

**Curious
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NEWSLETTER October 2017

To report a pupils absence – call 01875 811327 and press '1' to leave message
Weblog <http://www.edubuzz.org/cockenzie/> Twitter [@cockenziePS](https://twitter.com/cockenziePS)
Email admin@cockenzie.elcschool.org.uk



Staffing

Farewell Mrs Corr. It is with mixed emotion that we say farewell to Mrs Corr. We sent her off with a large celebration to help her enjoy her early retirement. Mrs Corr will still be undertaking the occasional day of supply so we may well see her back in the future.

Mrs O'Connor has been promoted to replace Mrs Corr in her Depute Head Teacher role and she will take up her new position on her return to school around Easter time. This leaves us with a Principal Teacher vacancy which we have advertised and will be interviewing for on Friday.

The new PT will take over P6B as Mrs Barry will be leaving in February to go on maternity leave. We have decided to make the switch of teacher now so that P6B get a longer session with one teacher. Mrs Barry will release Mr Stitt one day per week to undertake management duties.

Mrs Barry will undertake teaching across the school to maximise management time for Mrs Mercer and both Principal Teachers. More details to follow once our new Principal Teacher has been appointed.

We welcomed back Mrs Dougal from her maternity leave this week. It was lovely to see her back.

Message from Mrs Corr

Mrs Corr would like to thank all pupils, parents and carers for their good wishes and generosity over the last few weeks. She leaves Cockenzie Primary with happy memories.

Macmillan Coffee Morning

Thank you to all pupils, parents and carers who donated cakes and to those who attended the Macmillan Coffee Morning last Friday. £300.26 was raised at this event – a massive well done.



Parents' Consultation Evenings

We are in the process of allocating a time for your November Parents / Carers Consultation. Due to the complexity of the task and the amount of time it takes office staff to complete we will not be changing the day of the week or the time of your 2nd appointment come March. We will notify you of the appointment with an acceptance slip in March. Appointments that do not suit will be rearranged around the completed timetables.

Appointments have been more complicated to issue this year due to P1 and 2 parents receiving 15 minute appointments. This is due to small classes and teachers Working Time Agreements allocating the same number of hours to consult parents.

Family Learning

We would like to thank all the families who took part in our first family learning homework of the school term. I hope you had the opportunity to see the wide variety of models and written homework that the children submitted.

Thank you so very much for to the parents who managed to come along to our coffee morning and to look at the bridges.

Our next event will be the Harvest Assembly to which you are all most welcome.

School Photographer

Thank you to the office staff and the two parent helpers for the mammoth task of organising the school photographs. The photographs went well and we got the proofs straight away. Please return all photograph money by Monday 9th October so we can get the order away. Please make cheques payable to 'Tempest Photography'.



Toys in School

We would discourage children from bringing toys (including collectible cards such as football cards) into school unless in connection with the children's learning. Toys can easily become a source of disputes when children lose them or swap them with other children. We cannot take responsibility for the safe keeping of toys and ask that you support us with this.



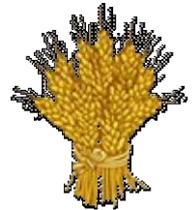
Christmas Crafts

Although it is still only October, we are all aware that Christmas will be upon us before too long. Just like last year, we plan to offer each class in the school the opportunity to create different Christmas crafts to sell them at the Christmas Fayre which will be on Saturday 2nd December 2017.

If you would like to volunteer to help out during the making of the crafts, please let your child's teacher know. We plan to make the crafts in year groups, week beginning 20th November.

Harvest Assembly

P4 are preparing our Harvest Festival. They would be very grateful to receive donations of tinned, non-perishable goods such as soup, stew, baked beans or dried pasta. As a school, we will be donating all items to East Lothian Foodbank and East Lothian Women's Aid. Any donations can be sent in with your child from now until Friday 13th October. This year the service will be held in school on Friday 13th October at 11am. Many thanks.



Cockenzie Gala - Community News

The Cockenzie and Port Seton Gala Committee would like to remind parents that the planning for the 2018 Cockenzie and Port Seton Gala will soon be underway. After a fairly successful AGM on Thursday 28th September can we please remind all parents that community events like this cannot go ahead without volunteers. Next year's Gala marks the 70th anniversary so it will obviously be a huge event requiring many weeks of planning, but many hands will make the jobs small and manageable. Please like the Cockenzie and Port Seton Gala Facebook page. The school has kindly said they will remind parents of the next meeting by groupcall. Let's make the 2018 Gala a week to remember.



