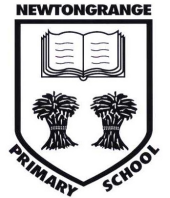


Newtongrange Primary School
Aspire, Believe, Achieve



@NewtongrangePS



Primary Pages

Tuesday 21st August 2018

We hope that you all had a lovely summer and are feeling refreshed and ready for the new session. As ever, the sun shone for learners upon their return to school! We have had a really positive start to our session so far. The learners at Newtongrange are a credit to their families in terms of their behaviour, positive attitude, pride in their school and the wearing of their uniform. Many thanks for that. We hope that over the course of the year, we will continue to grow and develop as a school community.

Uniform

I am sure you will agree that the children looked really smart in their school uniform on their first day back at school after the summer break. We believe that an important aspect of raising standards is a universal minimum level of dress and behaviour. We believe that as a school community all learners will derive a sense of identity within our community by wearing a school uniform. Please continue to support the school by ensuring that your child attends school wearing school uniform daily.

Staffing

As well as welcoming new learners to Newtongrange Primary School, we are delighted to have new members join our staff team. Welcome to Miss Gracie, Miss Mullen, Miss Johnstone, Mr Watters and Mrs Tocher who join our teaching team. Welcome to Mrs Hunt, Mrs Murdoch who join our nursery team and welcome to Mrs Hounsom who joins us on a temporary basis as a Learning Assistant and finally welcome to Mr Patterson who be carrying out his CDW Modern Apprenticeship within the nursery. Mrs Luke joins our catering team as kitchen supervisor. Mr Cunningham, our school janitor has moved onto pastures new during the summer holidays. He has provided service at Newtongrange for 4 years and was fundamental to the successes of our school football teams. Miss Grieg, LA is also moving onto pastures new at the end of August. We thank them both for their contributions to Newtongrange Primary School and wish all the best with their futures.

Janitorial Service

Midlothian Council has restructured the janitorial services for schools. Going forwards we will have a school caretaker who will open and close the school. During the school day a mobile janitor will support the running of the school building.

School Photographer

Coldwells Art Company will be visiting Newtongrange Primary on Tuesday 4th September to take individual and sibling photographs of learners in the school and nursery.

School Improvement

All schools in Midlothian produce a School Improvement plan which is based on evidence gathered in a variety of ways over previous school sessions as well as in line with national priorities. This session we will be focusing on 4 main priorities:

- Raising attainment, particularly literacy and numeracy.
- Closing the attainment gap through targeted Interventions.
- Cultivate a nurturing approach to meet the needs of all learners.
- Improving Wellbeing Systems.

Progress and actions towards these priorities will regularly be reported on over the year within further newsletters, curriculum events and on our school website and Twitter page.

Communication with School Staff

We recognise that good lines of communication are important and essential for ensuring that every child's learning and wellbeing needs are being met. If you require to speak with a teacher or member of the Senior Leadership Team (SLT) please contact the school to arrange an appointment. Often a quick query can be addressed through the homework diary between yourself and class teacher who knows your child well.

Please note that the SLT have pastoral responsibility for the following classes:

- Nursery and P1 – Miss V Morgan (HT)
- P2, P3 and P4 – Mrs D Crossan (DHT)
- P5, P6 and P7 – Mr S McBride (DHT)

Positive Ethos

Many things work towards us building and sustaining a positive ethos in our school. Our vision and values set us goals and give us an overview of what we want to be like. Last session we began reviewing our positive behaviour policy and we are looking forwards to implement new approaches this school year. Our approach to behaviour is both **POSITIVE** and **RESTORATIVE**. At Newtongrange Primary School, we encourage individual responsibility for one's own behaviour and value the importance of nurturing in each learner a growing sense of self worth and a positive self esteem. We will be launching our new Behaviour approach at assembly this Friday. Look in the school bags next week for a blueprint of our new policy. The full policy will be uploaded on the school website soon! We are excited about our new rewards approaches for recognising over and above behaviours. This session we plan to continue to develop our positive behaviour approaches and review our Anti-Bullying policy and practices.

Growth Mindset

As a school, we are working on developing a **Growth Mindset**. This is based on the work of an American psychologist called Carol Dweck. Her belief is that learners with a **growth mindset** understand that their talents and abilities can be developed through effort, good teaching and persistence. We want our learners to think of their brain like a muscle – the more they exercise it the stronger it will become. It is alright not to get everything right, but it is not alright not to try.

