

Welcome back to our Autumn term!

## August 2018 Newsletter

### Macmerry Pupils Succeed

Dates for your diary:

You will receive dates for each class in the class newsletter.

|                            |  |
|----------------------------|--|
| 29.08.18                   | Karate tasters   |
| 05.09.18                   | Dogs' Trust visit  |
| 07.09.18                   | Harvest Assembly with Robin Hill   |
| 12.09.18                   | Meet the teacher:<br>6pm-7pm   |
| Fri 14.9.18<br>Mon 17.9.18 | Pupils and Staff off 14-17th<br>All return Tues 18.9.18  |
| 20.09.18                   | MAD day  |
| 28.09.18                   | Macmillan Coffee Morning   |
| 1.10.18                    | Midnight Run Band event<br>at school<br><br>P6/7 performance and<br>hosts<br><br>6:30pm—8:00pm |
| 4.10.18                    | Parents' evening   |
| 5.10.18                    | Wear red for Racism  |
| 12.10.18                   | Break for October holiday  |
| 23.10.18                   | Pupils resume  |

Well done to the PTA who raised £150 at the summer BBQ!



Welcome back everyone. I hope you have enjoyed the summer; the weather was certainly kind to us. It is great to see all the boys and girls back and looking smart in their school uniforms.

### School Improvement Plan

Our School Improvement Plan for the session is being approved by the Head of Service. I will make this available on the school website. We have been doing lots of work on curriculum design and creating a curriculum that is specific to the community of Macmerry. Please get in touch if you would like to discuss any ideas you may have for school improvement.

### Maths on Flags!



Well done to our P7 pupils from last year who entered the Maths on Flags competition for the Scottish Open in Gullane in July. Our entry was chosen and featured on the flag at the 2nd hole at Muirfield.



@MacmerryPrimary

**Staffing**—welcome to Mrs Claire Gray, Senior Early Years Practitioner in the nursery, working alongside Mrs Walker and Mrs Govan.

P1/2 Ms Forshaw (Mon) Ms Power (Tuesday – Friday)

P2/3 Miss Yarwood

P3/4 Miss Cassidy

P4/5 Miss Todd

P5/6 Miss Weir

P6/7 Mrs Gentil (Principal Teacher—Monday) Mrs Brownlee (Tuesday – Friday)

## **Strictly Leuchie**

Our very own Mrs Gentil will be performing at ‘Strictly Leuchie’ on Saturday 8th September at Haddington Corn Exchange.

The ‘Strictly’ themed dance competition sees amateur hopefuls paired up with professional partners. Mrs Gentil has been training hard and we wish her **good luck** for her energetic performance.

All proceeds go to Leuchie House.



## **Vision, Aims and Values and Positive Ethos at Macmerry**

We have been working with pupils and staff to adapt our positive relationships policy to ensure that it works for everyone.

I will share this with the parent council once we have had input from our pupil representatives in each class.

### **Rights Respecting School**

We will be looking for parent representatives to support our Rights Respecting School journey. If you are interested in finding out more, please get in touch.

## Health and Safety—Medication

August 2018

Thank you for ensuring your child's medication is in school and up-to-date. Legislation requires the school to have 2 lots of medication for your child.

If you would like to discuss any concerns you may have regarding your child's health, please get in touch and I can arrange a meeting with the school nurse. Staff will be attending Asthma and Allergies training and First Aid training over the coming months.

## P7 to run lunch-time sports clubs

P7 pupils have been working with Adam Martin, our Active Schools coordinator and have taken on the challenge of running a lunch time sports club. P7 leaders will be trained in how to deliver sessions and will advertise the club to pupils from P2—P4.

More information to follow.

## Thank you for the extra School Uniform

Sincere thanks to all families who have donated spare school uniform. It really helps us out, particularly with our unpredictable weather.

Please remember, our school jumper is blue or grey and children should wear plain, dark trousers/skirts/shorts. P7 wear their leaver's hoodies.

## Midnight Run Band from Tennessee, USA


**Monday 1st October 2018, 6:30pm**

Following the great success of the concert by the Alabama-based America group 'The Corn Potato String Band' in 2016, another US band is now keen to visit Macmerry Primary School. The Tennessee-based Midnight Run Band, who are a four-piece group playing high-energy bluegrass will join us on Monday 1st October. The concert will be organised by the school, overseen by school chaplain, Robin Hill and underwritten by Gladsmuir Parish Church. Tickets will be on sale in September for £5.00.

