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NEWSLETTER SESSION 2016-17 JANUARY / FEBRUARY

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Happy New Year! I wish all Cockenzie families the very best for 2017 and look forward to developing our school further with your support.

December Review, if you can remember that far back!

What an exciting December we had. The Christmas celebrations were augmented this session by the introduction of a Talent Show. I seriously underestimated the time it would take to get through the acts as we allowed everyone who wanted to perform the opportunity. I am pleased to say that we allowed the last few acts to perform on Monday. Next session we plan to run the Talent Show again but limit the number of children allowed to perform from each year group to ensure we can get all acts shown in the set time.



We hope you enjoyed the Christmas themed books and novels in all classes.

All children had the opportunity of either attending the Brunton or the Lyceum Theatre. Next session we plan to take all children to the panto in Musselburgh. There will be an alternative activity in school for children who do not want to attend or if you want to attend this event as a family.

Unfortunately we are acutely aware of the cost implications of Christmas and we seemed to ask for an awful lot of money over a short period of time and will be reviewing this before next session.

We enjoyed a meal with our classmates and friends when we all sat down together to eat our Christmas Lunch. The teachers and support staff served the children who had a school meal. It was lovely to see the children sit with their Christmas hats and enjoy a leisurely meal.



Our thanks once again go to the PTA who ran a very successful Christmas Fayre. This event raised an amazing £1500.00 and we look forward to the next meeting on 17th January 2017 to finalise our wish list.

We finished the Christmas season with our Church Service. It is such a lovely occasion to draw the term to an end.

Masterclasses

All classes enjoyed taking part in a very successful Masterclass session at the end of term. Each child was given the opportunity to pick and develop a skill of their own choice. These skills were wide ranging and included sewing, art, team sports, baking, craft and treasure hunts. We would also like to take this opportunity to thank all the parent volunteers who gave up their time to help organise and run this very successful event.

John Bellany Family Homework

Back in October we ran a family homework competition to design new letter heads for the John Bellany Day Centre. The Day Centre were delighted with the response and chose Ollie design (P1B) as the winning design. Well done, Ollie and to all the children who participated. The Day Centre also offered runner up prizes for the following pupils: Emily (P2W0), Finlay (P4B), Lewis (P5T), Amy (P7T), Millie (P7T), Charlie (P7S) and Sula (P6T).

Staffing

Mrs Wylie has been in school this week getting to know the new developments that have occurred over her maternity leave and will be back with us after the February break. Mrs Buchanan starts her last term with us before her retirement in March.

Developments

This term we will be looking at Numeracy Teaching in school. The Authority are hosting a Conference for all teaching staff during the In-Service day in February and we are reviewing our planning and implementation of the authorities number programme. Information on this can be found on the dedicated website <http://elnumeracyandmaths.edubuzz.org/>

Number Academy

With this in mind we will once again be looking at Speedy Skills and some classes in school will be trialling on line programs Matheletics and Sumdog. We need to compare the amount of money it costs versus the amount we spend on photocopying and teacher time spent preparing the skills. Please let us know if you have any thoughts on this.



You will receive your termly highlights next week and this week. You will notice that your child has been asked to learn their Burns poem for the forthcoming Competition. Due to feedback received last session we have not issued any other homework this week.

Over the next fortnight your child (P3 onwards) will receive their AR target. This is designed to motivate children to read more challenging books and more of them. We discussed in Assembly on Monday, that becoming a reader will improve your mental health and will make you more successful in life. So anything we can do to promote reading is worth it!



Books and Biscuits

School opens early on a Tuesday and Thursday for children to read independently or with an adult. We provide each child with milk and a cereal bar. Some children have been invited to join us and if your child has been invited please try to get your child to school sharp at 0830hrs to benefit from the staff available. If you think your child would benefit from attending this group please drop us a note.

New School Times

With constant pressure on money and managing the specialist timetable we have had to review our school day. We have shuffled the times of break and lunch so that we are no longer paying for both a specialist and class teacher to teach a class. All the odd 5 and 10 minutes add up and with diminishing budgets we have had a slight reconfiguration of the school day.

