



## Loretto RC Primary Summer Term 2016 Newsletter

Dear Parents,

Already we are racing through our last school term this session. The weather has been rather chilly and continues to be changeable, so as a life skill, please look at the weather on the TV or internet with your children - help them prepare each day for what they will be wearing. In Scotland, we can have four seasons in one day, so coats are still needed and maybe caps and suncream later in the term too! Unless the weather is very severe, we plan to go outside to play at break and lunchtimes and run around.

Children have also requested that they can eat their packed lunches outside again this term. We are happy with the picnic idea, so long as the children try to remember to wash their hands and not drop food or litter outside. We are having a push on litter! Unfortunately this is not an acceptable level in our school grounds-but I know we can make a difference here.



**Twitter @Loretto\_RC** have you checked us out? A quick insight into the life of the school for busy parents and families. Please follow us, then we know you have seen what we are up to! Especially school camp.

### School Camp

P7 have just returned from a very enjoyable and successful residential experience. Our thanks to Miss O' Regan, Miss Kinsella and Miss Hannah who took them and to Mrs Ramage who covered class all week to allow the children to go. The children were super ambassadors for the school and return with personal targets beaten; team work and problem solving skills and increased confidence and independence. We are proud of them all.

### Holidays in school term

**Please inform us in writing of any planned absence from school during term time. You are reminded that holidays in school term are strongly discouraged and in almost all cases will be recorded as unauthorised.**

**As you know we are trying very hard to meet our children's learning needs and there is a strong national focus on raising attainment...missed school days are missed teaching days. Please note that if you do choose to take your children out of school during term time we do not provide school work.**

### Reporting Absences

If your child is unwell, please remember to call the school office to let us know. Schools are duty-bound to know why a child is not at school, and if we are unable to make contact with the parent, we have no option but to record an 'unauthorised absence'. This is recorded against your child's attendance at school. It really helps us if you can call the office first thing in the morning – you can always leave a message if need be. It's also very helpful if you can tell us in advance if you need to collect your child during school hours for a medical appointment – that way we can have them all ready and waiting for you.

### Lunch Money

Please remember that school lunches must be paid for in advance. From now on, you will receive a text if your child's lunch money is not paid by the following day. Please help us keep our costs down by ensuring you pay for your child's lunch **before** they receive it. Higher unpaid lunch bills will be sent to the council's debt management team for recovery.

## Staffing

We are currently recruiting for an Additional Support Needs Auxiliary and a part time nursery nurse. We have temporary supply personnel in place doing a great job - thank you. Please bear with us, as the process takes some time.



**Health Week**-although we are changing our approach to Health and Wellbeing to being embedded across the year, we will have a week of focussed activity this week. Children are enjoying judo, dance, pupil-led whole school exercise class, basketball, and yoga and relaxation. In Health Week please do not send sweets and crisps to school - let's make best use of our Hi Five Healthy Tuck Shop.

## Nursery to P1 Transition

Parents of new P1 will receive a letter outlining some dates for beginning to prepare children to move into P1. In reality the children here in our own nursery are already very familiar with school and the move is not a whole new experience - rather more of a flow into a new room with a new teacher. There will be a short meeting for new P1 **parents only** on Monday 5<sup>th</sup> June at 7pm in P1 classroom.

**CHARITY**-a huge thank you to everyone for the tremendous effort and generosity of £501.91 raised for SCIAF for the East Africa crisis. A special mention is due to P6 who raised half of this amount by themselves - a significant sum of money - with their enterprising prize draw.

**Pope Francis Award** - our P6 children are putting their faith and citizenship values into action in the community. They have been along to St Anne's and sung for the residents there, who thoroughly enjoyed their visit. They have also been very highly praised for their kindness, help and lovely manners and conversation at the recent anniversary tea for the UCM at Loretto Church. It is lovely to see this cross generation community sharing good times together.

**We plan to have a 'Move Up' Day on Thursday 8th June** when children will visit their new classrooms and hopefully new teachers. On that morning the children will do a 'get to know you' activity and also discuss with the teacher a new topic with which they would like to start the New Year. The idea is that together the children and teacher discuss and choose a context/theme or topic for the first two weeks or so of the new session. This gives the children an idea of things to be looking out for over the summer perhaps, something to look forward to and provides personalisation and choice in the curriculum. Fun and motivation play a very important part in how well children learn and achieve too. This will not be a set topic but will provide an opportunity for the children to set learning questions, suggest learning activities and ways to 'prove or present' their learning and provide the teacher with an overarching context for those all important new reading, writing and numeracy lessons.

