Welcome Back

Harvest

A huge congratulations to everyone involved in the Harvest Assembly. We received a letter from our local food store thanking us for all the contributions made by the community of Danderhall. They were overwhelmed by your generosity, they needed to make 2 journeys to collect all of the food that was handed into the school!

Thank you all for your kindness in thinking of others that are in need. Together we can make a real difference!

Chill Out Space

Miss Kersh is running a Chill Club for P1 to P7 on a Tuesday and a Thursday lunchtime. The purpose of the club is to support children who are in need of a quiet place to be at lunchtime. So far the children attending have enjoyed making jigsaws, drawing, Lego and other quiet activities. The aim is to give children the time and space they need to allow them to be ready to learn directly after lunch. To attend the club children must check in with their class teacher on the day, who will then inform Miss Kersh who is attending each session.

New Build

A huge thank you to all the children and parents that came along to the planned visits to other schools in Midlothian to help staff research what we might want our school to look like and how we want it to work. Already lots of meetings are happening with the architect, planners and furniture suppliers to take forward the plans for the school. Our children are currently creating mood boards to have their voices heard about how they want their playground to look. Two representatives from every class will be selected to work as part of the new school team to plan our new playground.

Staffing News

We currently have 3 Learning Assistant posts available. We also have a permanent Principal Teacher post that we are interviewing for. We welcome the opportunity to extend our staffing to support all our learners in the school and interviews will be happening this week. As soon as we have this new staffing in place I will communicate this with our parent body.

How Good is Our School?

Thank you for taking the time on Parents’ Evening to complete the questionnaire created by our How Good Is Our School (HGIOS) pupil group. Some P7 volunteers worked hard to create this questionnaire and will be reading your responses to then create a plan to continue to improve our school. Our pupil group will feedback to you a summary of action points that they will be taking forward. It would be fantastic if any parents/carers would like to come together to work with the pupil group and Miss Gilhooley to form a Parent/Carer HGIOS group too so that we can all work together to make the difference. It would involve meeting with Miss Gilhooley and the pupil group at various times throughout the year to discuss action plans.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Confident Individuals</th>
<th>Successful Learners</th>
<th>Responsible Citizens</th>
<th>Effective Contributors</th>
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Football Team

It looks like we may have a few football coaches! I have spoken with our volunteers and we are looking to plan a way forward so that our keen footballers can start being coached as part of a school team. Once this plan is in place, training will be able to happen on a weekly basis and then I can start to set up some football games against other schools!

Find Us on Twitter!!

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

In line with the expectations from the Scottish Government all teachers are looking at ways in which we can develop our current reporting system to make it more meaningful for our pupils, parents and carers. We are looking at the use of an online tracking tool called SEESAW and how we can use this to provide timely feedback on progress made by our children. We are thinking about individual target setting and developing our children’s ability to reflect on their own learning. More information will be provided and opportunities for our families to provide feedback will be given in the near future.

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 Miss Gilhooly or Mrs Mouat.

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.

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.

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.

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)

Playground Developments

Discussions around creating play zones were initiated by research carried out by Mr Halliday. Our learning assistants were given the opportunity to further this research on our in-service day and have researched ways that we can change our opportunities for creative play in our playground at break time and lunch times.

We also have a pupil group that have been taking an audit of our resources so that that we can decide what resources we need to buy to help our pupils enjoy break time and develop their socialisation skills.
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 8.45am. 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.

Inservice Day

We would like to keep you updated about the work that all staff do on their in-service days.
During the October in-service day all staff were working on creating a new behaviour policy based around our research using the book by Paul Dix - When the Adults Change, Everything Changes. A draft of the policy will be shown to the Parent Council and we will be welcoming parent input. Our HGOIS pupil group will also have the opportunity this week to have their say about the policy.
As part of our behaviour policy we will also be giving every child in the school a chance to choose a member of staff as their 'Trusted Adult'. If any child has any worries or concerns they will be able to get the opportunity to speak with their trusted adult and have a listening ear to help them solve their problem. In line with our child protection policy this is another step in making sure every one of our children are safeguarded and looked after and concerns that they have are dealt with in a timely manner in close communication with families.

Diary Dates

26th Nov - P7 Risk Factory
26th Nov - Scot's Night 6.30pm
7th Dec - P4 Swimming
10th Dec - Nursery Christmas Craft and Sing
12th Dec - P1 - P3 at 1.45pm Infant Christmas Sing
13th Dec - P4 - P7 Upper Christmas Show at 1.45pm and 6.30pm
17th Dec - P3 and P4 Christmas Party
18th Dec - P5 - P7 Christmas Party
19th Dec - Christmas Lunches - P1 and P2 Christmas Party
20th Dec - Nursery Parties
21st Dec—Nursery —JoJingles (all pupils at 8.30am)
21st Dec - TERM ENDS NORMAL TIME
8th Jan - SCHOOL/NURSERY RESUMES FOR PUPILS

Christmas Preparations

All our children will be entering a Midlothian Christmas card competition. These will be completed in school and delivered by 14th November so that the judging can commence! Good luck everyone!

Community News

The school choir will be performing at the upcoming Christmas Fayre at the Danderhall Community Centre on Saturday 24th November. There will also be a pupil-led stall selling Christmas Crafts made by some of our pupils.

Parent Council

The date of our next meeting is Monday 3rd December at 6pm. Please feel free to come along. You will have the opportunity to discuss the School Improvement Plan and updates will be provided about the ongoing work of the school. This will also include ongoing discussion of our new behaviour policy. We really need your feedback so please, if you have a spare hour then do come along.

The PTA Fundraising Committee have raised £297 for the school fund by selling teas and coffees at the October parents’ evenings and also organising a Halloween Dressing Up Day! The PTA has also organised for the school to take part in a Christmas Card initiative, whereby pupils have had the chance to design cards which will then be made in proper Christmas cards which you will be able to purchase and send to friends and family!