



Macmerry Primary School Newsletter

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This Term's News

Dear Parents/Carers,

Welcome back! We are now a few weeks into the term and we've had a busy start, P7's have already been away on their residential and had a great time and are all geared up and ready for the year ahead. As a new Head Teacher in the school I am taking my time getting to know the school and getting to know the children too.

I am looking forward to working with you all over the course of this session as we move the school forward. I am especially keen to work with you all in ensuring that all our pupils are best supported in managing their behaviour and to discuss how we can best report to you on your child's development and progress at school.

Please note all the important dates attached, we will add to these as we progress through the year. This week we have the 'Rookie Rockstars' and hope you will be able to make it along to the performance on the 19th September at 6.30pm.

We have had some changes in staffing already this session, Mrs Claire Gray has now left the Nursery as our Senior Early Years Practitioner. Mrs Pauline Govan has been appointed into the post on a temporary basis and we will soon be interviewing for a permanent Senior Early Years Practitioner. Mrs Rose Bangs has also left us to take up a place at university to study to be an Educational Psychologist. We have advertised her post and will be making an appointment in due course.

Safe parking is an issue for many schools in East Lothian and the Senior Road Safety Officer has asked that we share this message with you:

"In recent years one of the most frequently expressed road safety concerns communicated to ELC is that of the safety of children outside schools. The traffic movement around some school streets has resulted in potentially dangerous driving manoeuvres as well as indiscriminate and illegal parking by some drivers dropping and picking up children. Addressing traffic congestion, dangerous driving and illegal parking too close to school entrances, remains an ongoing challenge facing ELC."

Inspection Update. The findings of the recent school inspection will be published **on Tuesday 17 September 2019**. A summary letter and the full Summary of Inspection Findings (SIF) will be published on the Education Scotland website at <https://education.gov.scot/>

Indoor shoes. Currently our policy is for all children to have a pair of indoor shoes to change into, currently with the damp grass it is clear to see by the amount of grass being brought into school and in classrooms not all children are changing. Again this is something I would like to look at but in the meantime I would appreciate your support in ensuring your child has indoor shoes available in school.

As the colder and wetter weather approaches all children should wear appropriate outdoor jackets, unless it is really pouring we will be outside! Thanks.

Office Hours. The school office is open as follows:

Monday 8.45am – 3.30pm

Tue, Wed, Thurs 8.00am – 3.30pm

Friday 8am – 12.

Out with these hours a message can be left on the answering machine.

Kind regards

Jonathan Revell

Head teacher

Social Media

Follow us on Twitter @MacmerryPrimary

Class news P1/2-Ms Power/ Ms Forshaw

P1/2's first topic was 'Getting to Know You'. We were sharing our interests with each other. We are now moving on to exploring 'Feelings and Emotions'. We will share what makes us feel happy, sad, angry and excited and learn how to express these emotions in a safe and healthy way. Please note gym will be on a Monday morning with Miss Forshaw and on a Tuesday afternoon with Ms Power. Children should keep shorts and a gym t-shirt in a gym bag in school. We have 'Show and Tell' every Friday. This is a time to develop social, emotional and language skills. This is a lovely opportunity for your child to bring in a favourite object to share with the class. If your child belongs to any clubs or visits any places of interest please let us know, it is great to share this information with the class. Please make sure your child brings a fresh water bottle and their reading folder to school every day. Please continue to put names on all clothing, bags, bottles and lunch boxes, it really does help us!

Class news P2/3-Miss Hughes

This year in P2/3 we shall focus on building a classroom community of respect, safety and co-operative learning. Through learning through play and other active approaches the children will discover topics such as 'Looking after me', 'My local area', 'climate change', 'habitat comparison', human biology, The Vikings and with many opportunities for creativity, choice and personal autonomy along the way. I want to help the children increase their independence and ownership of their own behaviours and learning. We have already began recapping literacy and numeracy concepts - as I assess individuals in order to tailor this year's learning to their specific needs. Through on-going formative assessment and fun learning environments your children will be working towards/achieving first level. I will help the children build upon new found sewing skills also as we contribute to the Macmerry Christmas fayre! I have plans for plenty of the arts also - singing, acting, miming and art. There will be a focus on our social emotional health and wellbeing throughout - with nurture at the heart of my practice. As a new teacher to the school I would also like to say my door is always open, I shall always endeavour to share any big or important details of your children's school lives and progress with you and hope to work alongside you in ensuring your child has a successful and happy year in P2/3. I look forward immensely to the year ahead and getting to know all of you much better!