Attendance, absence and late procedures

Excellent attendance at school is important to allow your child to fulfil their potential and for them to have the best possible start in life. Midlothian Council have an expectation that all children of primary school age's attendance should be at least 90%. Schools have the responsibility to work in partnership with families to ensure children attend school regularly.

Parents are responsible for ensuring that their child attends school regularly. It is important that pupils are punctual and parents and carers must ensure that their child is at school by 8.45am each morning.

In cases of unsatisfactory attendance or persistent lateness the school follows guidance from Midlothian Council. When a child's attendance falls below 90% the school will seek cooperation with parents and carers to work in partnership to improve attendance.

Our school expectation is for all children to arrive on time and enter the school via their class line each morning. Children who are persistently late miss a significant amount learning. Where there have been persistent incidents of lateness, co-operation of the parents and carers will be sought by the school to work together to improve punctuality.

If your child is unable to attend school or is going to be late to school parents should telephone by 09:30 a.m. If no phone call is received we will endeavour to make contact with parents/carers by text and/or phone.

If there is anything that we can do as a school to support you with your child's attendance please do not hesitate to contact us. Lee Grieve our Home School Practitioner is here to help support you in anyway.

Decision Making Groups

Learner participation is something we continue to develop at school. Children's opinions and ideas are sought through Class Council meetings, surveys, class discussions, learning visits and the many decision making groups we run. These groups also provide learners with opportunities to lead school improvements and develop skills for life, learning and work. They take on challenges and organise events, talk at assemblies and produce displays. Classes will be selecting their DMG representatives over the next few weeks.

Family Learning

All parents and carers are invited to come to school on Wednesday 12th September, 6:00-7:00pm for our 'Meet the Teacher'. You can go into your child's class, meet their teacher and hear about what they will learn this session. It is also a chance for you to ask any questions and have a look round. There will also be the opportunity to hear about our school improvement priorities for this session from our Senior Leadership Team.

Over the year, classes will continue to have **Sharing the Learning** events in their classrooms and this year we are introducing **Showcase Assemblies** which parents and carers will be invited to. After the positive success of our Maths Basic Facts morning and PEEP's groups within the nursery, we are planning to provide more family learning events linked with our school improvement priorities.

Information Updates and Permission Forms

Annually we are required to get parental permission for various aspects of school life. Please complete and return the permission forms ASAP.

P.E./ Fitness

Please ensure that your child has a P.E./ gym kit including gym shoes, T-shirt, shorts and/or tracksuit bottoms in school as they have P.E. on various days across the week. Please remember, no football strips/ colours and please remove jewellery, including earrings. If your child has long hair, then please send them to school with their hair up or with a band for their hair on P.E. days.

Water Bottles

It is important that learners drink throughout the day to stay hydrated. They are allowed water bottles in classroom. Please ensure that water bottles are only filled with **water**, have your child's name on it and brought to school daily.

School Lunches/ Snacks and Free School Meals

School lunches cost £2 per day. The latest menu will be issued this week. Please remember, P1-3 pupils receive a free school meal daily. Snacks are available daily, from the school Catering Services, costing from 10p - 60p.

If you have still to apply for free school meals, you may request a form from the office.

Mobile Phones/ Electronic Devices

The school has a mobile phone policy for learners. If a mobile phone is brought to school it must be switched off and kept in school office until the child leaves the school at the end of the day.

Calendar Dates

Monday 27 th August	Primary 1's start full time
Friday 21 st September	Wider Curriculum
Tuesday 4 th September	School Photographs (Individual and siblings)
Wednesday 12 th September	Meet the teacher (6:00-7:00pm)
Wednesday 19 th September	Parent Council Meeting at Newbattle High School (7:00pm)
Tuesday 9 th October	Parent Consultation Meetings (5:00-7:30pm)
Wednesday 10 th October	Parent Consultation Meetings (4:00-6:30pm)
Thursday 11 th October	Wider Curriculum
Friday 12 th October	Harvest Service in church hall (11am)
Monday 15 th October	School closed for October Week holiday
Monday 23 rd October	In-service day (staff only)
Tuesday 23 rd October	All resume

Our next newsletter will have the calendar dates for the school year.