PTA

The PTA AGM was held in school on Tuesday 5th September 2017. The Committee this year will be:

Chair: Angela Fraser
Treasurer: Carrieann Buckley
Secretary: Linda Scott



They have set dates for the following fundraising events:

- **Friday 3rd November 2017 – Autumn Disco**

▪ **Saturday 2nd December 2017 – Christmas Fayre**

The PTA will be looking for additional volunteers to help at these events. If you are able to help or attend, please let a member of the PTA know. The next meeting will be Tuesday 7th November 2017 – everyone welcome to attend



Parent Link - (formerly Parent Council)

The Parent Link meets approximately every six weeks to discuss how we can improve our school. All parents and carers are very welcome to join us and be part of the discussions.

The next meeting will be held in the staffroom on the **1st November at 7.00pm and guest speaker will Mr Gavin Clark from Prestonlodge High School.**

The Parent Link can discuss any general issue which affects all the children but not specific issues for one child. The Parent Link flyer is attached.

If at any time you have an issue which you would like to discuss about your child, or school in general, please feel free to make an appointment to see the class teacher, a DHT or myself.

Items discussed in September were as follows. Minutes are posted on the school website.

P1 lunch time routine.

The children receive 30 minutes to eat their lunch. We have three members of staff in the dining hall allowing children to be supported to cut up their food and take off lids or peel fruit etc. Children who have not finished their lunch in this time frame are more than welcome to stay longer.

P1/P2 conflict of lines.

This is a new problem this year due to the change to P2 lines. A parent suggested that the timings of bells could be different and this was discussed but parents present felt that the systems that had been put into place were working and did not want any further action taken.

Healthy snack

After much discussion it was felt that the giving of Dojos for fruit was to be stopped as the Dojos were a behaviour system. The school was asked to continue to develop positive healthy eating. The Healthy and Active Action team will be taking this forward.



Head Lice

This is a problem that has always been an issue in schools and it is a joint responsibility of all parents and carers to be vigilant to eradicate.

We no longer notify individual classes so please help us to reduce the number of infestations by checking your child's hair regularly for lice and their eggs. Treat it immediately to prevent them spreading. Advice about treatment can be obtained from local chemists or try this website:

www.nits.net/bugbusting. Free shampoo through the minor ailments is available on request from the chemist.



Social Media

We would like to gently remind all parents that personal references about staff or other pupils in the school cannot be made on social media sites without permission from the school first. Should you have an issue with any aspect of the school, please do not hesitate to contact the school directly where we will be more than happy to help.

If you have any black you please hand them



School Gym Kits – Girls

leggings or girls shorts (age 6 and over) that your child has out grown could into the school as the PE Teacher could use them as spares.

Reminder of key dates for your Diary

❖ **NHS Lothian Primary School Flu Vaccination Programme 2017/ 2018:**

Cockenzie Primary's vaccination session will be held on Tuesday 5th December 2017 within the school day.

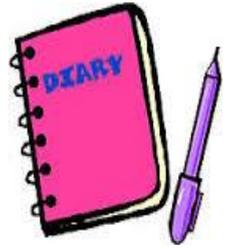
❖ **Christmas Pantos:**

- **Primary 1, 3, 5 & P7**

We will be taking our P1,P3,P5 and P7 children to see Beauty and the Beast at the Brunton Theatre on the morning of **Wednesday 13th December 2017**

- **Primary 2, 4 & P6**

Our P2, 4 and P6 children will go to see Beauty and the Beast at the Brunton Theatre on the morning of **Thursday 14th December 2017**



The Fundraising Action Team is looking at ways to raise funds for this event. More details to follow.

Please remember to keep up to date with any new dates on our [online calendar](#).

Please help us by:

- Pay as much as possible using the [online service](#)
- Filling in your parental / carer consultation booking form
- Signing up to receive your newsletter by email
- Follow us on twitter - [@CockenziePS](#)
- Register for email alerts from the website
- Tell us if you would like information about anything specific in the next newsletter

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Jacqui MacKinnon'.

Jacqui MacKinnon
Headteacher