



## Aberlady Primary School Newsletter – September 2019

### Achieve- Belong- Care

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Welcome to our September newsletter.

#### Staffing

*Thank you for all the kind messages whilst I was absent during my period of illness. I am nearly fully recovered although might need a small procedure on my shoulder in the near future. I wish to thank the entire Aberlady staff team for rallying around so ably and at the last minute to ensure the school ran smoothly. – Mrs Currie*

We said good bye to MrMcKenzie last Friday and say congratulations to Mrs Craig who secured the role of Acting Principal Teacher. A classroom teacher position of 3.5 days is currently being advertised. The successful candidate will teach P5/6 1 day per week, P6/7 1 day per week , P2 half a day per week and the remaining time split between the classes. We would hope this class teacher would be in post for the week after the October holidays.

Relentless Routines Our whole staff undertook training in August and this alongside our professional reading and research helped to have an informed discussion about the routines we could introduce or revamp in school that we could create a calm, positive ethos where learning was top of the agenda by reducing some niggly behaviours that disturb learning. There are 8 routines we are introducing on a gradual basis all have a sound rationale behind them. These are posted on the school website for your information. They are not rules but habits we are installing and encouraging. An example of one is 'Walking around School'

We have introduced silent walking during class contact hours, the corridors were at times noisy and this disturbed phone calls in the office and classes working. One of our school values is respect so by silently walking we are showing respect for others. During pupils break time, this is downtime and quiet chatter is perfectly acceptable. It is nice to see pupils standing chatting about learning that is displayed on the walls etc. Staff are commenting on the calmer atmosphere. We will share more routines in the next newsletter.

#### School Improvement Plan (SIP) and Standard & Qualities Report (S&Q)

You can find these two documents on our school website. The SIP is our game plan to further improve the work we do in school. One of the areas we need to develop is digital skills. As a staff team we will undergo training and Parent Council through, the Autumn fair, are fundraising to support buying in the resources we need to teach computing and engineering. The standard and qualities report is the document that reports on what we developed and how we developed the school last year.

Our school values:

\*Kindness \* Respect \* Co-operation \*Positivity \*Inclusion \*Curiosity

### P7 Leadership Roles

Recently, the Aberlady Primary 7s were given leadership roles to do throughout the school year. P7's have jobs they have to do mainly because they are the oldest and most responsible, These roles are given to every P7 class each school year and this year there are four different roles.

- *Communications officer: Does tasks such as send emails, write newsletters (such as this one) and tweets school news on twitter.*
- *JRSO: Helps out in road safety, bike ability and other similar tasks (the name stands for Junior Road Safety Officer).*
- *House Captain: is an ambassador for their house. Helps show visitors around and attends various meetings. They basically are the people who take care of the house's they are in and they do sports day.*
- *Librarian: Does most jobs involving the library such as reading to younger children and tidying and taking care of the library.*

*All the jobs are very important and help out in different ways.*

*Written by Ben & Ella (communication Officers)*

### Skills Groups

In previous years every pupil has been involved in school improvement groups where they had a say and supported the schools developments. We have changed the format a little this year. We have school improvement groups as well as skill groups running. They run weekly instead of monthly and will run for blocks of 8 weeks at the end of which pupils will attend a different group. Sometimes they will get a choice of group and other times they will be placed into a group. Meeting weekly allows us a better opportunity to work consistently on something without a 3 week wait. It gives a better variety of experience too. P1 have not been involved in the first block to allow them a better chance of settling into school life but will join in by block 2. This block we have offered the following groups: Pupil Council, Rights Respecting, Digital Training, Cookery, P7 responsibilities, workplace experience, choir and writing workshop.

### Snack and Fruit

We use our Pupil Equity Fund to buy fruit in weekly and we make it available for all pupils who need fruit for their morning snack. This is an addition to fruit being available for P1 and P2 through a government subsidy. We are happy to help with providing snacks but for a few pupils it seems to have replaced snacks being provided by home entirely. Sometimes children can relay home incorrect information. So for clarity - free fruit is available for P1 and P2 Tues, Wed Thurs through the class teachers and free fruit is available to the whole school Monday- Friday through fruit basket in the playground during morning break if they have had on occasion forgotten their snack.

### New Group Novels

A huge thank you parent council who have donated money to buy in nearly 150 new reading books for pupils. Teachers spotted a gap in our novel resources and with support from the library service we have bought books to support each year stage as well as our dyslexic learners.

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### Reading Books- Charging for Replacements

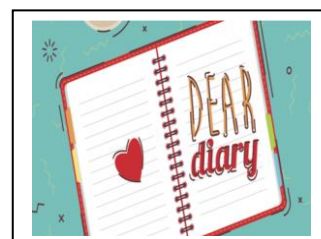
Each child takes home reading books, library books or personal readers. On the whole these are returned to school but we do have books that are not returned therefore we need to replace them. In a time of tight budgets we are now going to pass on the cost of replacing lost books and books not returned on to families. This will help us as a school maintain a wide variety of texts for all to enjoy.

### Jog Club

We are delighted to see so many children attend and enjoy Jog Club, a huge thank you to Gordon Allan, Angela, Latto and Karen Polwart for facilitating this group. We are asking children once they are changed back into school uniform to **join the lines in the playground before school starts**. With 40 pupils attending the corridors are too busy before school.

### Dates for your Diary

Tuesday 1 <sup>st</sup> October	Dance workshops in school N- P7 P4 Visit to Linlithgow Palace
Saturday 5 <sup>th</sup>	Autumn Fair in Community Hall 2- 4pm
Monday 7 <sup>th</sup>	Flu Jabs for pupils who have returned consent form
Tuesday 8 <sup>th</sup>	P5 and P6 Firstclub Golf Session at Craighielaw
Wednesday 9 <sup>th</sup>	P7 Coasteering at North Berwick
Friday 11 <sup>th</sup>	Pupil Progress Update reports home P1-P7 Learning Journals sent home (N-P7) School closes at normal times for October holidays
Monday 21 <sup>st</sup>	In-Service Day
Tuesday 22 <sup>nd</sup>	In-Service Day
Wednesday 23 <sup>rd</sup>	All resume
Tuesday 5 <sup>th</sup> November	Photographer in school to take individual and family group photos.
11 <sup>th</sup> & 13 <sup>th</sup> November	Learning Conversations (P1-P7)



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