



Innerwick Primary School Newsletter

Message from Mr Taylor

Dear families & friends of Innerwick PS

Our new school year is well and truly underway, and the school is once more a vibrant and lively learning environment. The new P1s are settling very well, and our new P7s are beginning to show a real aptitude for their senior position in school. Mrs Bennett and Miss Lamb have also hit the ground running and are making an excellent contribution to our community, as indeed is Mrs Hay as our new Acting Depute Headteacher. We were very grateful to the many parents and supporters who were able to join us at our curriculum evening in week 2, and were delighted with the positive feedback given.

While we are only a little over a month into term, we have been very busy in many ways. A number of our P7s enjoyed a very special experience at our traditional residential camp at Barcaple, and have been sharing stories since their return. At the other end of the school, our new Nursery children are demonstrating some fantastic learning skills through play, and are making the most of the extended 1140 hours which were introduced to great effect last session. Indeed, we welcomed some very special visitors to our Early Years' setting last week, including East Lothian Chief Executive, Angela Leitch, Head of Education & Children's Services, Fiona Robertson, Council Spokesperson for Education, Shamin Ahtar, and Minister for Children & Young People, Maree Todd. This star-studded cast joined us to commemorate the award for Innovation and Impact received by our Early Years team last year. Mrs Laing and the team are now sharing their work with partners throughout Scotland, and our setting is attracting a great deal of favourable feedback across the country's early learning community.

Another piece of very positive news for our school community is the feedback we have received from Education Scotland on the back of our inspection last session. We have been recognised for our 'highly effective practice' in developing our school values and vision. As such, Innerwick PS will feature on the ES website as an example which other schools may learn from.

The children are very much looking forward to the joint athletics day on Thursday 26th September, when we will welcome Stenton pupils and enjoy a range of activities to keep minds and bodies alert.

Staff and pupils are working very hard in line with our school priorities this session, with a real focus on literacy. You will soon receive a letter inviting you to join us for a literacy overview presentation where staff and children will be able to talk to you about new methods and resources being used this session. We hope that many of you will be able to join us on the evening of 26th September.

Harvest Assembly:

Thank you to everyone who attended and/or donated goods for our annual harvest assembly, we had a fantastic amount of goods handed in to distribute between local residents and Dunbar Basics Bank. Thank you to Rev Fletcher for leading the assembly and not to forget the children who did a fantastic job! We hope that you all enjoyed it as much as we did.



Reminders

- 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. This encourages the children to become independent and allows them to settle quickly in the classroom.
- 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 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

In the Early Years Setting we have had a very busy start to the year. We welcomed our new Ante Preschoolers, who have all settled in extremely well and play very contently with their new friends. We had a very special day on the 11th September when Ms Maree Todd, the Scottish Minister for Children and Young People came to visit our setting. She learnt about our method for listening to children's voices called Map-do-review. She presented the team with the ELC Innovation Award for our efforts in developing this practice. We are 1 of 6 settings across Scotland to receive the award and be given the title Setting of Innovation and Impact. Over the coming year the team will further develop Map-do-review practice using improvement methodology and will share their experience nationally. Please feel free to come into the setting to find out about our project work so far.



SchoolPay

Many of you are now using the SchoolPay system to make payments as well as pre-ordering lunches, however there are still several children bringing in cash to school to pay for lunches etc. We would ask, whenever possible, that parents use this system to make payments to the school and to pre-order lunches. If you have not received or mislaid the instructions on how to register and use SchoolPay please let Laura know and she can issue a duplicate copy. Similarly if you would like help registering please do not hesitate to get in touch.

If you would like your child to have a packed lunch on a Friday this should also be ordered via Schoolpay

School Grounds:

Unfortunately we have had a few issues with vandalism on the school grounds recently - can we ask that if anyone sees anyone acting suspiciously they report it. The Community Wardens have been notified of our concerns and will be stepping up patrols in the area.

We have also had issues with dogs fouling in the grounds— we have notified the dog warden regarding this but again we would appreciate your vigilance regarding this.



Running Club

Running club takes place every Friday morning at 8.25am on the field— all children from P1-P7 are welcome to take part. We are taking part in the Run to Tokyo Challenge as part of the Dunbar Cluster where the schools are aiming to run the distance in miles to Tokyo before the 2020 Olympic games. We are delighted that the numbers of children attending this have increased.



Attendance:

Can we ask if your child is expected to be absent from school that you notify us **by telephone** by 9.15am at the latest. As a school we have a duty of care to ensure that your child is safe and if we are unable to ascertain their whereabouts we will pass this on to the relevant authorities. Thank you for your support in this matter.

Diary Dates

September:

20th - Harvest Festival
26th - Athletics morning
26th - Literacy Evening
27th—JRSO event

October:

8th & 9th—Parents meetings
11th—All Break
14th—18th October Holiday
21st & 22nd Inservice days
24th—Flu Immunisation

November:

19th—Photos
25th—Risk Factory



Parent Council News:

Thank you to everyone who attended the barbecue which was very well attended, many thanks to everyone who helped and/or contributed food. Also thanks to Keystore who donated goods towards the evening and also to Anderson's the butchers for supplying the meat products for the evening.

The next Parent Council meeting will take place on Weds 2nd October at 6pm in the school—all are welcome to attend.