## Parent Questionnaires

Thank you for your very helpful feedback. I have collated them. We asked you to complete a form for your eldest child and we received 84 responses-thank you. This is an excellent return from the families in the school.

**The overall response was indeed very highly positive.** We asked for suggestions to consider for next year's school improvement plan. A couple of suggestions noted will actually be happening in this year's health week. We will be having some short reflective/yoga/meditation at the end of the day in classes. This links well with our efforts in Growth Mindset. Also a parent asked for some more art work home-we will shortly be sending home your child's art exhibition masterpieces as we make way for new displays. Interestingly, the majority of people agreed homework supported their child's learning and contributed to family learning.

## Pupil Equity Funding

You may be aware from the press that each school has been allocated a sum of money directly from the government as part of the National Improvement Framework, with the aim of closing the poverty attainment gap. As you would expect, the HT must make careful and considered decisions about what we are trying to do to help improve children's attainment. This essentially means trying to do as we always did - identify who might need some more support with learning and finding ways to do this.

There are national guidelines around this, including considering educational research evidence and asking for any suggestions parents may have. Our parent questionnaire was indeed a tool for this but not many parents made a comment in that box. I understand often parents feel this is our job and perhaps are not sure if the idea is possible but we do value your input. If you have any ideas about how we could support parents with their children's learning-please speak to Sandra from the Loretto Parent Partnership or come in and chat. We are also looking to recruit 3 or 4 parents to join us on our In Service Day for part of the morning to help with school self-evaluation. Can you spare 9.15am till 10.30am on Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> May for a discussion with the staff group? Please let me know.

## Dates for your Diary

### May

Day	Date	Time	Event
Tuesday	16 <sup>th</sup>	7-8pm	God's Loving Plan Workshop for P6 & P7 parents
Friday	19 <sup>th</sup>	9.40am	P2 Assembly – parents welcome. <b>White or yellow tshirt needed for child</b>
Monday	22 <sup>nd</sup>	All day	In-service day and School Evaluation Group
Wednesday	24 <sup>th</sup>		Nursery Wheelathon
Thursday	25 <sup>th</sup>	9.15am	Ascension Thursday, Holiday of Obligation Mass
			East Lothian Athletics Comp, team entry. <b>Parent Helper Needed!</b>
Tuesday	30 <sup>th</sup>		Musselburgh Grammar School Music tour comes to Loretto
Wednesday	31 <sup>st</sup>	6.30pm	Parent Council Meeting

### June

Day	Date	Time	Event
Thursday	1 <sup>st</sup>		P5 Orienteering – <b>Parent Helpers Needed!</b>
			Buddy Playtime P6 and Nursery
		7pm	P4 Confirmation in St. Martin's Church, Tranent
Sun	4 <sup>th</sup>	11am	First Communion – Loretto Church
Mon	5 <sup>th</sup>	7-8pm	New P1 parents' meeting
Wed	7 <sup>th</sup>		P7 St David's visit days
Thurs	8 <sup>th</sup>		
Thurs	8 <sup>th</sup>		In school Move Up visit morning
Sat	10 <sup>th</sup>		Summer Fayre
Tues	13 <sup>th</sup>		P7 Muss Grammar School visit days
Wed	14 <sup>th</sup>		
Thurs	15 <sup>th</sup>		Nursery visit P1 for a story
Fri	16 <sup>th</sup>		School Sports Day (weather permitting)
Wed	21 <sup>st</sup>		Nursery outing – both classes
Friday	24 <sup>th</sup>	9.45am	P3 assembly – parents invited
Tuesday	27 <sup>th</sup>	1.30pm	P7 Leavers' Assembly and Whole School Achievements. Parents invited (especially P7 parents)
Wednesday	28 <sup>th</sup>		Nursery Sports Day
Thursday	29 <sup>th</sup>	9.15am	Holiday of Obligation and P7 Leavers' Mass. Parents invited
Friday	30 <sup>th</sup>		All break!