



Dunbar Primary School December 2019 Newsletter



Twitter: @DunbarPrimary

Website: www.edubuzz.org/dunbarprimary

Dear Parents and Carers,

30 Years of UNCRC

We are working towards our silver RRS award and we wanted to take part in the worldwide celebration of the United Nations Convention of the Rights of the Child. Mrs Whitehead and the RRS group organised each campus into creating a number 30 in the playground. Each class spent time looking at some of the rights children have, why they have them and what happens if some countries do not support these rights. You can see the photographs on our school website.

Communication

Communicating with parents and carers is really important to us and we have created a Communication Policy that lets you know what to expect from us. We have also recently updated our School Handbook for the session. It contains useful information you might want to refer to from time to time. We have added both to our website for you to look it. We are trying to use our website and Twitter to keep you informed about what's going on at the school and we are also posting general information that is sent home in your child's school bag as we know this sometimes doesn't always reach home. If you don't have access and would like a copy of either documents, let the Office know.

Staffing Update

We are saying some goodbyes and a hello to some of our staff at the end of this session.

Mrs Atkinson, P4c is starting her maternity leave after the Christmas holidays. We wish her well and look forward to seeing her bundle of joy sometime in January; for the rest of the school year until June they will be taught by Mrs Sutherland.

After 13 years of loyal service to our school kitchen Mrs Susan Gray, one of our kitchen assistants at John Muir Campus has decided to retire. We are very sorry to see her leave and wish her well.

Mrs Fiona Gray has been one of our playground assistants for 21 years, however she has decided to retire and we wish her all the best for the future.

Finally, we are very grateful to Miss Lyon who has been working two days a week in P6b, we are delighted that she will be taking up a full-time post at Cockenzie Primary School. We wish her well and thank Miss Lyon for her time with us. This is perfect timing as Mrs Veitch is returning to P6b after her maternity leave as from 7th January.

Safety in and around school on bikes and scooters

As a school we are aware that the pavements and roads in and around John Muir and Lochend Campuses are very busy. In our playgrounds we do have specific rules that apply to pupils and adults once they get to the school gates.

Stop Hop and Drop means that at the gates of each campus everyone must stop and get off their bike or scooter and then wheel it to the bike or scooter shed. We know that pupils riding bikes, scooters or ripsticks, etc. in the playground is not safe for any one. Can we ask that you support the school in reminding your child that this is a rule to keep everyone safe.

Recently there have been a few accidents when pupils have run into each other coming round corners too fast by the pitches at Hallhill and at Belhaven Road, also crashing into people or near misses cycling across the pedestrian crossing. As a school we encourage our pupils to come to school on a bike or scooter but we need your help in ensuring that pupils are being careful and considerate to everyone who is using the pavements in and around the Dunbar community.

We discussed the increase in volume of traffic using the underpass at Hallhill and the numbers of pedestrians and bikes squeezing on the pavements. Together with the Head Teacher at DGS and the 2 Parent Council Chairs, we are setting up a meeting with the local council to discuss the issue further.

Cove Christmas Big Circle

A reminder from Mrs Hagart that this takes place on Monday 16th Dec at 2pm for a cuppa and at 2.30pm the children will join us. All welcome.

Success at Indoor Athletics Event

For the 9th year running, our team of P7 and P6 athletes once again won the East Lothian final and will go on to represent the school and the county at the East of Scotland Finals next term! Miss Eunson was incredibly impressed with their athletic abilities, but more importantly how well they represented the school showing great sportsmanship. Congratulations to: *Katie W, Niamh F, Charlie C, Brooke M, Noah C, Emma P, Abi M, Kendra L, Millie H, Hayden T, Olivia H, Eve D, Kruz M, Logan D, Euan F, Cridhe M, Jake P, Euan A, Noah L, Eve C.*

RNLI Mentor Group Fundraiser

On Monday the P7 mentor group ran their RNLI fundraising event and raised a fantastic £250 for one of our local charities. Big thanks go to all the volunteers who gave up their time to come and support and help.

Dunbar Christmas Lights

Congratulations to Jacqueline Davey in P3 who won the poster competition organised by the Dunbar Lights Committee and was part of the Big Switch On!

Children in Need/ Dunbar Christmas Lights

An amazing £970 was raised by our pupils and staff which was split between Children in Need and Dunbar Christmas Lights. Thank you for your donations for two great causes.

School Calendars

You can still purchase a school calendar which features a self-portrait of our pupils for each birthday month - I would suggest buying it for a look at the staff portraits that were drawn by some of our very talented pupils!

Christmas Jumper Day - Just for Fun!

On our final day of school on Friday 20th December we are asking all the pupils from Nursery to Primary 7 to put on their warmest, wackiest and most wonderful festive jumpers to add a festive feel to our final assembly. Don't worry if you haven't got a Christmas jumper. You could add some tinsel to your hair or wear a Santa hat instead!

Great News - Playpod for Lochend Campus

At the Parent Council meeting on Tuesday the Parent Council gave us great news! The funds raised from the Lapland Santa Run and Elfridges will enable the school to buy the Playpod container for the playground at Lochend. We are so delighted and overwhelmed with the efforts of everyone. The Pupil Engagement Group and Mrs Gillanders will set about getting this organised - hopefully for a grand opening in February!

Free School Meal Entitlement

Just a reminder that your child could be eligible for free school meals. You can pick up information and an application form at the school offices. It is important that children can access free school meals and it also allows the schools to access some additional funding based on this entitlement.

Last Day - Leaving Time

The Parent Council and I have agreed that it would make sense for everyone to leave at the same time on the last day of school, rather than have P1 and P2 parents and pupils waiting around in the cold for the older brothers and sisters to come out. **We have ensured that everyone has the set amount of teaching time this week in order to allow this to happen - 10 mins less break time taken this week.**

Therefore all pupils will leave both campuses at 12.10pm on Friday 20th December.

Finally, I would like to take this opportunity to wish you all a very Happy Christmas and a fantastic New Year when it finally arrives. Enjoy the holidays and we look forward to welcoming the pupils back on **Wednesday 8th January 2020.**

Mrs Gillanders
