

September/October 2021



# Innerwick Primary School Newsletter

Dear families and friends of Innerwick Primary

We have had such a busy first two and a half weeks back! It has been wonderful to see all our new nursery children and Primary 1s settling in, making friends and joining in with learning activities so confidently. Our more established pupils have moved 'up' the school and they are blowing us away with their enthusiasm, work ethic and leadership skills.

Our focus in the first 2 and a half weeks back has been on (re)establishing relationships, helping children feel safe and revisiting school expectations and routines. These are key to ensuring that our children are ready for learning and that our learning environment is as empowering as possible. Please have a look at the films below that the children from both schools have made to share their learning with us.

Warmest Regards  
Joanne Legge

**Staffing Update:** Donna Christison, our much loved classroom assistant will be taking a leave of absence for the next 6 months, we will miss her very much but look forward to seeing her in the new year. We welcome Cheryl Bell onto our staff team, she will be working in our P3/4 class. We are delighted to be welcoming Jodie McFarlane also onto our team from next week. She will be supporting pupils across the school with a particular focus on P5/6/7.

**Welcome Evening:** Thank you so much to those families who were able to join us on Wednesday this week for our welcome evening. Of course, this was via Google Meet once again but we enjoyed watching some fantastic films made by the children of both Innerwick and Stenton schools who shared their learning from our first 2 weeks of school. Press control and click on the links below to view their fantastic work.

[Welcome Back Evening Presentation](#)

[Exploring Our Values](#)

[Restorative Practice](#)

[The Hidden Chimp Explained](#)

[Our Hopes for this Year](#)



**Nursery News:**

The children and staff have settled back really quickly in the nursery, it's like we were never away for the summer. We welcomed five new children at the start of term: Charlie, Finley, Izzy-May, Mabel and Rocky, who have already started to make good friendships and play contently in our the learning environment. It has been lovely getting to know them and we wish them a very happy time with us. We have been enjoying the lovely weather, playing outside most of the day. This term we plan to go out and about around the school grounds every Friday for a Learning Walk. Soon it will be blackberry picking time and we know were the best ones are! Part of our harvest theme will involve harvesting our own potatoes which we always grow in the garden. The plums and apples have sadly been picked by somebody else this year and therefore we are unable to enjoy these. We have had a kind offer from Jean Higgins from the village to visit and pick her apples - we are very grateful for this very kind gesture, thank you



**Cycle Sheds:** We are currently putting together an application for a grant from Sustrans to update our cycle parking facilities! We are planning a covered shelter (see picture) with space for up to 10 bikes. This will be a fantastic addition to our school. We will work with the children to plan ways that we can encourage more cycling to school.



**Harvest:** Our harvest celebration will take place on Wednesday 13th October. We would like to have a food collection for local residents and the Dunbar Foodbank. We will get in touch nearer the time to let you know suggested items. Thank you!

**Diary Dates**

**P1 Courier Photo**

Tues 7th Sept

**P5 Swimming Assessment (with Stenton)**

Thurs 9th Sept

**September Holiday**

Fri 17th-Mon 20th Sept

**Parent Consultations**

Tues 12th and Weds 13th Oct

**Harvest Service**

Weds 13th Oct

**Flu Immunisation Day**

Mon 8th November

**Half term break**

Mon 18th-Mon 25th Oct

**School Menu:**

As you may be aware our school lunches are delivered to us from the kitchens at Dunbar Primary. Most schools are returning to a full menu from September 6th, however Dunbar Primary will not be until probably after the September break, although this could change sooner. This is due to the school still operating class bubbles and therefore eating in classrooms.

We know that this will be disappointing to our families, but we hope that you will understand the reasons why this decision had to be made. We will let you know as soon as we can of any updates.

**Brass:** Charlie Farren, our new brass instrumental teacher has begun working with the P4-7s this session. This week the children had a try of various brass instruments and selected the one that they would like to learn to play. We had a great response to this offer of tuition and 9 pupils will be learning with Mr Farren. We very much look forward to sharing their progress with you at school events in the future!

**Zones of Regulation:** We introduced Zones last session as a way for us to identify and describe our emotions. This session we will continue to work with this tool, and this term so far we have been focusing on how our feelings 'feel' inside our bodies. This is often the way young children can start to recognise emotions in themselves, for example noticing that when they are nervous they might have butterflies in their tummy or if they are angry they might have clenched fists or teeth. Once children can recognise how they are feeling we can start to work with them on how to 'regulate' their emotions if this is necessary. We have been working on these strategies or 'toolkits' with the children, so please ask them about this. The visual below might be useful at home for you to use, as it is important as adults to model using 'zones' as a way of describing how we are feeling and then thinking out loud about what we might need to do eg: 'I am in the yellow zone because I am a bit worried about..... perhaps I need to talk to..... and share my worries.'

## What Zone Are You In?

Blue	Green	Yellow	Red
			
Sick Sad Tired Bored Moving Slowly	Happy Calm Feeling Okay Focused Ready to Learn	Frustrated Worried Silly/Wiggly Excited Loss of Some Control	Mad/Angry Mean Yelling/Hitting Disgusted Out of Control