

Dear Families

### **New SEYP & Pupils in the Nursery**

We welcome Ms Anne Fraser to the nursery team, she starts with us today, leading our nursery. We also welcome our new 3 year olds to our nursery setting.

### **Achievements Outside of School**

As part of our virtual assembly we are highlighting and congratulating children who have upheld our school values in school and beyond. We also celebrate achievements, if there is something in particular your child has accomplished please get in touch with the school office and we can share our congratulations either individually, if your child doesn't want to be mentioned, or collectively at assembly.

### **Numeracy for P2- P4 Families**

The rescheduled Numeracy Workshop for parents of P2-P4 children will be on **Tuesday 29th September at 6.30pm**. This will be an online session where we will share our numeracy approach specifically for this age group, share resources and strategies we use, and give advice of what you can do at home to help. The google code has already been shared with you.

### **Nappy Changing in the Nursery**

If your child is still in nappies or pull ups can you please provide these for your child with nappy sacks? We only have a very limited back up supply in nursery of these. Thanks.

### **Parent Council**

The Parent Council will meet on Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup> September at 7pm, the meeting is held virtually, if you would like to attend please get in touch at [parentcouncil@aberlady.elcschool.org.uk](mailto:parentcouncil@aberlady.elcschool.org.uk)

### **Stricter Controls in schools**

As pupils or staff test positive for COVID the public health authority and educationalists from local authorities are tasked to analyse the cases and feedback changes the general school population should make. We are now to provide seating plans which means that in any given day, children cannot swap seats. We used to allow seat swaps for socialisation at lunch time and group work but this will no longer be allowed. Seating plans can change and we keep a record of this, your child will sit next to different children but plans will not be changed daily or indeed weekly. We are having to be more stringent in not letting our bubbles cross infect and keep records of who each member of staff and pupil has had contact with in the school. This allows us to know with certainty that in school we are able to share who has and who has not been in contact with each child.

### **Communications with School**

As email traffic and phone calls increase because we can't have quick in person catch ups, we are conscious that we aren't always responding the same day to communications as we have tried to do in the past. East Lothian's policy is that communications requiring a response are acknowledged within 2 working days and then responded to, in the norm, within 10 working days. You will probably now receive an acknowledgement e-mail and although we have 10 days to fully respond, we usually answer within a couple of days. If the matter is urgent, of course we will endeavour to respond as timely as possible. A reminder that the school office is manned: **Mon- Thurs 8.40-3.30pm except between 1.45 and 2.15pm when Mrs Mair takes her lunch**. Emails are picked up daily if sent to the school admin box: [admin@aberlady.elcschool.org.uk](mailto:admin@aberlady.elcschool.org.uk) even though the office is unmanned on a Friday. Out with these times other school staff may be able to answer the phone if they are available, equally please feel free to leave a message on the answer machine.

### Reading Books and Levels

We are still missing reading books which is resulting in some groups, particularly in the younger classes, not yet being allocated a group reader to take home. We understand that during lockdown book swaps took place so it has been hard to track where the books are. This is one last plea for any school books to be returned before we invest money next week in replacing these resources.

Book swaps did take place during lockdown and in part we understand why this occurred. For the younger year groups we did offer alternative resources to stop this happening and spent time matching levels in other reading schemes to allow flexibility of choice as we needed to protect the resource we had in school for our return. Since the children have been assessed and have been placed at an appropriate level a few are telling us they have read books we are assigning, unfortunately we have no other resources to offer so a few children may have to revise previous texts. When we allocate reading books in school there is a considerable piece of teaching and development work that goes behind each book and level to scaffold their learning. Although they may have read the text previously at home we will be undertaking the other reading skills and work needed for their stage of development.

### Homework

Homework is now communicated through google classroom, if you are having trouble supporting your child accessing this please get in touch and we can help. Unlike during lockdown where staff checked the google classroom and e-mails daily we are no longer in a position to do this. The homework will be checked on the return date, usually the Monday. If your child has any questions encourage them to ask their teacher, equally drop the school office an email and the class teacher will be able to help.

### Building Resilience Homework

We have loved seeing the childrens 'back up team' homework and we have seen some thoughtful and creative responses like this actual t-shirt that was designed.

### Gala

We wish to sincerely thank the Gala Committee for the donation of £500 to the school. It will have been disappointing for families and the community not to participate in this established event. We are about to introduce a new spelling pathway and anticipate that some of this money will support its implementation so this resource will benefit all children. We will also ask pupils for their ideas and thoughts about a resource they would wish to see in school or the grounds.



Kind Regards

Pam Currie  
Headteacher