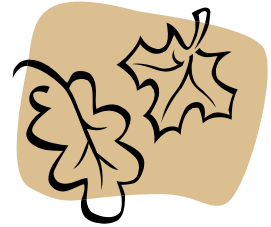


Danderhall Primary School Newsletter November 2017



Welcome Back Curriculum

Welcome to the Autumn school newsletter. We have had a busy and productive first term. Primary One and new Nursery pupils are doing well and are working very hard! Some were a bit surprised to return after the October holiday - but are back in the routine now!

Thank you to all of you who came to meet teachers and attend our 'Coffee and a Conflab' evening. We revisited the School Vision and Values and our work on Mindset. It was a great evening and the feedback from parents was overwhelmingly positive.

Water



We actively encourage learners to drink water throughout the day. Please provide a reusable bottle for your child to have in school. Juice or flavoured water should be provided for lunch or snack time only. Thank you.

Nut Free Zone

Please can we remind families that we have a number of children in school who suffer from nut allergies. In order to create a safe environment for all, I would ask you to be vigilant when sending snacks and packed lunches to school and ensure that they do not contain nuts/nut products. Please be particularly aware of chocolate spreads and snacks.

Staffing News

We have welcomed a number of new staff to our school. Mr Rankin-Clemments in P3A, Mrs Lake in P4, Miss Currie in P5, Miss Renton in P7A and Mrs Thomson, P2A, covering Miss Asut's maternity leave (still no baby news!!). Miss Ingram teaches Drama across the school Wednesday - Friday and P3B on Monday and Tuesday. Mr Halliday now teaches ICT, Monday/Tuesday, P5 on a Wednesday and P4/5 on Thursday and Friday. Mrs Barratt continues in her role as Support for Learning Teacher and Mrs Lombardo has returned to Nursery following her maternity leave with Miss Low, our second Senior CDW, also joining the nursery team. Last but not least Mrs Mouat is currently our Acting DHT!

Camp

P6 had a hugely successful residential camp at Newtonmore this year. All of our children had an amazing time and were complimented on their behaviour and participation by the camp staff. Please look out for more information camp for P5 pupils (21- 23 February 2018) and P7 (8 - 11 May 2018).

These visits offer really valuable experiences for learners and we may be able to access support for any family who is finding it difficult to manage the cost of sending pupils to camp.

Please contact Mrs Ramage through the school office to discuss possible supports/options.



Dress Code



Thank you to all the families who continue to support us by insisting that children wear school uniform every day and to those pupils who are remembering to leave gym kit in school all week. Please remember to **label** everything your child wears or brings to school - even in upper school. We already have a collection of unclaimed items which cannot be returned because they are not named. Please may I remind you that football colours should not be worn in any form at school and that Fridays are school days too - uniform is expected.

PS - please hand in any spare uniform items you may have - we are always in need!!

Coats



Please, please, please can we ask that **all** pupils wear/bring a coat to school every day. Pupils only stay inside when we have very heavy rain and so it is essential that they have appropriate clothing to wear outside in cold, damp weather. Thank you.



Find Us on Twitter!!

We continue to share our work through our school Twitter account. Please find and follow us @DanderhallPS.

Confident Individuals

Successful Learners

Responsible Citizens

Effective Contributors

School Lunches

We have been concerned for some time that, in spite of everyone's best efforts, many children are not eating a balanced school meal at lunch time. Our Catering Services Department work hard to create balanced menus for our children to choose from each day and we do our best to encourage good eating habits for life. Research tells us that children learn and behave better if they eat a healthy, balanced diet and we have found this to be true in our school. Please help us by asking what your child has had for lunch and encouraging them to make good choices - maybe even try something new or different!

All pupils from P1 - 3 continue to receive free meals at lunch time. The cashless system is continuing to operate for all other pupils. Please remember that lunch money should be paid on the first school day of each week and should come to school in a named envelope. The school kitchen (0131 663 1140) will be happy to deal with any balance queries. Please contact school if you feel that you may be entitled to free school meals for children beyond P3.

Child Protection

All staff are trained in the implementation of Child Protection Guidelines that apply to all schools. Training is undertaken every two years. Any parents or carers with concerns about child protection issues should speak to Mrs Ramage or Mrs Moutat.

Pupil Appointments

Please be aware that pupils cannot be permitted to leave school for appointments during the school day unless they are collected by an adult. Please make class teachers or the school office aware of any appointment and they can then ensure that pupils are ready to be collected. Thank you.



