



Danderhall Primary School

Newsletter Winter 2016



Winter Again!

Welcome to the December newsletter. Winter is well and truly with us again! Everyone in school worked hard getting ready for Scots Night - and are now beginning to think about that other significant event happening this month!

Dress Code

Thank you to all the families who continue to support us by insisting that children wear school uniform 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 still have a large collection of unclaimed items. 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. **Please also insist that all children wear a suitable coat to school every day - the playground can be a very cold place!!**



Infant Playground

You will be aware that, due to the very poor surface in the infant playground, children have been playing on the grassed area at the front of the school. Please can you ensure that children have footwear appropriate for wearing in wet grass **every day** - wellies please!!

Google Expeditions

Pupils from p4 - p7 spent an exciting morning recently, experiencing learning using the latest 3D digital technology. The children were able to visit Pearl Harbour, Iceland, Space and go underwater all from the comfort of our gym hall! Thank you Mr Halliday for organising this amazing opportunity.



Primary 6 Camp

Congratulations and well done to the staff and pupils who attended camp in October! It was our first visit to Dalguise and we are very proud of the example set by our children who were complimented on their behaviour and willingness to participate. Special thanks to Miss Kirkpatrick, Mr Halliday and Mrs Cassidy who accompanied the children.

Christmas Trip



We are all looking forward to our school trip to see 'A Sort Of Christmas Magic Show' on the morning of December 22nd. Thank you to all those parents who have offered to accompany us on the day - we will be in touch with details soon. Please make sure that all ticket money and permission letters have been sent to the school office.

Parent Consultations

We were pleased to have such a high turn out for our Parent Consultations in October. If any parent or carer was not able to attend, please contact the school to make an appointment. Thank you.

School Choir



Thank you to Miss O'Connor and the school choir who brought lots of festive cheer to the Newton Church Christmas Fayre on Saturday 26th November. Well done choir!

Basketball



Well done to all those pupils who participated in the recent basketball tournament. Once again, we were commended for our teamwork and excellent sportsmanship.

Parking

We continue to receive regular complaints about the level of inconsiderate and dangerous parking around school and nursery. Please consider the safety of our children and park well away from the school. Please also remember that our neighbours require access to their driveways at all times - do not park across gateways at any time, however quick you intend to be.

Staffing News

It seems inconceivable that Mrs Shaw will be returning from maternity leave in January! She will share Primary 5 with Mrs Holligan whilst Mrs Barrett will continue in the role of Support for Learning teacher and Miss Gill will remain with P2B. We are continuing our efforts to recruit cover in Nursery for Mrs Lombardo's maternity leave post.

Community Concerns

We have received several worrying reports from people in the local community who are concerned at the level of anti social behaviour being displayed by some of our upper school pupils, some incidents requiring the involvement of the Police. As a school, we work hard to ensure that children understand the impact of their actions on others but it seems that this message is not being taken beyond school. In the interests of safety, please try to make sure that you know what children are up to when they are out and about and track what they are doing when they are online. Thank you.



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 and in some cases by the Education Welfare Officer. 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 EWO. 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.**

Child Protection

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

Diary Dates - Please Keep Safe

December

- 5 Nursery - Archerfield Visits
Last Hip Hop (P1-3) and Football (P4-7)
Parent Council (6pm)
- 6 Last Athletics/Taekwondo
- 7 P5 Learning Council Visit
- 9 Last Football (P1-3)
P3/4 and P4 swimming starts (every Friday)
- 12 Nursery - Archerfield Visits
- 13 Nursery Crafts, Coffee, Singalong (9am/12pm)
- 15 P1 - P3 Christmas Show (1.45pm & 6.30pm)
- 16 Children's University Graduation (9.30am Invited guests only)
- 19 School Christmas Lunch
Nursery - Archerfield Visits
Dalkeith High School Band visit
- 20 Infant Christmas Party (1.30pm)

- 21 Upper School Christmas Party (1.30pm)
- 22 School Christmas Trip
Nursery Christmas Parties (8.30 and 12.25)
- 23 Magic Ian visit (Nursery)
School Christmas Assembly (9.30am)
- 23 **SCHOOL CLOSSES NORMAL TIME**

January 2017

- 9 **SCHOOL/NURSERY RESUMES NORMAL TIME**
- 13 P3/4 and P4 swimming resumes (every Friday)
- 23 Expressive Arts week
- 25 P5 Learning Council
- 27 Open Day (details to follow)

Follow Us!!

Thank you to all those families who keep up to date with what we're doing through the website, on Twitter and Dojo.

Classes have begun to share weekly learning plans via the website and Miss Brien has been working with pupils to update our site. Parents are also keeping up to date by signing up to Dojo. Remember that you **cannot** send us messages through Dojo - please phone or write. This too will be the last newsletter we print for all parents. From January, all newsletters will be shared on the school website unless you tell us directly that you want a paper copy. We will alert you through Twitter that news has been updated and then you can access the website at your convenience. We hope that this is a step in the right direction in reducing our carbon footprint but also in making better use of the technology available to us all.

Twitter - @DanderhallPS Website - danderhall.mgfl.net

