



Loretto RC Primary



August 2018

Dear Parents,

What a fabulous summer and what a great start back to term! Our new Primary 1 pupils, all new pupils and staff in school and all returning staff and pupils are very welcome. We have families and staff from all around the world here in Loretto and really celebrate being part of God's one big family.

Staff

We are delighted to welcome Mrs Francine Wallace, our new Support for Learning teacher and Mrs Jill Jeans, class teacher, who will assist Mrs Kinsella teaching P4 one day per week and provide additional teaching throughout the school.

Mr Richard Wilson is very welcome to Loretto as our interim P5 teacher due to late changes in staffing. We wish Mrs Henderson well and thank her for her work in Loretto over the years. We are now recruiting for a permanent full time teacher for the school.

Thank you to you all for the super support in school uniform. The children are all back looking so smart and ready to work and learn. Our changeable weather means children must have coats with hoods or hats with them as we go out for breaks in all weathers. We have to live with rain in Scotland!

In classes the children chose a new short topic as a context for their new learning and we are very excited to learn about The Jungle, Bees, Squishies, Edinburgh Festival, Poland, Anime/Manga, Technology in the Olden Days and Ancient Greece. The teachers and children will share a little of this with you on our Welcome and Curriculum Evening on Monday 11th September at 7pm.

Parents' Coffee morning Friday 24th August 10.45am-12 noon. Come along to the dining hall for an informal cuppa and meet other parents and the Loretto Parent Partnership.

Class Newsletters and Parent Communications

Each teacher will send you a short class newsletter each term for your child's class with information for that class. Of course, we also have our school blog and school Twitter and would love for parents to add their encouraging and supportive comments here too. It really does make a difference to the family feeling and enthusiasm for learning.

Check us out at <http://www.edubuzz.org/lorettoprimary/>. Here you can also find a copy of the School Handbook with lots of important information.

Texts and E Mails

We currently make very good use of e mail to communicate with parents. Our, Groupcall Messenger system, allows us to continue to use e mail with no costs to the school. It can also be used to text parents. Texts can only be sent to ONE parent and this will be our practice. Of course, where a second parent has specifically made a separate request for school information we will continue to send this separately. Texts will be limited as there is a cost implication to the school. Texts would be used where we could not make any other contact or where we need to contact a lot of people at the same time. We cannot routinely remind parents of information already communicated by additional texts. Please check your emails and newsletters regularly.

Parental Permissions

You should have received an updated request for publishing your child's photograph as per new GDPR legislation. Please ensure you return this to enable your child to be included in formal and informal photos during their school life. This will cover newspapers, selected learning organisations we work with and social media. We will not share your child's personal information with new or other organisations without your consent.

Parental Contacts and Updates

You will shortly receive a request for any changes to your contact details etc. Please ensure that you keep us up to date with phone number and e mails changes. We do spend a considerable amount of time trying to contact parents.

Medical Updates

If your child requires medication in school it is essential that you update this permission and provide in date medication for your child. You will have received a letter from us about this at the end of last term. At any time we are happy to administer medication but this must be accompanied by the appropriate form which is available from the school office or the school website. All medication must be in original packaging, clearly labelled with your child's name. <http://www.edubuzz.org/lorettprimary/>.

Our School Improvement Priorities

This year, following self-evaluation, we have identified main priorities for us to work on. These are based on our self-evaluation of the following QIs:

- 1.1 Self-evaluation for self-improvement 4
- 1.3 Leadership of change 4
- 2.3 Learning, teaching and assessment 4
- 3.2 Raising attainment and achievement 4

Last year we considered ourselves to be graded 4 GOOD against these quality indicators. We also identified some areas of

