



# Our Community Learning Together Awesome August

We have had a productive and enjoyable start to the new session.

It is hard to believe that already it is September! The beginning of term has been busy and classroom routines and expectations are now established.

On Friday 6<sup>th</sup> September this session's Pupil Council will meet for the first time. Pupil voice is important to us and the Council plays a valuable role in ensuring that there is a forum for ideas to be shared and meaningful opportunities to participate in school improvement. This also links to how as a school we support the development of leadership skills. There are a number of ways which pupils are able to take on leadership roles within school e.g. Junior Road Safety Officers, Buddies, and Cloakroom Monitors etc.

In this newsletter there is further information regarding a range of aspects of school life such as communication, outdoor learning, our approach to ensuring our school ethos is a nurturing and welcoming one and details of the forthcoming Welcome Evening.

*Pauline McKay*

## COMMUNICATION

The School and the Parent Council are working to finalise a Communication Policy. This will provide a comprehensive overview of all aspects of home/school communication.

However, whilst the final copy is being produced, please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any concerns regarding your child.

Tel Number: **01875 340260**

Email:

[pencaitland.ps@pencaitland.elcschool.org.uk](mailto:pencaitland.ps@pencaitland.elcschool.org.uk)

Updates on what is happening in school will be posted on our school blog and on Twitter.



School Blog

<https://www.edubuzz.org/pencaitland>

## Sharing Our Learning

### Assemblies and Learning Showcase

Over the course of the session classes will develop opportunities for you to find out more about the learning and the experiences that your child is having in school. This may come in a variety of formats; such as an assembly, an open morning or exhibition. Details of each of these are specific to each class and teachers will share information via their class newsletter or through the regular '30 second update.'

## Outdoor Learning

Every class will regularly access our fabulous outdoor environment – this means that a planned outdoors experience will happen twice every week and there will also be an opportunity to visit the woods. These experiences will be relevant to a number of curricular areas including literacy and numeracy. Please make sure that your child comes with suitable clothing to ensure they are able to participate fully in the learning outdoors in all weather.



# Our School Ethos

## What is it like to learn at Pencaitland?

One of our ongoing priorities will be to continue to develop our curriculum rationale. As part of this process we will be thinking about the four contexts of learning. One of the four contexts of learning is the 'ethos and life of the school as a community'. The information below is to illustrate how a number of approaches co-exist and help shape our school ethos.

We will continue to promote and embed our school values. Recognition will be given where the values are demonstrated 'in action.'



Our Values

Forth Esk Almond Tyne

### House Points

Our house point system is also based on a values and positive attributes. (See below)

We have achieved our Bronze Award and will continue with our aim to achieve Silver. More details as to how we will achieve this will be shared. Meantime a clear focus on the articles of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child will continue.

## Our Learners

Restorative Practice

Rights Respecting Schools



As part of our values and needs based approach, Restorative Approaches are used to support and foster strong, respectful relationships.



Pivotal Learning Approach

Following staff training we are adopting a shared statement which helps provide a framework for expectations of all when in school.

**Ready Respectful Safe**

### Recognising Wider Achievement

Achievement is recognised both in and out of school. We value hearing of the many achievements of our learners out with the school day. If you have news to share please ask your child to share with the class teacher or drop us a note. Our current focus is on Effective Contributors.

Curriculum for Excellence says that Effective Contributors demonstrate

- an enterprising attitude
  - resilience
  - self-reliance
- and that they can:
- communicate in different ways and different settings
  - work in partnerships and in teams
  - take the initiative and lead
  - apply critical thinking in new contexts
  - create and develop
  - solve problems

House points may be awarded for:





This first few weeks I have been out and about, trying my best to get to know everyone. It has been a privilege to spend time in your child's classes and share the learning. I have been to the woods, learned how to build a circuit, perfected my technique when writing the letter 'p', worked on problem solving and numeracy, increased my Spanish vocabulary, had fun with Loose Parts play, explored the garden and the produce that has been grown. . .the list is endless! As well as enjoying the learning it has also been a pleasure to be able to recognise classes and children for their wonderful manners, concentration, focus, curiosity and responsible attitude.

# Welcome Evening

Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> September

6.15-7.15pm

6.15-6.30pm Introduction from Acting HT: Mrs Pauline McKay

*Welcome and the year ahead: Our School Priorities*

*Introduction: Mrs Emily Govan- Principal Teacher*



**Classroom Drop In**  
6.30-7.15pm

Visit your child's class, introduce yourself to their teacher and browse the classroom resources used to support learning.

## Getting Involved

*Would you like to find out more about how you can support the work of the school?*

Representatives from both the Parent Council and Parent Teacher Association will be in attendance to share with you how you can support the work they do.