



Aberlady Primary School Newsletter – January 2020

Achieve- Belong- Care

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Happy New Year – we trust you have all had a happy festive season and are now settling back to some kind of normality.

Staffing

Mrs Blair, our Additional Needs Assistant will be absent from school for a period of time as she recovers from an operation. Mrs Edna Lynn will cover Mrs Blair's hours Monday – Thursday in the interim, we are very fortunate to be able to secure supply for this role. We wish Mrs Blair a speedy recovery. Next week we welcome Miss Dahne a masters teaching student who will work with P5/6 on a Wednesday and Thursday until May. Miss Rennie, a teaching student in P4 will move to work with P2 from February until June. We welcome Mrs McQueen, a kitchen assistant to our school team as Mrs Perry has secured a new post in Dirlton Primary School.

Building Resilience Homework P1-P7

You will have had notification of this programme in December and we are planning to launch 'Building Resilience' this week in school. Attached is a leaflet to share with you the content of Unit 1. We launch on Friday with a whole school assembly and each teacher as part of the health and wellbeing curriculum will plan a series of lessons to follow on from the assembly. We are encouraging every pupil to undertake the homework (also attached) and be ready to share their learning by Wednesday 22nd January. Other homework set by teachers will be minimal.

Wet Weather: Indoor Shoes

Our grounds have become very muddy which is inevitable at this time of year. I'm sure you are able to tell by the state of some of the clothes and footwear each evening! We do not have an indoor shoe policy whereby we require every pupil to change their shoes each time they enter their classroom. We scrapped this policy to optimise teaching time by reducing shoe changing throughout the course of the day. However, when the ground is very dirty we are asking the pupils to change into their PE trainers when necessary. So, it would be helpful if your child's indoor PE kit can remain in school at the moment. Please do not go out and buy specific indoor shoes, their PE ones are perfect.

Relationships, Sexual Health and Parenthood

Relationships, Sexual Health and Parenthood is part of the Scottish Curriculum and we deliver this curriculum from P1 – P7. Attached is a leaflet which may be of help to understand why we teach this subject and what is covered. This, alongside the termly highlights from individual class teachers will let you know what content is covered and when. There is also a link below to a website which you may also find useful.

<https://rshp.scot/about-the-resource/#parentsandcarers>.

Our school values:

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

Recycling Oral hygiene Products

We now have our official box in the foyer of the front entrance. Anyone is welcome to recycle toothbrushes, toothpaste and any packaging and electric toothbrush heads. Thanks to our sustainability group for setting this up.

School Improvement Plan (SIP)

The SIP is our game plan to further improve the work we do in school, it can be found on the school website. One of the areas we are working on is 'metacognition'. Essentially this is what learners think about their own learning more explicitly. Research shows that helping pupils develop metacognition strategies is one of the most efficient and effective ways of making progress in learning. As a school we have had support and training from our Educational Psychologist and are now all including strategies within our teaching. We evaluate and review these in April. Some strategies are not new to us but it is important to teach these so they become a way of working for our pupils, strategies include: seeking out feedback and using it, setting goals, asking 'good questions'.

Monday Skills Group

Between now and the February Holidays the skills groups on offer remain the same as before Christmas: writing, Rights Respecting, Sustainability, Pupil Council etc. We are adding back in the digital warriors and we also have secured a Mandarin teacher who will offer a cultural experience. P4's will also receive a direct Mandarin input on a Monday afternoon as part of their 1+2 languages curriculum.

Mobile Phones

Increasingly we have seen pupils using mobile phones in school during breaks. We understand families may wish their child to have a mobile phone for use before and after school but can we please ask for your support in actively discouraging their use during the day. Phones should be kept in school bags or trays at the families own risk. We have one pupil in school who needs a mobile phone on their being as part of plan to manage a health issue but this is the exception.

Dates for your Diary

DATE	EVENT
10.1.20	Building Resilience Assembly LAUNCH
15.1.20	Zoo Lab Visit to Nursery
15.1.20	Parent Council 7pm in Coffee Room
21.1.20	Class Teachers Termly Highlights sent home
30.1.20	P7 Information evening about NBHS at Law Primary School
5.2.20	P6 Digital warriors to Innerwick Digital Conference
10.2-14.2	February Holidays
17.2.20	Staff In-service Day
18.2.20	Pupils Return to School
21.2.20	Pupil Progress Updates and Learning Journals home to Families
3.3.20	Risk Factory for P6 and P7
6.3.20	P3 Gala Art Lesson with Mrs Lindsay- Hood
11.3.20	Parent Council 7pm Coffee Room
30.3 & 1.4	Learning Conversations
3.4-20.4	School Closed Easter Holidays
21.4	Pupils and Staff Return to School

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