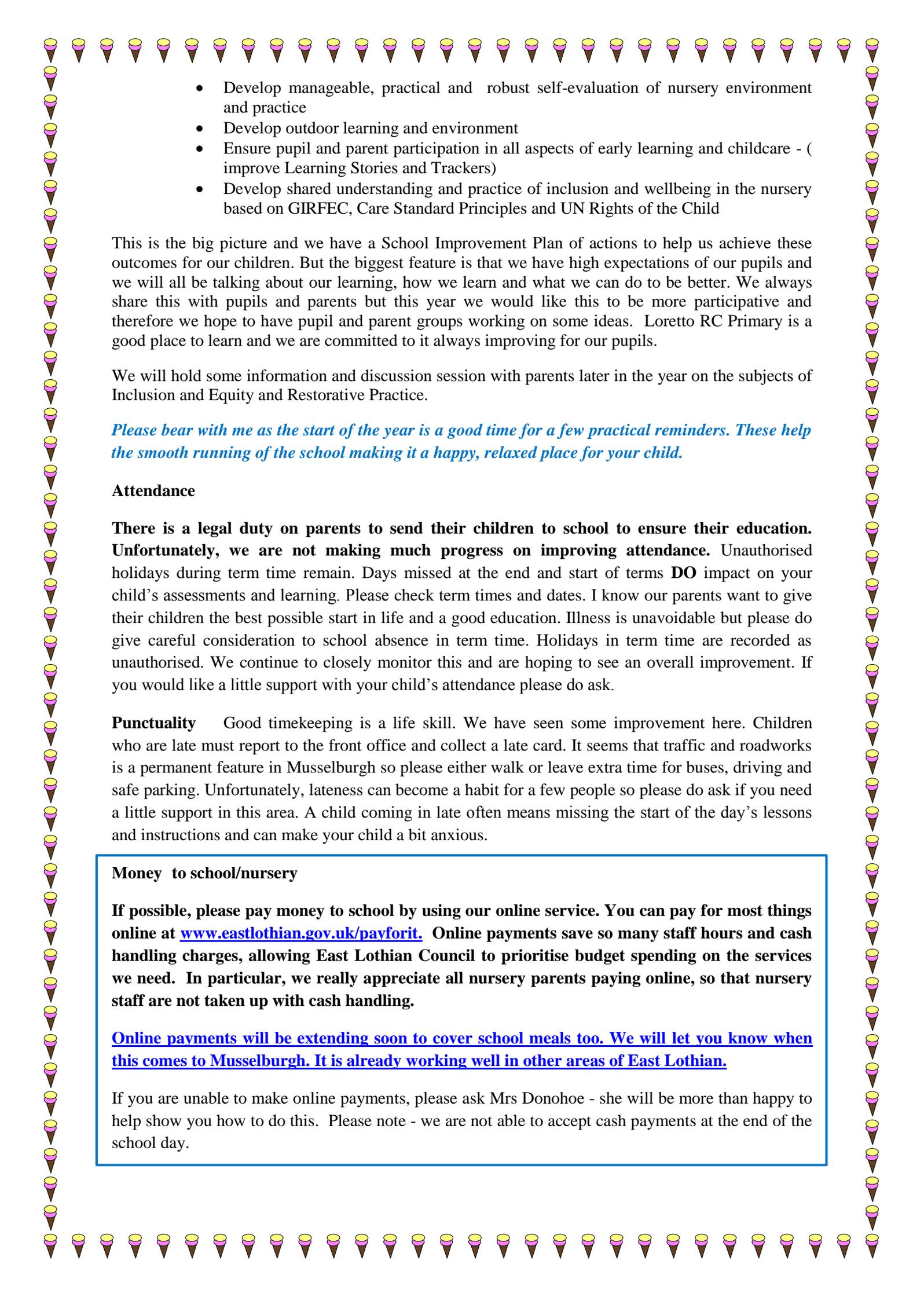
3.1 Inclusion, equality and wellbeing which we would like to improve.

Our BIG PICTURE areas of focus for this year are

1. Improve attainment in Literacy and Numeracy, with a particular focus on improved writing attainment through collaborative planning, learning teaching and assessment. This includes using school and cluster moderation of Achieving a Level, Benchmarks and ELC Curriculum Frameworks
Improve consistency of planning, learning teaching and assessment of core curricular areas through in school embedding of existing ELC Frameworks including Science and introduction of new Frameworks
2. Improve pupil and parent shared understanding of learning targets and next steps through revised interactive system
3. Improve breadth challenge and depth in Interdisciplinary Learning
4. Improve scope and use of quantitative data to identify next steps in learning and measure impact and success of all learners with a focus on poverty related gap.
5. HWB- Develop a refreshed and shared understanding and practice of an inclusive school community based on GIRFEC, our RC values and UN Rights of the Child

(Circle, Rights Respecting School and Restorative Practice, How Good Is OURS Pupil version)

6. Early Learning and Childcare-Using How Good Is Our Early Learning and Childcare and Care Standards
 - Establish supportive and distributive leadership of nursery with new Senior Early Years Practitioner

