



Innerwick Primary School Newsletter

Message from Mr Taylor

Dear families & friends of Innerwick PS

We are truly into autumn now; as the leaves fall, the temperature drops and daylight diminishes we embark on one of our longer terms, which is also traditionally one of our busiest, as you will see from the detail below. The children are excited about the Halloween Party, and I'm delighted that we will welcome a number of pupils and parents from Stenton to join our celebrations. I hope that this represents a new chapter where both schools will be able to share such events on a regular basis.

On that subject, it will not be long before we get together with our Stenton partners to commemorate Remembrance Day in this centenary year. Pupils in both schools are very engaged in learning about military conflicts across the century, and the importance of peace and reconciliation. I hope as many family members as possible will be able to join us on **Friday 9 November** at Stenton parish church to share this learning. After the service, there will be an opportunity for parents and children from both schools to mix over some refreshments at the village hall/play park. As noted previously, there will be some capacity for family members to request a seat on the bus with children and staff but places will be limited. If you would like a seat on the bus, please contact Laura who will start a list, and places will be allocated on a 'first come first serve' basis. You are also very welcome to make your own way on the day.

The school is now at an advanced stage of exploring options for extending Early Years provision, and have garnered views from relevant parents accordingly. We are very excited about the prospect of trialling the 1140 hours commitment made by Scottish Government in our setting from January 2019, and hope to be able to confirm arrangements soon.

We remain committed to improving teaching and learning experiences for all our pupils, and the staff team have been working hard on further numeracy training and development; indeed we have invested significantly in additional numeracy resources recently, while we are very pleased with the response shown by pupils to the learning experiences available through Education City. Assessment and tracking processes have been further developed to help us identify appropriate targets and ensure pace, challenge and personalisation for all pupils.

A final word on our imminent 50 year anniversary which falls on February 2019, I am working closely with the Parent Council to ensure that we have a wide range of activities and events through which we can celebrate this special occasion. This topic will feature strongly over the coming months, and I'd love to hear about any ideas you might wish to suggest.

Kind regards,

Ronnie Taylor

Reminders

- Please ensure that your child has appropriate clothing for the changeable weather conditions
- Please ensure your child is in the school playground before 8.50am, to enable them to be ready to come into school with their classmates when the school bell goes.
- Please ensure your child comes to school with a water bottle each day. These can be refilled from the water fountain throughout the day. This is especially important on hot days or when the children have PE.
- Children should always have their PE kit in school to enable teachers to include expressive arts in their daily lessons.
- Please ensure all uniform and shoes are clearly labelled and the children are encouraged to take responsibility for their own belongings.
- We are a nut free school—please do not send any products containing nuts or nut extracts.
- Please could you use the plastic wallets to send in notes or money from home.
- Please keep an eye on our school blog and twitter to find out more about what is happening in school. The children look forward to reading your comments on their posts.

Nursery News:

We are delighted to welcome Cosima to our nursery, she and the other children are enjoying meeting each other and making friends.

On Wednesday 31st October we will have a **Halloween Fun Day when the children can** dress up if they wish—we will have a morning of Halloween activities during which the children will have an opportunity to show their costumes to the rest of the pupils in the school.

We have started “Number Fun” sessions once a week, either on a Wednesday or a Thursday. This is a chance for focused number learning delivered through dance, songs and actions, with an emphasis on activity and fun.

Our annual Children in Need Muffin Bake Sale will be on Friday 16th November. Children and staff will bake muffins for the sale to raise funds for Children in Need. The muffins are sold to our families and to the children in the school.

Book Week Scotland this year will be the week starting Monday 19th November. We will plan events with the children, but one of these will be an invitation to family members to join us for shared reading.



Staffing

We are delighted to welcome Patricia Hilferty to our team as our new playground and dining room supervisor. We are sure many of you know Tricia already and will join us in wishing her well in her new role!



Diary Dates

October:

30th - P1 Enrolment
30th - SSPCA Assembly
30th - Halloween Party

November:

1st—P1 Enrolment
5th - P7 to Risk Factory
6th - P7 camp info evening
9th - Remembrance Assembly
16th - Children in Need
20th - Individual and Family photos
21st - Open morning (tbc)
26th - 30th Book Fair



Harvest Festival:

Thank you to everyone who donated items during our recent Harvest Festival. The pupils distributed some of the items to local residents as well as being able to make a sizeable donation to Dunbar Basics Bank which was greatly appreciated.



Pets in the Playground:

Although we are a school of animal lovers please can we ask you not to bring your dogs/pets into the playground during school hours. As well as the issue that some of our pupils are wary of dogs we have had a couple of incidents when staff have had to clean up after dogs.



Online Payments:

The new online payment and meal ordering system (lpay impact) was launched before the October Break. Everyone should have received a letter with further information regarding this. This gives everyone the opportunity to order meals online as well as paying for excursions etc.

Book Fair

We will be holding our annual book fair between the 26th and 30th November. This is an excellent opportunity to get some Christmas presents whilst raising much needed funds for the school. The fair will be open after school each day from 3.15-3.45 (Monday to Thursday).



Parent Council News:

We will be holding our Halloween party in the village hall on Tuesday 30th October between 6 & 8pm—tickets are available from either Tracey or the school office. They are £3 each or £10 for families of 4 or more. Please come along to support this event.

We are still looking for volunteers for the gardening club - if you can help please let Tricia or Mr Taylor know.

