



Danderhall Primary School Newsletter March 2017



Spring has Sprung!

Welcome to the March newsletter. We seem to be racing towards the Easter holidays and everyone in school is so busy. Please remember that you can follow us on Twitter @DanderhallPS or visit the school website to see what we've been doing.

Sharing Our Work



This term, we have been delighted to share our work with families and friends in a number of ways.

Our Open Day on 26th January with a focus on Expressive Arts, was attended by 159 visitors to school and nursery, who worked enthusiastically alongside the children in classes, sharing in our work. We particularly enjoyed the drumming sessions! Our next lot of P1 Friday Family Time sessions start on February 24th and we look forward to more busy sessions with parents and friends working with children and sharing learning.

We are grateful to the group of parents who have undergone 'Let's Get Reading' training. They will begin working with learners this term.

Staffing News

We are delighted to welcome Mrs Shaw back from maternity leave. She is working with P5 alongside Mrs Holligan.

We have appointed two new Learning Assistants this term. Ms Diaz took up post this week and we hope that Ms MacDonald will be joining us soon. Thanks go to Mr McHale who was with us on a supply basis from August. Mrs Blacklaws starts her maternity leave at Easter and our best wishes go with her. We hope to have a replacement for her organised soon.

School Camp



P5 are excited about their upcoming residential visit to Lowport in March. Please ensure all paperwork has been returned and that medication is handed in to reception. Watch out for P5 on Twitter.

P7 camp takes place from 8th - 12th May 2017. Please look out for a letter inviting you to a **parent only** information meeting on 21st March, 6pm at Woodburn Primary School. Please contact us if you have any questions or concerns about the final balance date.

School Lunches and snack

A reminder that those paying for school lunches should send money in a sealed/named envelope on the first day of the school week. Please can we ask that the brown envelopes supplied by school are used only for lunch money - thank you. You can find out your account balance by phoning the kitchen on 0131 663 1140. All children from P1 - P3 continue to receive a free school lunch each day.

Please remember to send a healthy snack and a bottle for water that your child can use throughout the day. Please don't send juice or flavoured water unless it's for snack time - we get a very hard time from the dental health team about this!!

Dress Code

Thank you to families for continuing to support us by insisting that children wear school uniform every day, including Fridays. Please can I ask that families check that kit and gym shoes still fit well following the holiday - the children have really grown!

A reminder that jeans are not school uniform and they are very difficult for us to dry if children get wet or dirty. Please may I also remind you that football colours should not be worn on any occasion.

Please insist that all children wear a suitable coat to school every day - the playground can be a very cold place!!

Our lost property basket is bulging with un-named school clothes. Please come in and check for missing items.

Swimming

Pupils from P3/4 and P4 will attend their last swimming lesson on 17th March. They have all worked hard and have developed their skills and confidence in the water. Thank you to all those parents who accompanied the classes each week. We couldn't participate without your support.

Book Fair Week



Mrs McIlreavy and Mrs Russell are organising our book fair this year. In the past we have raised lots of money to replenish our libraries and we hope that this year will be no exception. Look out for information soon and get thinking about costumes for our dress up as your favourite character day on Friday 3rd March.



Pupil Council

Our Pupil Council continue to meet regularly to support the work of the school and represent pupil views. Last term, they began to work on 'The National Improvement Framework' which they renamed 'Making Scottish Education Great'. They focussed on the assessment aspect and detailed what that would look like in our school. This term, they plan to look at the 'parents' aspect and will begin by conducting a survey about home learning.

Our Pupil Council is a vital part of our school community and we are very proud of how hard they work to make our school an excellent place to grow and learn.

Holiday Absences Anti Bullying Charter

Please remember that, unless in very specific circumstances, it is expected that pupils will not be taken on holiday during term time. There is no point during the year that is less important - and it is vital that pupils do not miss out on teaching which is essential for steady pupil progress. Please note that, in accordance with guidelines, we are unable to supply extra work for pupils on term time holidays.

We have recently revised our school policy and charter to reflect Midlothian Council Policy. Your child should have brought a copy of the charter home to you last term. Please contact us if need another copy.

Active Schools Sessions

Many children have taken advantage of the active schools clubs that have been on offer this term. They have participated enthusiastically and really made the most of these opportunities to build healthy lifestyles for the future. Please note that the last sessions will be in the week beginning 20th March.

Diary Dates

February

- 22 Karate taster sessions
- 23 Karate taster sessions
- 24 P5 Rugby Festival
P1 Family Time (9 - 9.30am)

March

- 01 P5 Camp (return 3rd March)
P2A/P2B Edinburgh Castle visit
Nursery Drama sessions (5wks)
- 02 Book Fair Week
- 03 P6 Bike checks
Book Character Dress Up Day
- 06 Parent Council Meeting (6pm)
- 07 P2A/P2B Football (6wks)
- 13 Nursery Parent Consultations
- 14 Basketball Festival
- 15 Parent Consultations (4 - 7pm)
- 16 Parent Consultations (4 - 7pm)
- 21 P7 Camp Parent Meeting (6pm Woodburn PS)
- 31 Easter Assembly - Newton Church (9.30am)
- 31 SCHOOL/NURSERY CLOSSES NORMAL TIME**

April

- 18 SCHOOL/NURSERY RESUMES NORMAL TIME**

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.**

Parent Council

Our next Parent Council meeting will be held on Monday 6th March at 6pm in the school library. Every parent is a vital part of our community and we would be delighted to welcome even more new faces in March. You may also wish to visit the Midlothian Council website for details about the plans for a future new school which were approved by Council recently. Consultation events are also being planned for the near future.

Child Protection

All staff are trained in the implementation of Child Protection Guidelines that apply to all schools. Any parents or carers with concerns about child protection issues should speak to Mrs Ramage or Mrs McIlreavy.

Effective Contributors

We continue to contribute to the wider community by raising funds and trying to be eco friendly. Thank you for all the donations for the Ragbag collection - we hope to hear how much we earned soon. You may have seen from Twitter that P5 raised £200 for charity in December. Well done! Please look out for information about some more fundraising soon!

