



Cockenzie Primary School NEWSLETTER August 2018



Curious
Positive
Successful

To report a pupil's absence – call 01875 811327 and press '1' to leave message
Weblog <http://edubuzz.org/blogs/cockenzie>
Email admin@cockenzie.elcschool.org.uk
Twitter @cockenziePS



Welcome Back!

Welcome back! It's great to see everyone back at school, especially our P1 pupils who have settled in well to school life. Our P7 pupils are also looking very smart in their new school sweatshirts.

Staffing

We start by extending a warm welcome to Miss Millar who has joined us from Athelstaneford Primary School and will be teaching full time in P2 this year. We also welcome our two newly qualified teachers, Miss Mackie and Mrs Bell who will be teaching in P1 and P3 this year. Mrs Clark is now on maternity leave and we wish her well for the future. Miss Buchanan, who was married in the summer, is now Mrs Smith and will be filling Mrs Clark's post whilst she's on maternity. Miss Hay, who secured a permanent post with us last year, will be teaching in P5 this year. Finally, we would like to wish Mrs Mackinnon lots of luck and best wishes for her secondment to Haddington.



Box Meeting 2018

All our classes have started the year off by learning about the upcoming Box Meeting. The children have been enjoying learning about the history of The Box Meeting, our fishing community and what life was like back in 1813 when The Friendly Society of Fisherman was founded in Cockenzie and Port Seton. We are also looking forward to sharing our family homework and displaying some examples of our learning in the community. Thank you for your support with this and if you have anything that you'd like to share with us here at school that would help us with our learning about The Box Meeting, please do not hesitate to get in touch.



Living our Values

Our three school values are:

- ❖ Curious
- ❖ Positive
- ❖ Successful



This term we have started by looking at how we can promote positivity throughout the entire school. We will be looking at how being positive is good for promoting a growth mindset, promoting positive language and how we can all encourage a positive ethos and learning environment in school. We celebrate and acknowledge our school values not only during our every day learning but also at our weekly assemblies by awarding certificates to the children who have successfully managed to demonstrate our values.



Fundraising

Thank you to everyone who supported our 'Dress Down Days' last session. The money raised goes directly towards reducing the cost of the pantomime for all our families. Instead of asking for £10 per child, as we have done in previous years, we are hoping to considerably reduce this, helping to ease the cost for everyone. If you have any questions or queries about this, please do not hesitate to get in touch.



Homework and Learning Logs

[A letter explaining homework and Learning Logs](#) will be distributed via pupil post today. Just like in previous years, homework will always be issued on a Tuesday and returned to school the following Monday. Please do not hesitate to contact the school if your child is experiencing any difficulties regarding homework or if you have any questions about your child's learning log.

In-Service Day Training

Teaching staff started the year off with a very successful in-service training day focussing on Nurture. This session was lead by East Lothian's Educational Psychologists and the focus was on how we can provide the best possible nurturing environments at school. If you'd like to learn more about Nurture and our Nurture provision, Ms O'Neill will be available in the Nurture Room during our Meet the Teacher Evening on Tuesday 28th August.

School Grounds



School Gates- As mentioned in a [recent letter](#), all infant playground gates including the gate between our staff car park and Winton Park will be closed and locked during the school day. All gates will then be reopened before the end of the school day. The main entrance gate to the school will be closed, but not locked. Please ensure that you close this gate if you need to enter/exit during the school day.

Infant Playground- A working group has been created by parents and staff to try and improve our infant playground. The group have worked hard to create an achievable vision for going forward with making improvements to the playground. If you would like to help or support this group, please don't hesitate to get in touch with either the school or Kelly Evans/ Nichola Ma (Parent Link Chairs)

Quiet Garden- The children are thoroughly enjoying using their newly painted picnic benches (and the fairy garden) which were revamped by Angie Fraser and Moira Gilfillan over the summer holidays. We'd like to thank the ladies for making our garden so much more colourful, they really have made a huge difference.

Dogs- Please note that bringing dogs into our playground (including our playing fields) is always strictly prohibited. We appreciate your cooperation with this.



Vandalism- Unfortunately the school is currently experiencing a high volume of vandalism. Over the last few months this has included damage to our nursery garden and the smashing of windows in our Outdoor Garden. This is obviously really disappointing and costly and all incidents have been reported to the Police.

Meet the Teacher Evening

We are looking forward to seeing you all at our [Meet the Teacher evening on Tuesday 28th August from 6pm](#) onwards. Please come along so your child's teacher can introduce themselves and share any important information about the year ahead.



Old Gym Shoes / Clothes

If anyone has old gym shoes that they no longer need (if possible size 11 and above) please hand into school as these can be used in school for pupils who have forgotten their gym kits, or have accidents during the course of the day.



NHS Lothian Primary School Flu Vaccination Programme 2018/19

Cockenzie Primary's vaccination session will be held within the school day this year on **Tuesday 4th December 2018**.

Flu vaccination pack/consent forms have now been distributed to pupils in P1 to P7. Consent forms should be returned to school no later than Friday 7th September - thank you.

If you would like any further details please call the **NHS inform helpline free on 0800 22 44 88**.



Get your Newsletter emailed

We are trying our best to cut down on our paper usage. We also try to be sensible with the school budget! It would help us enormously if we could email the majority of our newsletters. If you would like your newsletters emailed to you please email us at the following address with your request - admin@cockenzie.elcschool.org.uk. Newsletters are always posted on the school website if you misplace your copy.

