



Danderhall Primary School & Early Learning and Childcare Setting



Message from Acting Head Teacher – Mrs Mouat

Welcome to the June newsletter. We are now in the final term of the session, and settling into our beautiful new building.

I would like to take this opportunity to update you on the following:

- Staffing
- Covid-19 restrictions
- Transition
- Relationships/Behaviour/Nurture
- New build

Although we are still unable to have parents in school at the moment, it is really important that we keep up communication with you. We had a successful second set of 'virtual' parents' evenings recently where teachers were able to make phone calls to you to update you on your child's progress. All ELC parents will be receiving a phone call from their child's keyworker or an identified member of ELC staff in the next 2 weeks.

Reporting: All parents of P1-7 pupils will receive an end of session Progress and Achievement report which will be issued **week beginning 14th June**. ELC pupils transitioning into P1 will also receive a written transition report from ELC staff.

Remember, if you need to speak to us you can contact your child's teacher by email, or email the school on Danderhall.PS@midlothian.gov.uk. Please mark you email FAO the class teacher. Please remember that we are as paperless as possible and all our communication goes via the School app. **Download "School App For Parents" from your phone's app store.**

Finally, as you are aware, I will be leaving Danderhall PS after 12 years at the end of this term, to begin my new job of Head teacher at Mauricewood Primary School. I have loved my time at Danderhall, and will miss our children and families very much.

Staffing

Mrs Campbell, our Headteacher will be returning to school in August following her maternity leave. Mrs Campbell has been working closely with me for her Keeping in Touch days and will be spending some time in school to see the children during the final weeks of the term. We are very much looking forward to welcoming her back. I will be continuing as Acting Headteacher and Miss Clarke as Acting Depute Headteacher until the summer.

Teaching Staff

- I am pleased to announce that Mr Cole and Miss Cummings will be staying with us next session.
- Miss Miller, Miss Combe and Miss Paterson will all be moving on to pastures new and we wish them well in their next ventures.

ELC & Support Staff

- I have no update on ELC staffing at this time, but will let you know of any changes as soon as possible.
- We are delighted that our Learning Assistants will be remaining with us; however, Miss Erginsoy will be leaving us to embark upon her teacher training. We wish her well.
- Miss Durrant, our Home School Practitioner, will be continuing in her post next session.

New Build/Respecting our environment

We are loving our new building! The demolition of the old building is continuing. I am still working on creating the virtual tour of the old building from photos taken before it was demolished. Thank you for your patience with this.

We are having a focus on RESPECT at the moment – respect for others and respect for our environment. All teachers will be sharing some of this work on Seesaw in the next couple of weeks. This will culminate in a Respect Assembly where all classes will share their learning. Following some of the feedback from parents to my recent survey, I am linking this to Headteacher certificates to recognise and celebrate those pupils who are demonstrating a strong sense of respect and citizenship in school.

Class Arrangements

We will have 14 classes next session. Our additional class is an enhanced P1 class, for a small group of P1 pupils with additional support needs who require a more supported environment for their P1 experience. We will be recruiting staff for this new class.

The classes for session 2021-22 are likely to be as follows:

P1A P1B P1/2 P2 P2/3 P3 P3/4 P4 P5A P5B P6 P6/7 P7

We follow Midlothian Council's policy for arranging our classes. This means that the classes are organised by age. There may be exceptional circumstances whereby a pupil is not in their chronological class but we would always have those conversations with parents on an individual basis.

Transition

ELC – P1

At the moment, due to ongoing Covid restrictions, all transition activities will be virtual, other than in exceptional circumstances where in-person visits are essential. ELC – P1 transition is happening for those pupils within and out with our ELC. We now have parents of our new P1 pupils connected on Seesaw and we will be using that as a tool for sharing virtual transition information.

P7 - S1

Transition for P7 pupils moving into S1 is also continuing. There will be a week of virtual transition activities during the week beginning 14th June, for those pupils attending Dalkeith High School. For any pupils attending alternative high schools, teachers are making contact with those schools to ensure smooth transition for them too. More information to follow.

Within School P1-7

I am hoping to share information with parents about classes and teachers for next session by **Friday 11th June**. Transition work will begin **week beginning 14th June**, and on **Friday 18th June your child's current Seesaw class will be archived**. Thereafter, for the final week of term, teachers will communicate with their new classes on the Seesaw Family App. They will be sharing a **Meet the Teacher** video and some pictures of new classrooms, toilets, cloakrooms, atriums and lining up areas to help to familiarise children ready for the next session.

Stakeholder Views

Thank you to everyone who has completed my survey on Relationships, behaviour and nurture. I am delighted with so many responses and will be taking your views into account in creating the School Improvement Plan for next session. There is still time to respond if you haven't done so already. This is the link:

<https://forms.gle/w2NsEHxvzaMnUK9F9>

Parent Council

There will be a Parent Council AGM on **Monday 7th June**. All parents welcome to attend. I encourage as many of you as possible to attend. The meeting is on Zoom and the code can be obtained from Suzan Whitecross, Chairperson, or the school office. It is at **7pm**.

Community Link - Gardening Club

In keeping with the local community gardening efforts, which are carried out by the Danderhall Guerrilla Gardeners, we have decided to start our own small gardening group within the school.

The club will be run by Mrs Durrant, our Home School Practitioner, and the Guerrilla Gardeners have kindly offered to help guide us through what is best to plant in our pots.

The children will have a learning focus still within literacy, numeracy and vital life skills. We will be learning about bees and why they are important to the world that we live in and we will gain knowledge of different plants and the environments that they need to help them grow.

Sports Week

Although we cannot have our normal Sports Day, we are planning to have individual class events across a Sports Week which will take place in the week beginning 14th June. Although we cannot invite parents to spectate at these events, class teachers will take photographs of the learning to share on Seesaw.

Health Protection

Please note that there is currently no easing of any restrictions in place within school with regards to limiting the transmission of Covid 19 and it is vital that we all remain cautious. We are still working with the same health protection mitigations as we have been throughout the session, including pupils staying within a class 'bubble' in school and only mixing within this group. The exception to this is that as we are no longer in Level 4, we can do some PE activities indoors, in well-ventilated halls, with high standards of cleaning.

Due to the ongoing restrictions we will not be going on any excursions between now and the summer, with the exception of a P7 local area (outdoor) trip in the final week of term which will be carefully risk assessed. All P7 Leavers' Events organised by the school to celebrate the children's achievements over their time at primary school will be virtual, which will allow us to share these with parents using digital platforms. Mr Halliday and Mr Cole are working hard on these arrangements at the moment.