Class news P4-Mrs Burgess

We have had a great start to the new term. There was much excitement when we started our 10 week block of swimming lessons and the children are working hard to improve their swimming skills. We are currently reading The BFG by Roald Dahl as a class novel and are enjoying making dream catchers and strange coloured drinks. We will celebrate Roald Day on Tuesday 17th September, it will be a day of fun and language activities. In maths we are working on ordering 2 and 3 digit numbers and to recognise the features of 2D and 3D shapes. Our P.E.days are Tuesday and Thursday. Can you please ensure your child has a P.E kit on those days.

Class news P5-Miss Weir

Primary 5 have had a brilliant start to the year and have been very busy! Our two week pupil choice topic about animals was super. We looked at endangered species, mythical creatures and arctic animals. We even made salt dough animal sculptures. We have now moved on to our new topic, the Romans. Many of us have been fascinated to hear about life in ancient Rome, from evil emperors to brave charioteers! We will be learning about how life in Rome compares to life now, looking at diet, clothing and hobbies. In numeracy and maths we are exploring place value and shape. We have also been working hard at our French colour revision. Primary 5 have PE on a Monday and Wednesday, please remember to bring kit.

Class news P6-Miss Todd

Primary 6 are beginning the year by organising the Macmillan Coffee Morning. We are taking a 'the Apprentice' approach where the class are working in co-operative business teams to plan and run different parts of the day. The teams will complete a range of business challenges to develop their understanding of the world of work and the successful running of a small business. Our literacy and numeracy focus across this term will link into this project with the class learning more about effective advertising, money and finances as well as profit and loss. We will be having PE on a Wednesday and a Thursday, so would appreciate PE kit being sent into school as soon as possible.

Class news P7-Miss Yarwood

P7 have had a busy start to the term with a week's residential camp at Benmore and preparing speeches for House Captains and Vice Captains. All staff are extremely proud of their effort and success and they have worked together to demonstrate resilience, determination and willingness to try new things. This term we will be studying The Highland Clearances when the class will travel back in time to the Highlands and western islands of Scotland, beginning in the mid-to-late 18th century and learn about how the removals cleared the land of people to allow for the introduction of sheep pastoralism and how this impacted the life of people and places in the past. The class will be developing their understanding, analysing and evaluating skills through a variety of activities linked to their group texts and class novel The Desperate Journey. In numeracy, the class will continue to develop and extend their understanding of number and place value and in maths we will focus on 2D shape and 3D objects through a variety of practical activities. This term P7 will have PE on a Monday and Thursday with the expectation we will be outdoors, weather permitting, for PE to develop invasion skills. A suitable outdoor PE kit would be much appreciated.

Dates for your Diary

Event	Date/Time
Holiday weekend-School closed	13/09/19 & 16/09/19
Rookie Rockstars concert (Featuring P1-7!)	19/09/19. 6.30-7.30pm
Macmillan Coffee Morning	27/09/19. AM –time tbc
Bluegrass Music concert	3/10/19 7-8.30pm
Flu vaccination	1/10/19
Parent's Evening	08/10/19 3.30-8.30pm
October holiday	14/10/19-pupils return 23/10/19
In-Service days	21/10/19 & 22/10/19
School photographer	7/11/19
Children in Need	15/11/19
Christmas Fayre	6/12/19
Panto @ Kings Theatre	10/12/19
P1-3 nativity performances	16/12/19 1.30pm & 6.30pm
Christmas Service @ Gladsmuir Church	20/12/19 9.30am
Christmas Holiday	23/12/19-pupils return 8/1/20
In-Service day	7/01/20
Scot's Night P4-7	23/1/20 6.30-7.30pm
February holiday	10/2/20-pupils return 18/2/20
In-Service day	17/2/20
Parent's Evening	26/3/20 3.30-8.30pm
Easter Holidays	6/4/20-pupils return 21/4/20
May Day Holiday	4/5/20
Macmerry Outdoor Day	14/5/20
In-Service day	18/5/20
Sports day-whole school	18/6/20
P7 End of year celebration	24/6/20
Reserve Sports day	25/6/20
Last day of term	26/6/20
Pupils return	19/8/20