Times are:

P1-P2

Monday - Thursday	0845 – 1510hrs
Friday	0845 – 1210hrs
Interval	1025 – 1045hrs
Lunchtime	1155 – 1310hrs

P3-P7

Monday - Thursday	0845 – 1515hrs
Friday	0845 – 1220hrs
Interval	1025 – 1045hrs
Lunchtime	1225 – 1310hrs



This will be trialled in January so please let us know if this causes any difficulty.



There is no change to the school day but can we remind parents of the importance of getting your child to school on time. If your child is late then it can be difficult for them to walk into class when the other children are already working. They may miss key information about the lesson resulting in the teacher

having to repeat the lesson and slowing the pace for all other children. We will be reviewing our system to identify children that are consistently late and will be in touch with families who may need some support. This can be offered from Family Support Workers.

Raising Children with Confidence

Mrs McNeill is presently delivering the Raising Children with Confidence Course which is open to all parents. (New support worker]

- Wednesday 18th January 1315 – 1515hrs for six weeks
- Wednesday 18th January 1830 – 2030hrs for six weeks

Raising Children with Confidence is a course aimed at all parents/carers of children aged 0-11 years old.

It is an affirming course which pulls together many of the latest findings and evidence from research to explain what influences children's emotional well-being and why what you do makes such a big difference. It recognises the uniqueness of every family and brings you together with other parents and carers to reflect upon your experiences of family life. The course takes place over six sessions and covers the following topics:

1. Why do kids do that?
2. What's love got to do with that?
3. Cotton wool kids?
4. Staying connected?
5. What makes us, us?
6. 21st Century Childhood

Please follow the link below for more information:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=POkddKE9VEw>



Dinner Money

With the financial pressure on schools we will be chasing all unpaid lunch monies through the Council Debt System. Can parents/carers please ensure your child has sufficient funds to pay their lunch money each day. Cheques for the week can be sent to school made payable to East Lothian Council.

Parent Consultation – March 2016

Paper copies for Parent Consultation will be distributed by pupil post in the next few weeks. Please complete and return as soon as possible.



We need foster carers now

We urgently need new foster carers in East Lothian. Fostering with East Lothian Council means great support, great training and a good financial package. More importantly, as part of our fostering team, you'll be doing something fantastic, helping children and young people from East Lothian to stay in East Lothian, close to the people that are important to them - helping them to feel safe, loved and nurtured in your home. Do this for East Lothian children in need. Foster East Lothian!

To find out more phone us on 01620 827 643 or visit East Lothian Council's fostering web site at

www.eastlothian.gov.uk/fostering

Successes and experiences offered in Term 1b

- 28 Oct P1-P7 Halloween Disco
- 28 Oct P6 Youth Music Initiative PLHS
- 01 Nov P1 Butterdean Wood
- 09 Nov P2 Craigmillar Castle
- 09 Nov P4 John Muir Birthplace
- 10 Nov P1-P7 Karate Taster Sessions
- 11 Nov P7 Drama QMU
- 15 Nov P4 Badminton Festival
- 15 Nov P4-P7 Google Classroom Training
- 15 Nov P6-P7 Poppy Factory Tour
- 18 Nov P1-P7 Children in Need Dance-a-thon
- 21 Nov P1-P7 Christmas Craft Week
- 24 Nov P1 Book Bug gifting at Library
- 29 Nov P6-P7 Alice’s Adventures in Wonderland (Lyceum)
- 30 Nov P3 St Andrew’s Day Assembly
- 30 Nov P5 PLHS Seafood Preparation
- 01 Dec P3 Ceilidh
- 06 Dec P1-P4 Aladdin (Brunton)
- 13 Dec P1 Nativity
- 14 Dec P1-P7 Christmas Lunch
- 15 Dec P5 Aladdin (Brunton)
- 15 Dec P7 Learning Festival (WW2)
- 16 Dec P1-P7 Christmas Jumper Day
- 16 Dec P1-P7 Masterclasses
- 19-22 Dec P1-P7 Christmas Parties
- 22 Dec P5 Church Led Service
- 22 Dec P1-P7 Talent/Sing-a-long



Dates for your Diary

See Attached Sheet – please continue to check on line diary for any updates.

Jacqui MacKinnon

Jacqui MacKinnon
Headteacher