

**Welcome**

I wanted to thank the whole school community for their warm welcome over the last few days. The school values of kindness, respect and positivity have been demonstrated in abundance as I've started to get know everyone this week. It's been a real privilege to get into classes and see the positive teaching and learning that is taking place. I look forward to getting to know the wider school community.

Recruitment for the permanent Headteacher is well underway with the job being advertised at the moment with a closing date of Sunday. Longleat interviews are planned for the 10<sup>th</sup> October and shortleat on the 31<sup>st</sup>.

**Promoting School Attendance**

This week we are sending two different communications for specific children and families. The first links directly to East Lothian Council's *"Included, Engaged & Involved: A Positive Approach to Promoting School Attendance"* policy. In this policy it explains the importance of attendance:

*"East Lothian Council recognise the cumulative impact that poor attendance has on a child or young person's learning and wellbeing. Poor attendance has been linked to lower levels of attainment; peer relationships; emotional and behavioural difficulties and poorer employment opportunities. This was found to be the case even when prior attainment and pupil characteristics were taken into account. Some initial studies have indicated that missing 10% of schooling (equivalent of 4 weeks) over the course of a year can impact on attainment.*

*Low levels of attendance can also be linked to how connected children and young people feel to their school community. Absenteeism can cause children and young people to feel a greater sense of isolation from their peers, teachers and schools which may result in being more socially withdrawn when returning to school (Gottfried, 2015). Lack of school connectedness has been linked to a range of poorer outcomes including attainment, wellbeing and involvement in offending.*

*Good attendance and participation with school can be considered as protective factors for children and young people experiencing adversity or trauma and can support early intervention. For example, attendance at school was found to be a protective factor for children's mental health (Gao et al., 2015). While recognising that the links between attendance and these factors are not straightforward, there is still a clear case for demonstrating the importance of promoting good attendance in schools."*

As part of the policy we will be writing to all families of children who have attendance of less than 90% over the last 4 weeks. In this letter we will share their attendance levels and also why we think the child has been absent. We fully understand that children will have times when it is necessary to be absent e.g. illness, family bereavements, and landmark events. We would ask that if the reasons for absence are different to those stated that you please contact the school. We hope that by following this process we may be able to offer early intervention and support to children who are finding it difficult to attend school. Through this monitoring and communication our aim is as a school is to increase attainment and levels of wellbeing.

We have attached a copy of the policy to this communication and are more than happy to discuss it further if it would be beneficial.

**Positive Learning Plan (PLPs)**

PLPs are also being shared with for specific families. Any child at Aberlady who requires the curriculum (i.e. what we teach) to be adapted or strategies adapted to support their learning for a period of time have a Personal Learning Plan (PLP). The PLP's are designed to ensure a consistency of approach no matter which adult is working with the child. This can include a supply teacher, support staff member or a visiting specialist.

For those families receiving the PLPs, we would welcome any feedback around the documents and if there is anything you would like to see changed.

### **Autumn Fair - 1<sup>st</sup> October - 2-4pm Aberlady Village Hall**

A reminder from Parent Council that the Autumn Fair is happening on 1<sup>st</sup> October in the hall. A fun community event and a great fundraiser for the school. The classes have all been busy helping to prepare for the big day. We hope to see as many of the families as possible on Saturday supporting the school. .

### **Headteacher Drop In**

Mr Brown is continuing to offer the opportunity for families to visit the school on a Thursday morning from 9:00-10:00 to discuss any school or child specific matters.

### **Cars and Conkers**

Conker season is in full swing at Aberlady at the moment. It is wonderful to see the children keen to collect conkers and connect with nature. Our only request is that during school hours children stay away from the cars. We will be sharing this message at assembly this week with the children.

### **Rights Respect School**

Mrs McGuigan and Miss Higgins are leading our Rights Respecting Schools approach this session. We are already busy planning new initiatives and children will start to see the rights being more visible around the school. You can find out more about the rights of the child here: <https://education.gov.scot/parentzone/my-child/what-is-my-child-entitled-to/children-s-rights>

### **A note from Parent Council - Class reps and communication**

Parent Council communications will usually be sent through the school office in the first instance. This will always be the case for communications relating to meetings and governance. Communication about fundraising events will also be sent out through the school office (either by separate email or as part of the head teacher update), but follow up and reminder messages are often sent on the class WhatsApp groups.

Your class reps for this year are noted below. If you would like to be added to a class WhatsApp group, or speak to your class rep about something else, and don't know how to contact them, please get in touch on the Parent Council email address: [parentcouncil@aberlady.elcschool.org.uk](mailto:parentcouncil@aberlady.elcschool.org.uk).

Our first meeting of the year will be held on Wednesday 12 October, in school. As always, all parents and carers are welcome to attend. An agenda will be circulated next week.

### **Class Reps 2022/23**

Nursery: Lauren Tough

P1: Stacey Hart

P2: Kathryn MacGregor & Kate Linsley Hood

P3: Jillian Peart

P4: Lauren Berry & Kerry Hardie

P5: Leanne Gillies & Karen Polwart

P6: Nikki Black

P7: Cara Strachan & Louise Potter