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- Develop manageable, practical and robust self-evaluation of nursery environment and practice
 - Develop outdoor learning and environment
 - Ensure pupil and parent participation in all aspects of early learning and childcare - (improve Learning Stories and Trackers)
 - Develop shared understanding and practice of inclusion and wellbeing in the nursery based on GIRFEC, Care Standard Principles and UN Rights of the Child

This is the big picture and we have a School Improvement Plan of actions to help us achieve these outcomes for our children. But the biggest feature is that we have high expectations of our pupils and we will all be talking about our learning, how we learn and what we can do to be better. We always share this with pupils and parents but this year we would like this to be more participative and therefore we hope to have pupil and parent groups working on some ideas. Loretto RC Primary is a good place to learn and we are committed to it always improving for our pupils.

We will hold some information and discussion session with parents later in the year on the subjects of Inclusion and Equity and Restorative Practice.

Please bear with me as the start of the year is a good time for a few practical reminders. These help the smooth running of the school making it a happy, relaxed place for your child.

Attendance

There is a legal duty on parents to send their children to school to ensure their education. Unfortunately, we are not making much progress on improving attendance. Unauthorised holidays during term time remain. Days missed at the end and start of terms **DO** impact on your child's assessments and learning. Please check term times and dates. I know our parents want to give their children the best possible start in life and a good education. Illness is unavoidable but please do give careful consideration to school absence in term time. Holidays in term time are recorded as unauthorised. We continue to closely monitor this and are hoping to see an overall improvement. If you would like a little support with your child's attendance please do ask.

Punctuality Good timekeeping is a life skill. We have seen some improvement here. Children who are late must report to the front office and collect a late card. It seems that traffic and roadworks is a permanent feature in Musselburgh so please either walk or leave extra time for buses, driving and safe parking. Unfortunately, lateness can become a habit for a few people so please do ask if you need a little support in this area. A child coming in late often means missing the start of the day's lessons and instructions and can make your child a bit anxious.

Money to school/nursery

If possible, please pay money to school by using our online service. You can pay for most things online at www.eastlothian.gov.uk/payforit. Online payments save so many staff hours and cash handling charges, allowing East Lothian Council to prioritise budget spending on the services we need. In particular, we really appreciate all nursery parents paying online, so that nursery staff are not taken up with cash handling.

[Online payments will be extending soon to cover school meals too. We will let you know when this comes to Musselburgh. It is already working well in other areas of East Lothian.](#)

If you are unable to make online payments, please ask Mrs Donohoe - she will be more than happy to help show you how to do this. Please note - we are not able to accept cash payments at the end of the school day.

School Lunches

P1-P3 children are all entitled to free school lunches. P4-P7 school lunch money £2.00 must be paid daily or in advance. Unfortunately, this cannot yet be paid online but it is coming! No child would ever be left hungry but chasing unpaid lunch money is taking a considerable part of our admin time. We may now telephone parents and ask them to bring lunch money along if it is forgotten. Please ask at the office if you would like a Free School Meals form-you may be entitled to this depending on your private circumstances. You can check this on East Lothian Council website or ask at the office.



Water Bottles . We know the benefits to our overall health of being properly hydrated and we welcome water bottles in school. Please provide a clean fresh bottle of water (no juice or flavoured waters) each day for your child. Unfortunately, we do not have time or facilities to wash these and keep them in school but do allow a child to fill up his/her bottle if needed.

Car Parking and Traffic Safety

Walking to school is a safe and healthy option for you and for our town. Please do not risk the safety of your child or another child by stopping outside the school. **This is not a drop off zone.** Please be considerate and safe whilst driving and parking around the school.

Please be advised stopping at the school gates on the zig zags or at the emergency gate entrance is prohibited. PLEASE HELP US KEEP OUR CHILDREN SAFE.

Playground Safety

Please keep a careful watch on your little ones-they are so quick. Everyone please ensure they close the gate after them even if you think the next person is just coming.

Safety Bikes and Scooters. The playground is a pedestrian zone. Please do not cycle or scoot in the busy playground. Again we would respectfully ask that pupils cycling to school wear helmets.

Before and after school children are not permitted around the back of the school. P1 and P2 parents are especially reminded of this at the end of the day.

Pupil Lines. In the morning it is difficult in the confined space for children to line up easily. We ask parents to put their child in the lines and then stand well back away from the line or the line of the next class. This will help us see that everybody is ready to go and start the day briskly and safely.



