

# Cockenzie Primary School NEWSLETTER 2 August 2021



Curious  
Positive  
Successful  
Respectful

To report a pupil's absence – call 01875 811327 and press '1' to leave message  
[admin@cockenzie.elcschool.org.uk](mailto:admin@cockenzie.elcschool.org.uk)  
<https://www.edubuzz.org/cockenzie/> <https://twitter.com/CockenziePS>

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|--|--|---|--|
| <b>Curious</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Asks questions</li><li>Solves problems</li><li>Loves to learn</li></ul>  | <b>Positive</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Has self-belief</li><li>Shows resilience</li><li>Is kind and helpful</li></ul>  | <b>Successful</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Always tries hard</li><li>Wants to improve</li><li>Achieves success</li></ul>  | <b>Respectful</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Includes everyone</li><li>Respects others' feelings and property</li><li>Polite and shows good manners</li></ul>  |
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## Message from Ms Banks:

As we approach the end of week 2, I am so happy to say how well the children have settled in to school and nursery with their teachers and staff. The new P1s are amazing us all with their eagerness to learn and how well they are doing already after just a few days in school.

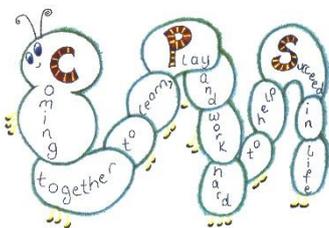
Thank you to those who painted the boat in the front of the school.

Painting of the infant playground has begun. Last session, I bought paint so that the infant playground could be made into a more colourful and welcoming environment. Thank you to those who are organising and getting involved with our playground improvements.



As many of you have seen, we had substantial work done to the outside of the school during the holidays. The infant rooms all now have new windows and there are new windows and doors in the other part of the school. The roof is also being repaired. The large chimney in the infant playground was meant to have been taken down in the holidays. This should now be done in the October holidays so the scaffolding will be removed soon and then erected again.

## Our Vision, Values and Aims



Our vision – Coming Together To Learn, Play and Work Hard To Help Us Succeed In Life.

Our Values – Curious, Positive, Successful, Respectful

Our Aims – We aim that our learners

- are curious and have a love of learning
- have positive relationships, showing respect for all
- are resilient and have self-belief in order to achieve success in an ever changing world
- are aware of their responsibilities as a global citizen
- are active, happy and healthy

## OUR STAFF

### Congratulations

A massive congratulations to Miss Lennox who got married in the summer holidays and is now Mrs McConnell.

### Depute Head Teacher Appointment

We re-advertised at the beginning of the summer holidays for a new Depute Head Teacher. The interview dates have been set for September. Hopefully we will have someone in place next term. Please be aware that as we are a Senior Leadership Team member down, it may take us longer to respond to any queries but rest assured we will get back to you. Thank you for your understanding at this time.

### Staffing

As part of the Scottish Government funding to assist in the recovery from the COVID school lockdowns, we have appointed a new teacher, Miss Dixon, 3 days a week for this session. Also as part of this funding, we have appointed Miss Wright as a full time classroom assistant and Mrs Baggs as an Additional Support Needs Auxiliary for the coming session. Miss Hames joins the teaching staff as our P1C teacher and Miss Lucas joins us in P4B. In the nursery, Mrs Nisbet joins the team as a permanent Early Years Practitioner and Mrs Shepherd is working in the nursery, on a temporary basis, as an Additional Support Needs Auxiliary. Mrs Davidson will be with us soon as a Nursery Support Worker helping the team out over the lunchtime period. Welcome to all our new staff.

### Lunches

Please ensure you order your child's school lunch on [School Pay](#). It helps us greatly too if you indicate on School Pay if your child is having a packed lunch brought from home. If you wish your child to have a packed lunch on a Friday, you MUST order this before 10am on a Wednesday morning.



East Lothian Schools will be reinstating the use of dining halls for school lunches on Monday 6<sup>th</sup> September. This will enable the full hot menu to be offered, which is fully compliant with the new Scottish Government Nutrition Guidelines. The new menu will be issued to children next week.

- 2 portions of vegetables to be available with every lunch. We will therefore be serving hot soup every day in addition to salad or vegetables with a Main Meal. This is included in the price.
- 1 portion of fruit to be available with every lunch. This is included in the price also. Please note that the home baking/pudding recipes have a portion of fruit included already.
- Water and Milk only to be served

**\*Please note the price of a Primary School Lunch is now £2.15**



### Vandalism

The boat in the playground was vandalised recently. It has been repaired now. There have been youths on the roof. Glass is being smashed in the playground/quiet garden. Please, if you witness anything then contact the Police on 101 and report the matter. It is deeply distressing that people continue to vandalise our school. I am in discussion with the council regarding updating the CCTV at the school.

