



## NEWSLETTER SESSION 2018-2019



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Can you believe it's the last term of this session already? Where does the time go? Our fingers are crossed for the weather to improve as I am sure you will want to be out and about at the weekend.

Primary 7 have started their transition activities up to Preston Lodge High School and our nursery children are continuing with their transition programme, familiarizing themselves with the infant corridor and playground ready for their move to Primary 1. Exciting times ahead.

We have a full timetable of events for this term, alongside getting ready for next session so as always, the time will disappear!

### Staffing

I am delighted to announce that Mrs Wylie is expecting her second child in October. She will be returning to work towards the end of June and will be starting her maternity leave in the middle of September. Mrs Wylie will be off for the majority of next session so we have applied for a full-time teacher from the Authority. There are a number of teachers across the authority that find themselves, through no fault of their own, surplus to requirement in their current school and need to be redeployed. This means we will be able to backfill Mrs Wylie with an experienced teacher. More information to follow as we have it.



Mrs Clark will also be returning from her maternity leave on the 6 June 2019 and will pick up her Wednesday, Thursday and Friday contract until the end of term. The plan is for Mrs Clark and Mrs Medlam to share a class next session.

Miss O'Neill has completed her secondment in Support for Learning and will be returning to the class in August. Mr Stitt will move into Support for Learning in the new session.

We are still waiting to hear back from head office on the final number of Probationary Teachers we will be allocated next year so as always staffing is still not confirmed. We will let pupils know who their new teacher will be no later than in their Report Card pack due out in the middle of June.



### Parent Link

The AGM of the Parent Link was held last week. Mrs Kelly Evans and Mrs Nicola Ma stepped down as Joint Chairs and we are delighted that Mrs Louise Clarke, Mrs Claire Jamieson and Mrs Marie McMath have all agreed to share the role as Chair of the Parent Link moving forward.

Please find enclosed a copy of the Parent Link Annual Report.

Topics of conversation were around the new Positive Relationships Policy (draft enclosed), results from the recent sticker survey at parents' night (enclosed).

Tea and toast held on Friday after Parent Link Meetings offer a valuable opportunity for Parent / Carers unable to attend the main meeting to contribute their views.



Moving forward the Parent Link are looking at offering this opportunity before the meetings to gauge parental views to bring to the meetings.

### End of term gifts

A topic of conversation at Parent Link was the current social media conversation about end of term gifts for staff. We are always very appreciative of any gifts that parents / carers buy for us at the end of term, but no one should feel any pressure or obligation to buy gifts. We have been informed one point in the conversation is around buying stationery for the school. Please remember that the school has access to heavily discounted resources through the national procurement system and may be able to get them far cheaper than Parents / Carers could.



### The Term Ahead

Please find attached Calendar 2018-2019 of important dates for this term. Your child will also have their class information in their homework jotters.

### Pupil Equity Funding

As you may be aware the school will receive a substantial amount of funding from the Government to target reducing the poverty related attainment gap. Our allocation is approximately £33k. The Pupil Equity Funding (PEF) will deliver activities, interventions or resources which are additional to those already planned and targeted to show a measurable improvement in attainment.

The pupil equity fund is based on the number of children in receipt of free school meals. I would like to encourage all parents / carers who think they may be entitled to this funding, whether they will use it or not to please apply. The number of children receiving free school meals will be calculated based on the September census and will determine our funding for next session.

Free school meal funding is available for all parents / carers who are in receipt of

- Income support
- Income based job seekers allowance
- Universal Credit (where your monthly earned income is less than £610)
- Employment support allowance (income related)
- Child tax credit but NOT working tax credit with an annual income less than £16,105
- Child tax credit AND working tax credit with an annual income less than £6,900 (from 1 April 2019)

Children would be entitled to a free school meal and milk but also may qualify for a £100 clothing grant.

### School Uniform

A reminder that our school uniform is supplied by the Workshop in Port Seton. No orders are taken directly in school but we will be selling our very limited supply of sweatshirts / fleeces etc at a discounted price on Sport's Day.

### Our school uniform consists of:

Maroon sweatshirt or cardigan worn with white/maroon polo shirt and grey/black trousers or skirt. Children should not wear jeans or leggings but have formal school wear.

As more and more children undertake the daily mile we are seeing a growing trend for trainers in school. The daily mile was designed to be undertaken in school shoes. If your child prefers to wear trainers, then any trainer worn to school should be black with a black sole. These are readily available in Sports Direct, the Nike Discount Shop and on line through Amazon to name a few.





### **Pre loved uniform.**

There is now a Cockenzie School Uniform Swap page on Facebook for any Parents / Carers looking to swap preloved uniform. There is still a selection in school and this will be available to be collected on sports day.

### **Scooters/Bikes**

Some of our nursery parents/carers have raised a concern about the children on bikes/scooters in playground when they are on their way with their young child to nursery. This is before school and at the end of the day. Could you please remind children they must come off bikes and scooters before entering the school grounds.

### **Nut free school**

May I take this opportunity to remind Parents / Carers that the school requires to be nut free due to a number of children with allergies. Over the last few weeks we have noticed an increase in the number of children who have been bringing to school Nutella / Hazelnut spread items. Please note these are not appropriate as they may cause an allergic reaction.

### **Speech and Language**

This year our PEF monies have been spent employing a Speech and Language Therapist, Lindsay Fowler, to review our practice and identify how we can support children who are not making as much progress as possible. We have introduced consistent use of visuals in each classroom and across the school.

### **Why?**

Ms Fowler has identified areas in the early year curriculum that need more specific teaching e.g. Retelling a story which we have enhanced our planning for. Her main project has been the introduction of Zones of Regulation which is attached. If anyone would like further details then please do get in touch.

### **And finally...**

We are delighted that The Community Council have kindly donated money to the school to purchase our very own Road Safety Characters. You will remember that we borrowed some characters from the Council in September, which were a great success. We will now have our own characters to use daily which will help keep Osborne Terrace safe during busy drop off and pick up times.

*Jacqui MacKinnon*

Jacqui MacKinnon  
Headteacher