Healthy Snacks. P7s will again run a healthy tuck shop. Respectfully please no sweets and crisps for daily snacks. Again we are not making much progress on this! Any profit from this will go to P7 funds for transport to camp, transition visits or end of year.

Welcome Evening MONDAY 11th September 7pm -8pm

We are holding a welcome and curriculum evening **for parents and pupils** on this evening. Your child's teacher will give a short talk in the classroom about the year ahead. You will get to see the classroom and the first work on the walls of the new topics the children have been working on. Each teacher will give the same class talk at 7pm, 7.20pm and 7.40pm for those with more than one child in nursery or school. You are also welcome to visit other classrooms, allowing you the chance to see how learning progresses through the school.

Personal Learning Targets

We are continuing to set targets termly with the children in literacy, numeracy and health and wellbeing. Your child will shortly bring home the first targets to share with you. In October at parents' consultations we will report on this progress and set new targets.

This year we would like to improve this system and will be looking at ways we can perhaps do this using Google Classroom or Google Docs. We hope that we will be able to train the children to log in and share their personal learning targets with you and add to this from home. It's at the planning stage at the moment but we do have a nice new set of Chromebooks to facilitate this. We will keep you informed as we hopefully migrate from paper to e copy.

These important steps in learning will be kept along with the assessed work showing how well the children achieved their target. We all work to our next achievable step and we value these. The

children will be closely involved in talking about planning and setting the learning in the class and we know this is an excellent way to improve learning outcomes for children. You will receive the new and reviewed targets each term.

Parent/grandparent/ friends of the school.

We are always grateful to have adult helpers and indeed rely on you to help us take the children on outings as we need certain numbers for supervision ratios. We would also like to invite you in to our classrooms to help and become part of the life of the school. If you can offer any help at all-on a one off or occasional or regular basis please pop your head in to let us know.



Calling all gardeners! Help! We have become rather overwhelmed by our class raised beds...and they have become rather overgrown. We would love to have a wee group who can come in and work on this during the school day and take groups of children out with them to help. Please if you can spare a few hours for the autumn tidy up and a plan for the spring—we really need you help!

Family Learning Fridays

This year, following the very positive feedback and success of increased family and parental engagement in our Family Fridays we will continue to host these opportunities for families. We realise not everyone can come through the school day so we have continued to hold Welcome Evenings, Parents' Evenings and some evening events too, such as the Bedtime Story and a Drama Show. We are planning to hold some specific pupil and parents sessions and some class and parent sessions. This forms part of our actions towards Raising Attainment and closing the gap. These sessions are for all parents and will be led by different staff members and groups of children.

The first one is Friday 7th September. This will be an open session in ALL CLASSES on handwriting. Teachers and children will show you how to form this type of handwriting and show you how you can practise this and support neat presentation. There will be a chance to try some interactive whiteboard writing and also for those nostalgic folks amongst us have a go on the blackboard too! It will be at 11am till 11.30am in classes followed by coffee and tea in the school dining hall till pick up time at 12.15pm. In P1 Mrs MacDonald will show you the letters and some activities to help your child become ready to write.

Loretto Parent Partnership

This is the name we use for our school Parent Council. All parents are automatically members of the Parent Forum. We form a Parent Council of representatives to help support the school in continuous improvement and also to be the voice of the wider parent body in suggestions, support and feedback. Traditionally, we have a very supportive Loretto Parent Partnership who help fundraise and organise community events for the school. A Parent Council also has a role in School Improvement. For example, last session a group of parents supported the school by suggesting, training and leading Bikeability for older pupils. The HT has a duty to consult the LPP and, in fact, the Parent Council can help to create and carry out improvements. This year our School Improvement Plan contains a suggestion for self-improvement through using a pupil friendly approach called How Good Is OUR School. We hope to have parents helping with this. This will help us all feel we belong to the school and we share the same vision and values for our children.

We need new members. It's a great way to get to know people and to be part of the life and learning of the school. We need helpers for events and ideas people too. All help is welcome.