Housekeeping

The first newsletter always has a lot of procedural details which I would ask you read carefully....

- **School Office**

The School Office is staffed from 8.15am - 4.00pm. If you need to contact the school out-with these times please leave a message on 01875 811327 or send an email on admin@cockenzie.elcschool.org.uk and someone will get back to you as soon as possible.



- **School Closure/Keeping your records up to date**

Parents will be notified in advance of any planned early closure. In case of emergency or unplanned closure the school/authority will notify the local radio station to warn parents of the closure. No child will be sent home without either parental permission or permission by phone, or from the emergency contact. It is important that you provide the school with up-to-date information on persons to be contacted in an emergency. Mobile phone numbers can change frequently, so please ensure that you always keep these number up-dated.

You will already have received the details that the school holds for your child, please check and return this ensuring they are accurate at the earliest opportunity.

- **Photographer**

The Tempest photographer will be in school on **Thursday 27 September 2018** taking individual/family photographs. All pupils will get an individual photograph as we use the photograph for in house record keeping. A letter was sent home via pupil post regarding requesting a family photograph.





- **Attendance**

Cockenzie Primary School considers attendance and punctuality a priority and strongly discourages pupils arriving late to school. When pupils arrive late, they miss out on essential instructions given at the beginning of the lesson. Good attendance and punctuality are essential for all pupils if they are to achieve their full potential, both academically and socially.

It is important for us both to know that every pupil is either at school or safely at home. If your child is unfit for school or unable to attend for another reason it is essential that we are told in good time. Please notify us in writing if you are withdrawing your child for a pre-planned absence. We will note this in our diary.

If your child is unexpectedly unable to attend, please call that morning as early as possible to let us know on **01875 811327 (Option 1)**. Please phone this number and leave a message giving your child's name, class and the reason for absence. If you have not advised us of your child's absence by 9.00 am on day 1 of an absence, we will contact you by phone to establish the reason for the absence.

If we are unable to contact you, we then call the emergency contact numbers and if we are still unable to make contact, then the matter is passed to the Family Support Worker.

It goes without saying that attainment and achievement go hand in hand with attendance. It is essential that your child has a good pattern of regular attendance and this is closely monitored within the school. We would look at children who have an attendance level of less than 90%. We review why the child has been off, notify you that your child has reached the trigger level and offer support, if appropriate. This maybe pointing out that your child always seems to be late or off on a particular day of the week or looking at ways we can ensure your child improves their attendance. It is important that we work together to ensure good attendance patterns are set as early as possible.

- **School Meals**

The charge for school meals for P4-P7 is now £2.00/day. The [menu is available on our school website](#) and your child should have received a paper copy prior to term end.



A reminder that meals can be paid for daily or weekly, by cash or, by cheque made out to East Lothian Council.

Parents/carers will be notified whenever a child forgets their lunch money by text, which we fully appreciate, can happen from time to time. However, schools are held responsible for all unpaid lunch money and as a result no child will be given a meal if they ever accumulate three unpaid meals. We will contact you and ask you to make alternative arrangements.

- **Allergy**

Along with many other schools, we have children who suffer from nut allergies. These can be life threatening. Please do not send any food to school which contain nuts. This includes sweets such as snickers bars, peanut butter, all Nutella products or Nutella on sandwiches. Thank you for your support.



- **PC1 Forms**

We have been given permission for the PC1 Form that your child would have received in class (Green Form) to be reused throughout the year and so we would ask if you could complete this form as soon as possible and return to school so that we can have them filed for the year.

- **On Line Payments**

It is of great benefit to us if as many payments as possible are paid on line.

How To Do It?

1. Log onto East Lothian Council's homepage at

www.eastlothian.gov.uk/payforit

2. Select either Primary School Payments or Primary School Milk Payments.

3. Select Cockenzie Primary School

4. Fill in the relevant information.



IMPORTANT INFORMATION

You must include the Additional Information to let us know what you are paying for, especially if you are using the miscellaneous option. Transactions must be made before 8.00am to meet any deadlines for payments.

Confirmation

When your payment has been completed you will be issued with a reference number. This is your record of payment; however, you can also request an email confirmation.

Paying for more than one child at the same time

If you are making a lump sum payment for eg trips for more than one child, you can do so as long as you name all children individually in the Additional Information box. Please note: You can only make lump payments for the same categories eg trips for more than one child, you cannot mix categories.

You must use the Primary School Milk Payments section when paying for milk as this money goes directly to East Lothian Council and not the school.

Charges

If you choose to pay online using a debit card there will be no charge; however, the charge for using a credit card is 1.9%. This would mean that a payment for an item costing £10 would cost you an additional 19p if you used a credit card but nothing if you were using a debit card.



School Calendar

Please find enclosed a copy of the latest calendar. Your child's teacher will be sending home termly highlights in the next few weeks.

Please help us by:

- Signing up to receive your newsletter by email
- Follow us on twitter - [@CockenziePS](#)
- Register for blog alerts from the [website](#)
- Familiarise yourself with the [online calendar](#)
- Complete your personal update form which will be distributed in the next few weeks.
- Complete the green parental permission form which you should have received from your child in their school bag this week.
- Tell us if you would like information about anything specific in the next newsletter.



D. Mercer

Debbie Mercer
Acting Head Teacher