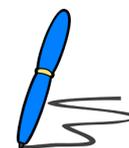
### Dogs in Playground and Dog Mess

Only a few days back into the new term and we already have had dog mess in our playground. This is wholly unacceptable. On Friday, the janitor and I spoke with 2 adults who had their dogs on the playing field. The man (with one dog) verbally abused the janitor, swearing at him several times (in front of children). This was the same man who was verbally abusive to me a few months ago when I asked him nicely to leave the playground as dogs weren't allowed. The woman, with 2 dogs, shouted at me after I politely reminded her that no dogs

should be in the playground. I am discussing matters with the children, Parent Link and Community Council. Up until now I have been happy to keep all the school gates open for the community to access the grounds and use the 'short cut', but it looks like a very small minority are determined to spoil this for everyone else. The safety of the children in the school is paramount and the dog mess must stop. This abusive behaviour towards school staff is completely unacceptable. It looks like I will have no choice but to lock all the school gates after school hours and weekends if this continues. Further information and update to follow.

### **Names on Sweatshirts, Jackets, etc**

It's so great to see so many children in school uniform. This does give a sense of belonging and community. We do, however, have a significant number of sweatshirts, cardigans, jackets etc. already being lost and many of these have NO NAMES. Thank you to those parents/carers who have named clothing items but if you haven't already PLEASE write your child's name on their belongings. Many thanks ☺



### **Nursery**

Children are settling well into our nursery and we are welcoming all our new children and families over this week and next. Nursery staff will give new parents/carers a phone call after the child's first week to update parents/carers with how their child is settling in. All the children are enjoying playing together in the garden as we no longer require to keep key worker groups separate outside. NHS Lothian Team are due to come in on Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> September for vision screening for pre-school children. If there is to be a follow up for your child, nursery staff will pass on to you any communication received after this screening from NHS.

### **Mobile Phones**

We request that children do not bring mobile phones into school. Please be aware that if a child does bring a mobile phone into school then we take no responsibility in the event of loss or damage. Children bringing in mobile phones must turn the phones off before entering the school grounds and have the phone in their school bag. The phone must be handed in to the class teacher at the beginning of the day for safe keeping and must not be kept in school bag. At the end of the day, phones should be kept switched off and in school bags until children are outside the school grounds. Thank you for your co-operation in this matter.



### **Class Information Powerpoint and Termly Highlights**

Usually we have parents/carers into the school to meet the teacher, see the classroom and find out what will be happening in classes. Due to the restrictions in place, we are unable to facilitate this again this year. Each class teacher is preparing a PowerPoint which will be shared on the school blog next week and you will be emailed the link to access this. Termly highlights will be shared on Monday 30<sup>th</sup> August in children's new Google Classrooms.



### **Birthday Cakes/Sweets to share, etc**

This is reminder to all parents/carers (and to inform our new parents/carers) that we do not allow children taking birthday cakes/sweets to share to school. There are a number of reasons for this decision, including serious difficulties with allergies, and we appreciate your support with this. Thank you

### **Data Forms**

Data forms will be issued soon. It is very important that you check the details on your data forms and return, amending any details if needed.



### **NHS Flu Immunisation Forms**

NHS consent forms are being sent home today via pupil post for completion and return to school by Monday 30<sup>th</sup> August 2021. These forms should be completed even if you do not wish your child to have the nasal spray. Thank you.

Flu immunisations for P1-P7 will take place on Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> November 2021 during school hours.

### **Swimming**

We have been informed by East Lothian Council that P5 children will have a swimming session over the next 3 weeks and then the swim teacher will decide from this session if a child is to have an 8 week block of swimming. Only those children who cannot swim 15m or more will have the 8 week block of swimming lessons. All the P5s have been issued with a letter and a PC1. The PC1s must be returned by Friday 27<sup>th</sup> August. Moving forward, it will continue to be the P5s who will be targeted in ELC swimming lessons.



### **Reporting Absence**

If your child is unable to attend school, 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.

### **Contacting Us**

A reminder, like always, that if you would like to contact us, please email [admin@cockenzie.elcschool.org.uk](mailto:admin@cockenzie.elcschool.org.uk) and your email will be passed on to the appropriate member of staff. Please ensure that you inform us by telephone or email if your child has any appointments and requires to be collected from school during the school day or is coming in late due to an appointment. Thank you



*Lynda Banks*

Ms L Banks  
Headteacher