

In Danderhall primary we are **READY TO LEARN!**

### **Friday 16<sup>th</sup> and Monday 19<sup>th</sup> September are HOLIDAYS**

Welcome to our first newsletter of the session. I will publish a newsletter at the beginning of the month and these will be issued through the app and on the school website

#### **Staff News**

My name is Mrs Donnelly and I am an experienced Midlothian Head Teacher. I am looking forward to working together with you to support and develop all our Danderhall learners. Mrs Welsh, an experienced Deputy Head Teacher, also joins us this session and together with Miss Clarke, Mrs Morris and Mr Halliday we make up the Senior Leadership Team here in Danderhall PS.

Welcome to class teachers Ms Jess in P7, Mrs Swanson in P1/2, Ms McNeil SFL and P4/5 on Friday and Mr Reville inclusion and wellbeing. We are excited to have lots of new Learning Assistants this session they are Ms Welsh, Ms Wright, Ms Gillon, Ms Douglas, Ms Irvin and Mrs Abushaaban. In the nursery we are delighted to have Ms Fagan join the team in the Oak room.

Welcome everyone and I hope you enjoy your time here in Danderhall PS.

#### **Meet the Teacher**

Thank you to all parents who attended this event. We hope that you found it useful!

#### **Pupil Absence**

Please let the school office know by phone if your child is not going to be in school. An answerphone is on if the office is closed and we are happy for you to leave a message. **0131 271 4585**. If we do not hear from you, we will try to contact you, if no reply we will work our way down your emergency contact list. In extreme cases where we cannot contact anyone on the list we will have to include other services such as Social Work. Please help us by getting in touch or leaving a message as this is paramount to keeping all our children safe.

#### **Free Meals**

Currently free lunches are available to all pupils in P1 – P5. Pupils in P6 – P7 who have not applied for free meals have to pay through parent pay for any meals taken in school. If you would like to apply for free meals (this also gives access to clothing grants etc.) please contact the school office for a form. If any pupil in P1 – P5 would like to opt out of receiving the packed lunch on a Friday please let the school office know by email or telephone ([Danderhall.ps@midlothian.gov.uk](mailto:Danderhall.ps@midlothian.gov.uk) or 0131 271 4585) Please state your child's name and class if leaving a message. For all packed lunches, please remember we are a **nut free school**. Children are also asked to bring a water bottle to school each day.

#### **Ready to Learn**

We have implemented a new approach to behaviour at Danderhall Primary School, which promotes children being 'Ready to Learn'. Staff set high expectations to ensure our young people have the 'Right to Learn' and the 'Right to be safe' yet support children who require extra input and assistance. Within our 'Ready to Learn' policy, children are supported to 'be safe', 'be kind' and to 'work hard'. Children who are finding the school day difficult to manage can request 'thinking time' and/or 'talking time' where they may wish a few minutes on their own or where they can be supported by a member of school staff to identify what they need in order that they can return to learning and meet expectations. Adults in the school, whether in the classroom, with a specialist, in the dining hall or playground we will use the following sequence to deal with low level disruptive behaviours:

### **Caution – move away – time out – go to management**

If a child's behaviour or attitude is to be regarded unsafe or an incident is viewed to be bullying, they are referred directly to a member of the Senior Leadership Team. All referrals to the Senior Leadership Team are recorded. If, after talking with the member of staff and returning to class, the child's behaviour/attitude does not improve, they will be removed from class activities and home contacted via a phone call. If concerns continue then a meeting between home and school will be held to support the child. There may be other professionals involved or further referrals for support may be agreed. Alongside these procedures, it is important that we recognise and celebrate our children's achievements too. Please refer to our school website to access the full 'Ready to Learn' Policy.

### **Pupil Council and House Captains**

I will be working with the pupil council and this will be formed by a representative from each class from P1-7. The pupil council will be announced at assemblies and our first meeting will take place after the holiday weekend. Primary 7 pupils will campaign in their houses to become our first house captains. Pupils and staff will hear their speeches and vote for their 2 house captains from each house. Mrs Welsh will lead this group and we hope to have our elected house captains in place before the end of September.

### **Mobile Phones**

All pupil mobile phones should be switched off in the playground. Once in school they should be placed in the class basket for safe keeping. If a pupil is found with their mobile phone in their possession during the day, their phone will be taken to Mrs Donnelly's room where it can be collected by the pupil who must be accompanied by an adult the **following morning**.

### **Lost Property and Pre-Loved Uniform**

From 12pm on Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> September until 10am on Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> September unnamed lost property from last session and an abundance of pre-loved uniform will be available for collection from the room off the library in the Hub. All items are free, please help yourself as we do not have anywhere to store these clothes!!

### **PE Days**

Please come dressed for PE on your allocated days. We do not have any changing rooms but children can bring a change of shoes especially if it is wet and muddy outside! We remind you that Midlothian and school policy is – no football colours, inappropriate clothing such as crop tops, no hoop earrings and all long hair should be tied up. Thank you for your support with this.

### **Active Schools**

Exciting news! Active schools clubs are returning! All clubs will be free to all users. Our first two are lunchtime ones for fitness and yoga, which are due to start after the holiday weekend. We will be in touch with the year groups involved once details are finalised.

### **Parent Council**

Our first parent council meeting will be held on Monday 5<sup>th</sup> September at 7pm in the conference room off the library hub. We would love to see you there and I am told meetings are no longer than 1 hour! All Welcome

### **Theatre Show**

P1-3 will be attending some live theatre in the gym hall on Monday morning. Thank you to Danderhall Library for securing funding to bring live theatre to school for our infants!

### **Parent Conduct**

Can parents please be careful around our pupils in the playground; this includes language they use and how they conduct themselves.

**Dates for your diary (please note dates may be amended)**

Monday 5<sup>th</sup> September Live Theatre show for P1- P3

Parent Council meeting 7pm

Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> – Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> September uniform and lost property pick up.

**Friday 16<sup>th</sup> September – HOLIDAY**

**Monday 19<sup>th</sup> September – HOLIDAY**

Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> October – flu vaccinations in school

P6 and P7 pupils cross country event (pupils taking part will be informed)

**Monday 17<sup>th</sup> October – Friday 21<sup>st</sup> October – HOLIDAY**

***Monday 24<sup>th</sup> October – Inservice Day – staff only attend***

Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> October – 8.50am all return

Friday 25<sup>th</sup> November – Friday 17<sup>th</sup> March P4 and P4/5 swimming

Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> December – Term 1 ends 3.15pm

**Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> December – Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> January - HOLIDAY**

***Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> January – Inservice Day – staff only attend***

Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> January – 8.50am all return

**Monday 13<sup>th</sup> February – Friday 17<sup>th</sup> February – HOLIDAY**

Monday 20<sup>th</sup> February- 8.50am all return

Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> February – Friday 24<sup>th</sup> February – P7 Camp

Friday 31<sup>st</sup> March – Term 2 ends 12.25pm

**Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> April – Friday 14<sup>th</sup> April - HOLIDAY**

Monday 17<sup>th</sup> April – 8.50am all return

**Monday 1<sup>st</sup> May – HOLIDAY**

***Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> May - Inservice Day – staff only attend***

Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> June – Term 3 ends 3.15pm