



Elphinstone Primary-Community Newsletter October/November 2014

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Important Dates

1/8/22 Oct P6-7 Rugby training

6-10 Oct Walk to School Week + Health Week

9 Oct– Mini Mudder event + 5.30 p.m. Curriculum Evening + AGM parent Council

13-17 Oct HOLIDAYS
20 Oct In-Service

28 Oct P1-7 Zoo trip all day

29 Oct P3-5 Museum trip-more details to follow

30 Oct Harvest Assembly Orders due for Christmas Cards-designed by your child.

4+6 Nov Parental Consultations

7 Nov Rag Bag Collection day

12 Nov School Photographer

17-21 Safety Week

18 Nov Open Morning + P3-5 Bake Sale

26 Nov St Andrews Day Lunch

Dear families

Thank you!

I am so pleased to see all of our pupils looking so smart in their uniforms! In our last Newsletter I asked for your support in adhering to the uniform dress code and I have been monitoring this closely. There has been an improvement in all areas especially jewellery and loom band bracelets.

I look forward to seeing as many parents/carers as possible at our Curriculum evening on the 9th October. We will be sharing important aspects of how we improve our school and learning community (which includes all our Cluster schools) during the evening. Ross Rocks Reading is one of the cluster initiatives I will be informing you about. Your child has already watched the launch of this on Edubuzz and our P6/7 attended the launch and did a fantastic presentation of their favourite Roald Dahl book, 'Charlie and the chocolate factory' at Ross High. P1-5 sat and watched them on the big screen and we were all very proud!

I won't alarm you and tell you how many weeks there are until Christmas!! But I will share with you that we have chosen our Nativity Play and we will use a story-line approach to our learning for the whole school in the month leading up to Christmas. You will be invited into school to see learning across the whole school and be encouraged to visit all our classes to see this.

I will be clamping down on behaviour and have zero tolerance for behaviour that disrupts learning. We have an agreed approach to behaviour in our school that all staff apply consistently. *Alice Sterling Honig said 'Family is the first school for young children, and parents are powerful models'. I thought this quote was really powerful. It applies to any adult in a child's life. With this in mind, may I ask parents to please be mindful of the way they act in the playground and in and around the school gates. I also need to state quite clearly that it is Council policy that no parent may approach, confront or chastise another parent's child in and around our school. I am addressing this clearly in the school newsletter as a message to all parents although I know it does not affect you all.

To end on a positive note, I have been in all the classes and the nursery for pop-in visits over the past few weeks. I have seen self-motivated pupils getting feedback, being advised, coached and praised in their learning by the adult working with them. I have witnessed teachers sharing the purpose of the learning with pupils (Learning Intention) so that they know what they need to do and understand the progress they are making/need to make. There has been lots of examples of co-operative learning happening and this is being evidenced on our Co-operative learning wall. (You will see this when you come in for various activities). These are all indicators of how we work together, not only looking at attainment but also at your child's social and personal progress.

With the Autumn winds on their way I wish you all a good October,

Best wishes,

Heather

**Alice Sterling Honig (20th century), child development specialist. "Helping Children Become More Caring and Cooperative," NYSAEYC Reporter (winter 1994).*



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Walk to School /HealthWeek 6-10 October 2014

I would encourage ALL FAMILIES to make a VERY BIG EFFORT to walk to school during Walk to School/HealthWeek. If you live outwith the village I would encourage you to drop the children off a few streets away from the school and let them walk the rest of the way. This would keep everyone fit and avoid traffic congestion at the school gates. **Please note that uniform is suspended during this week and all children should come to school wearing appropriate Active wear.,**



Contacting the School

Parents/carers are not allowed to enter the school by the Pupil door. To make an appointment with your child's class/head teacher, pass on any messages or to report an absence etc please go to reception or phone the school on **01875 610358**.



Cauliflower Christmas Card Project

Your child will be designing a Christmas Card . These designs end up with professionally printed Christmas cards created by your child to give to family and friends at Christmas!!!! Your child's design can be viewed at our **Harvest Assembly on 30 October and all Orders must be handed into school by this date** . Your order will then be returned to school by the end of November 2014 in plenty time for Christmas posting. Any commission received from the orders will help towards our school funds.



School Photographer 12 November 2014

Our School Photographer will be in school on Wednesday 12 November 2014 from 8.45 a.m. to take individual and family photographs (Primary and Nursery children only).

An ideal Christmas gift for your family and friends.



Let's Grow Vouchers from Morrisons

Once again our school is collecting the Let's Grow vouchers. Ask your family and friends to give you their vouchers to hand into school the more we have the more free items we receive for our school.

Ross High School 60th Anniversary celebrations

This year is the 60th Anniversary of the opening of Ross High School. In order to properly celebrate this momentous occasion we plan to hold a number of celebrations.

The events will begin on Friday 31st October and continue into Saturday 1st November.

Please keep an eye on RHS website <http://www.edubuzz.org/rosshigh/> for all the details in full.



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News
from
other
groups
in
our
Comm-
unity

News from the Parent Council

The Parent Council AGM will now be on the 9th October and will follow the curriculum evening. Val McIntyre from East Lothian Council will be coming along to explain a bit more about the role and benefits of the Parent Council. Many of the current PC members are stepping down having been on the PC for many years so we really need new volunteers to take on some roles. The PC is a direct parent voice on school and council wide education issues and policy. It has also fundraised and been able to pay for school resources, such as the new playground, accelerated reading books and the school text messaging service and it would be a shame for it to disband if more volunteers do not come forward. If you are interested please speak to me and I can explain a bit more in advance of the meeting.

After the great success of the Mini Mudder last year, we are doing it again on the 9th October. Messages have already gone out in the bags. If you are able to help set up, supervise or take down the course on the day please let Megan know as the more helpers the better! Fingers crossed for good weather.

Helen Spencer
Chair PC

News from the Playgroup

It's been a busy few weeks at playgroup., we have welcomed in many new children who have all settled well into playgroup. We would like to thank everyone that contributed to raising a total of £60 for us at the Summer Fair. We would also like to thank last years parents and some who are still here who supported us in raising enough money to buy new outdoor equipment. We got lots of new bikes and scooters, the children are making full use of them and getting out into the garden as often as possible. WE can't believe it is almost the October holidays, remember our last day is Friday 10th October and we return on Tuesday 21st October. We hope you all have a good holiday.

Katie Jack
Playgroup Manager