## Fa'side Support from the Start

Support from the Start have teamed up with Mark Hunter who is leading the **Ask Dad project with Fast Forward**. This new informal group starts on 13th September in the McNeil Room George Johnstone Centre (Tranent Library) from 5pm to 7pm and is free, tea and coffee available. The group is open to dads, carers, grandads, gramps and any male involved in bringing up wee ones in Fa'side.

### Ask Dad: A free service for Dads in Scotland



**Dads are important!**

Well informed confident dads make for happy, healthy teenagers.

**Ask Dad**  
Free workshops for male carers

fast forward

FATHERS NETWORK SCOTLAND

#### Why dads are important... and why Ask Dad Workshops can help:

- Children of all ages do better when they have a positive male influence in their lives.
- Dads, stepdads, grandfathers, male carers, etc. can already do a huge amount to improve the future prospects of children in their care.
- Better informed and more confident dads, can only do an even better job of raising happier and healthier children.
- Ask Dad Project is about giving men practical advice on how to handle different parenting problems and challenging childhood issues.




The Ask Dad Project Officer (Mark) can provide a one-off input or series of workshops to men on a variety of topics.

For fathers with children over 12 years old, topics can include:

- **Young people's mental wellbeing:** from school related stress to cyber bullying, a dad's guide to spotting the signs and supporting your child
- **Risky behavior:** normal teenage rebellion or cause for concern? How to help your teenager navigate safely into adulthood and avoid [unplanned] sex, [misusing] drugs and [bad] rock n' roll
- **Internet safety:** for teenagers the internet is a source of immense opportunity as well as threats, from radicalization, sexual exploitation, phishing scams and exposure to porn. Sounds terrifying but dads can help
- **Youth problem gambling and social gaming:** a dad's guide
- **What your children want from you:** find out how you can meet your child's expectations... you probably already are!
- **Co-design your own programme:** speak to Mark about the topics you want to cover and share your experience and knowledge with other dads.

If you run or are part of a Dads Group, contact Mark to access the service. If you are not currently part of a dads group, see the Fathers Network Scotland directory for groups in your area or contact Mark.

For more info contact: **Mark Hunter**, Ask Dad Project Officer, Call: 0131 554 4300  
Fast Forward, 4 Bernard Street, Leith, Edinburgh, EH6 6PP  
Web: [www.fastforward.org.uk](http://www.fastforward.org.uk) Email: [mark@fastforward.org.uk](mailto:mark@fastforward.org.uk)

 By  In partnership with 

Fast Forward (Positive Lifestyles) is a Charity Registered in Scotland No. SC020124

## Raising Teens with Confidence

Raising Teens with Confidence starts on Wednesday 5th September 6.30-8.30 Ross High Library.  
Email [cldfaside@eastlothian.gov.uk](mailto:cldfaside@eastlothian.gov.uk) to register or for more information.

## **Harvest assembly Friday 7th September —led by our School Chaplain, Robin Hill**

Like last year, we will collect items for East Lothian Foodbank. They have been in touch with schools to tell us that they desperately need toiletries (including sanitary products), as well as ...

### **URGENTLY NEEDED FOOD ITEMS :**

- Tinned Fruit
- custard or rice pudding (not ones that need refrigerated)
- long-life fruit juice
- long-life milk/ milk powder

Anything you can help with is much appreciated. Please send donations to school on Friday 7th September and Robin and his team will deliver to the foodbank.

Many thanks.



**Macmerry Toddler Group**  
**Birth to Preschool**  
**Every Tuesday**  
**9:30am-11am**  
**£1 per family**  
**Including snack**



**Macmerry Village Hall**



**Find us on Facebook**



### Raising children with confidence

Do you want to get more information on what is going on in your child's head?

This course looks at emotional wellbeing, resilience, the growing brain, empathy and much more!

**Sanderson's Wynd Early Years Hub from 9.30-11.30am 23<sup>rd</sup> August for 7 weeks**



Tea, coffee and laughter included, this is an informal course and open to parents, grandparents and carers.  
to book email [cldfaside@eastlothian.gov.uk](mailto:cldfaside@eastlothian.gov.uk)



## **Pupil Equity Funding**

**Is your child eligible for free school meals, and if so, have you registered?**

Schools receive additional funding of £1,200 from the Scottish Government for every pupil in P1 to S3 who is registered for free school meals. This is called Pupil Equity Funding, and schools use this additional money to help fund a wide range of Initiatives to support achievement and provide the best possible opportunities for children's learning.

How do I know if my child is eligible for free school meals?

Visit ELC's Free school meals and clothing grants page to check your eligibility and to register.

Even if your child does not wish to take up the option of having a free school meal every day, we would encourage you to register so that your child's school will receive the Pupil Equity Funding allowance to support their learning.