playground redevelopment will take place during the midterm break in October. We also have more exciting plans of working with Midlothian Association of Play after October.*

Would you like to be involved? If so, please let us know how.

- Would like to be involved in Parent Council meetings but can only attend late afternoon/evenings.
- *Parent Council meetings take place monthly either 9 - 10.30am or 2.45 - 4.15pm to try to accommodate parent/carers timescales.*
- It would be nice if some of these events are after school as it's very difficult for working parents/carers to attend.
- *We try to include all parents/carers in events but appreciate not everyone can attend at given times. We aim to inform parents/carers of events in advance so families can make arrangements where possible.*
- Yes please.
- Yes, but difficult with my work shifts.
- Unfortunately not in Mayfield during week - but will help my child with French.
- I will be happy to do anything I can.
- Happy to receive info through class Dojo.

Dojo Communications

As you will see above the Dojo communications are working really well for parent/carers and class teachers alike. We would however ask that all **absence notifications** are still done through the school office before 9:30am. Recently we have had a number of occasions where Dojo messages are missed and this can cause consternation. Thank you for your help.

Sport



UNCRC Article 24: Every child has the right to the best possible health.

UNCRC Article 31: Every child has the right to relax, play and join in a wide range of cultural and artistic activities.

Girls Football

We currently do not have enough girls attending football training to make up a team. This obviously means that we are unable to take part in the various festivals arranged in Midlothian. Mr Rose along with other coaches' give up their own free time to run these training sessions, if numbers do not improve they will regretfully have to cease training sessions. If you are in P5-P7 and are interested in joining the football team, please come along on Monday 19th October from 3:30-4:30pm to register.

Diary



Date	Time	Activity	Place
October			
Thursday 8 th	9:00am - 10:30am	Parent Council Meeting	Conference Room
	1:00pm - 2:00pm	Science Festival Event	Mayfield Library
	4:00pm - 6:00pm	Parent Consultations	Gym Hall/ Classrooms
Thursday 8th	2:40pm & 3:20pm	Mid Term - Pupils Break	
Monday 19th	8:50am	All Resume- Walk to School Week	
Wednesday 21 st	All day	P1-P5 SSPA Talks	classrooms
Thursday 22 nd	various	Sponsored Walk	playground
	PM	P6-P7 SSPCA Talks	classrooms
	1:00-3:00	Girls Football Festival	Penicuik
Wednesday 28 th	8:40am - 12:00pm	P7 Workshops	NCHS
	1:00pm - 3:00pm	Boys' Football Festival	Dalkeith Campus
	5:30pm - 7:00pm	Halloween Disco	Assembly Hall
Thursday 29 th	6:30pm	P7 Open Evening for Parents	NCHS
November			
Thursday 8 th	1:00pm-3:00pm	Girls Football Festival	Poltonhall
December			
Friday 18th	8:50	All Break	