Easy Fundraising

We continue to benefit from all those who sign up to make online purchases through the easyfundraising.org.uk site. All the main companies are represented and will donate a small amount to our school from items you buy online. Please use the recent text link to sign up. (Danderhall Primary Parent Council)

Construction Works

You will be aware of the construction works going on in the surrounding area. Please talk with your children about the dangers of playing on or around these areas and emphasise the need to stay safe by staying away.

Active School Clubs

We have a number of before/after school and lunch clubs for all age groups running this term. Please make sure you return the paperwork issued by the Active School Coordinator. Again, we may be able to support families with funding for attendance at clubs.



Medication

Any pupil who requires medication to be administered within school must have appropriate permission paperwork completed. Please ask the school office if you require forms. We have experienced children bringing packets of cough or sore throat lozenges to school and then sharing them with friends or eating the whole packet like sweets. Please only send one or two lozenges as appropriate and be aware that some lozenges do contain medication.

Flu Immunisation

A reminder that all eligible pupils will be immunised against flu on Tuesday 7th November. If you have not already done so, please make sure you return the relevant permission paperwork to school.



Parent Council

Our Parent Council meets at 6pm on the first Monday of most months throughout the school year. We would be delighted to welcome lots of parents along to our meetings - they are not scary or boring! Our aim is to work together for the benefit of the children and our community and many hands make light work. Thanks to all those who volunteered to be Parent Reps for classes. Our next meeting is on Monday 6th November in the school Library.



Attendance — Please Read!!



Thank you to those families who are contacting us on the day that pupils are absent. Please continue to do this before 8.45.am. Unexplained absences will be followed up by the school. We have a growing number of pupils who are not in lines at bell time. Please note that lateness is also recorded and may be followed up by the Authority.

When contacting parents we are finding that a growing number of phones do not receive incoming calls. You will appreciate that such numbers are of no use as emergency contacts. **Please ensure that the school has up to date contact details.**

Diary Dates

November

- 1 Rag Bag Collection
- 2 P4 IBike (10.45)
- 3 Languages Week Open Day (Nursery - P7)
- 6 Childline Assembly (whole school)
Childline Workshops (P6 & P7)
Parent Council (6.00)
- 7 Flu Immunisations (whole school)
P6 Orienteering (12.15 - 2.15)
- 8 Photos (pm Nursery and siblings)
- 9 Photos (am nursery, whole school and siblings)
P3B IBike (10.45)
- 10 Family Time (P1A/P1B 9.00 - 9.30)
- 14 P7 Hillwalking (gp1)
Dr Freeman (P6 & P7)
- 16 P4/5 Assembly
- 17 Family Time (P1A/P1B 9.00 - 9.30)
- 21 P7 Hillwalking (Gp 2)
- 24 Family Time (P1A/P1B 9.00 - 9.30)
- 27 Scots Night (invited guests only)
- 28 P7 Hillwalking (Gp 3)

December

- 4 Parent Council (6.00)
- 11 P7 Risk Factory
Last week of Active School Clubs
- 13 Nursery Christmas Sing-a-Long
- 14 School Christmas Show (1.45 & 6.30)
- 18 School Christmas Lunch
- 19 Infant Christmas Party (pm)
- 20 Upper Christmas Party (pm)
- 21 Nursery Parties (x2 am & pm)
- 22 **TERM ENDS NORMAL TIME**

January

- 9 **SCHOOL/NURSERY RESUMES FOR ALL**



Safe Travel

We have an increasing number of children who are cycling or scooting to school which is good news! Please note that children should be wearing suitable helmets and should not ride on bikes or scooters once inside the school gate. This is dangerous and children are being hurt. Sadly, we have had reports of bikes/scooters being vandalised or removed from the racks. Please remember to chain bikes and scooters up to keep them safe.

Pupil Messages

We have increasing numbers of parents/carers calling school throughout the day requesting that we remind/confirm end of day arrangements for pupils. We understand that circumstances may change suddenly and that you need to get a last minute message to your child but would ask that you try to save these calls for emergencies only.

Our office is a very busy place and the phone rings constantly. If you phone and get the answer machine, please leave a message which we will then act upon. Any child who forgets what is happening at the end of day knows to come to any teacher who will ensure that they are safe and adults contacted if necessary.