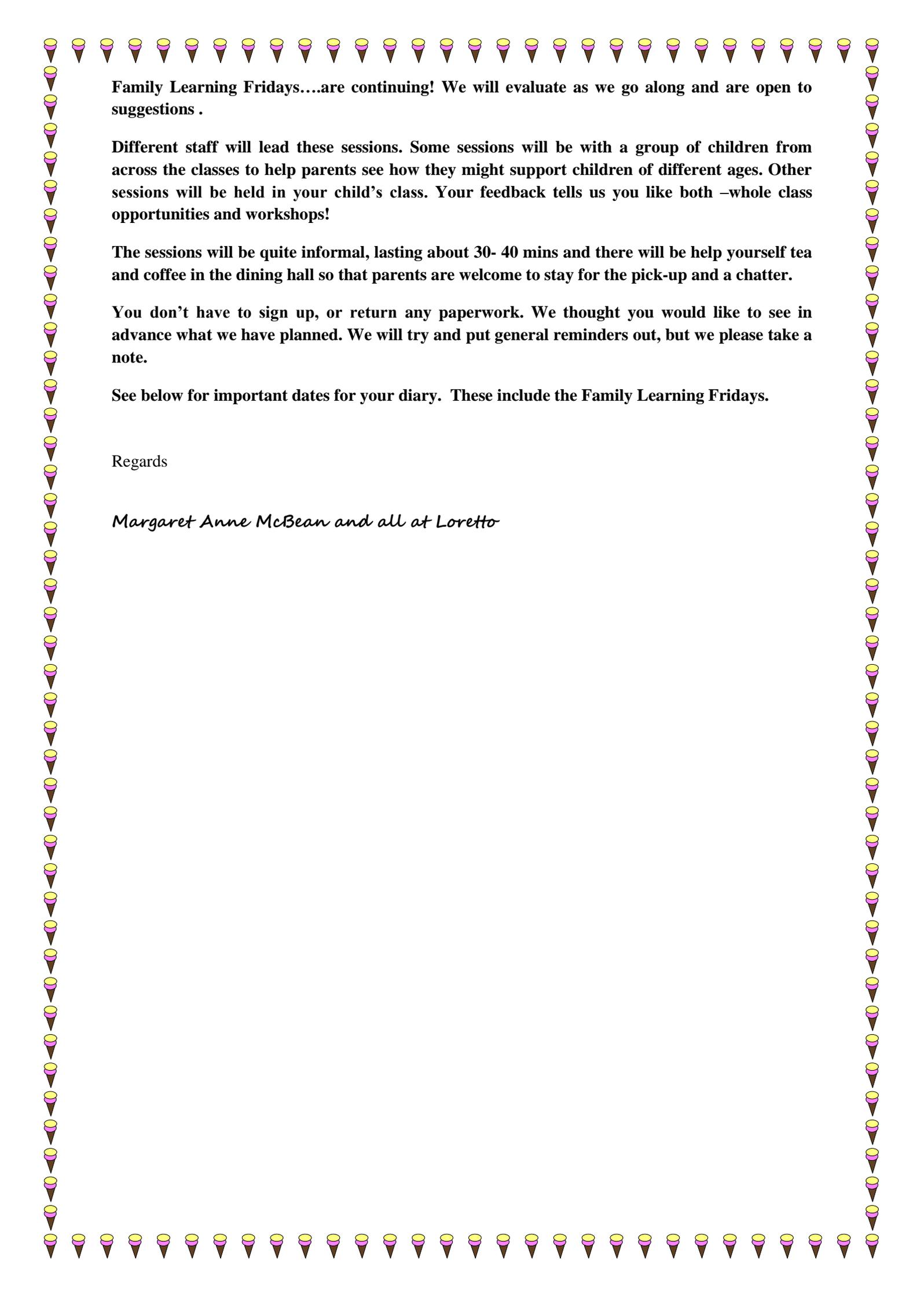
The AGM will be held in school in September-please look out for the date and time.

Sacraments

Fr Basil will advise us as soon as he can on the dates for First Confession (P3s) and First Communion (P4s). There is no Confirmation until P7.

Many thanks for a great start to term and we look forward to a super year.

If you have a worry or a question please do not hesitate to ask the teacher in the first instance, or myself. If you require longer please ask for an appointment with your child's teacher or myself. We are here to help.

A decorative border of ice cream cones surrounds the text. The cones are arranged in a rectangular frame, with a row of cones at the top, a row at the bottom, and vertical columns on the left and right sides. Each cone has a yellow top, a pink middle, and a brown bottom.

Family Learning Fridays....are continuing! We will evaluate as we go along and are open to suggestions .

Different staff will lead these sessions. Some sessions will be with a group of children from across the classes to help parents see how they might support children of different ages. Other sessions will be held in your child's class. Your feedback tells us you like both –whole class opportunities and workshops!

The sessions will be quite informal, lasting about 30- 40 mins and there will be help yourself tea and coffee in the dining hall so that parents are welcome to stay for the pick-up and a chatter.

You don't have to sign up, or return any paperwork. We thought you would like to see in advance what we have planned. We will try and put general reminders out, but we please take a note.

See below for important dates for your diary. These include the Family Learning Fridays.

Regards

Margaret Anne McBean and all at Loretto

Diary dates so far...

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| Tues 21 Aug | P6 and P7 Book Festival Outing-went well! |
| Tues 21 Aug/Wed 22 Aug | Loose in the Woods in school P4 and P3-went well! |
| Mon 27 Aug/Tues 28 | SSPCA workshops in classes P1-P7 |
| | Loose in the Woods in school P42 and P1 |
| Mon 3 Sep | P6H and P6E Watersports. Parent helpers please. No charge |
| Tues 4 Sep | P7 Watersports. Parent helpers please. No charge |
| Wed 5 Sep | P5R & P5H Watersports. Parent helpers please. No charge |
| Frid 7 Sep | 11am Handwriting for Fun and Families. Coffee 11.30am onwards. |
| Mon 10 Sep | 7-8pm Welcome and Curriculum Evening Parents and Pupils. Bring your family along to show them your class boys and girls. |
| w/b 10 Sep | Maths Week Activities-parents invited . Your class teacher will let you know when! |
| Fri 14 Sep/Mon 17 Sep | September weekend holiday |
| Frid 27 Sep | Family Friday-Play and Learning-join each class to see how games and structured play help your child learn. Take an idea home. |
| Tues 2 Oct | 4-7pm Parent Consultations |
| Thurs 4 Oct | 5pm-8pm Parent Consultations |
| Fri 5 Oct | Class Assembly P4 Parents Invited |
| Fri 12 Oct | Family Friday-Learning Walk in the Woods/Grounds-All classes parents invited |
| Mon 15 Oct | School holiday |
| Tues 23 Oct | Pupils resume |
| Fri 26 Oct | Family Friday-details to follow |
| Fri 2 Nov | Family Friday-Mrs Kinsella will lead a phonics workshop with P1 and P2 children |
| Fri 9/16/23 Nov | Family Fridays-Healthy Eating-details of classes and groups to follow |
| Fri 30 Nov | Class Assembly P6E |
| | Catholic Education Week |
| Fri 7 Dec | Family Fun Christmas Recycling Crafts-all classes |
| Thurs 13 Dec | Christmas Nativity provisional date tbc |

Fri 14 Dec

Christmas Fair provisional date tbc

Fri 11 Jan

Family Learning Friday-Thank You Cards-all classes

Fri 18 Jan

Family Learning Friday-Numbers Count-Mrs Rice will lead a workshop for parents on how to help with numbers

Fri 25 Jan

Class Assembly Burns P6H

Fri 1 Feb

Loretto Family Quiz-The Big Scotland Quiz-returns-come and join a team

Fri 8 Feb

ART EXHIBITION

Mon 11 Feb

February holidays

Tues 19 Feb

Pupils resume

Fri 22 Feb

Family Learning Workshop-First Aid tbc

Fri 1 March

Family Learning Workshop-Polish for Beginners

Tues 7 Mar

World Book Day. Launch Reading Month Focus

Fri 8 Mar

Family Learning-Music...Come and try

Fri 15 Mar

**Family Learning and Class Assembly-all classes-
Children's Rights**

Fri 22 Mar

Family Learning-Comfy Reading in All CLASSES-Slippers and Cushions! You are never too old enjoy a good story

Tues 26 Mar

4-7pm Parent Consultations

Thurs 28 Mar

5-8pm Parent Consultations

Mon 8 April

**Easter Holidays (Good Friday 19 April. Easter Sunday 21April
Easter Monday 22 April all included in this school holiday)**

Tues 23 April

ALL RESUME

Mon 6 May

HOLIDAY

Mon 20 May

HOLIDAY for children IS Day for staff

Fri 31 May

P1 Class Assembly

Mon 3 June

New P1 parents' meeting

Fri 14 June

Sports Day weather permitting

Thurs 20 June

Honest Toun Class Assembly-details and class tbc

Wed 26 June

P7 Assembly and School Prizegiving

Fri 28 June

End of Year Leavers Mass