



September 2023

## Meet the Staff

It was lovely to see so many children and families join us for 'Meet the Staff' this week. We hope you found this helpful. The powerpoint presentations will be emailed out for your information.

## School Extension Update

You will see that the extension work is now progressing quickly. We have managed to stagger breaks and lunches so that all children have space to play. We have also carried out a full risk assessment which enables some of our older classes to use the playing fields for PE and for Primary 6 and 7 at lunchtimes.

Children in Mrs Garwood's class will move to their new classroom following the September weekend. On Tuesday, they should line up where they are currently and Mrs Garwood will support them in gathering any of their classroom belongings, before moving across. We appreciate how excited they are to be accessing this new learning space. Once they have settled in, their parents/carers will have an opportunity to drop in at the end of a school day to see their classroom.

## Parent Partnership Update

The first Parent Partnership meeting of the school year is on **Wednesday the 27th September at 6:45pm**. This meeting will be held in the school Library. We will look at the planning for the year ahead alongside a focus on 'The Cost of the School Day'. All parents/carers from our school community are welcome to attend. A full list of the meeting dates have been added to the school calendar, available on the app.

This year, the Parent Partnership will be working alongside our school staff to develop the following areas: Home Learning, Family Learning, Learning Through Play and Curriculum and Community. The first Working party will be Home Learning. If you are interested in participating, please complete the form below and someone will be in touch.

<https://forms.gle/o38BU8AmxYjcVXTTA>

## P7 JRSOs

Over the next few weeks, our Primary 7s will have the chance to make an application to become one of our JRSOs (Junior Road Safety Officers). They will be responsible for working on issues concerning general road safety as well as more specifically cycling, walking, driving and scooting to school.



Application forms can be completed by interested Primary 7s after the September break.

## Safety in the Car Park Playground

We have had a number of parents/carers highlight that there are cars continuing to park on both sides of the drop-off area. This makes it almost impossible to get another car through and it becomes a hazard for other cars and pedestrians. We know it is challenging to park but please have consideration for others. Thank you

Our playground is such a busy space at drop off and collection times each day. Thank you to those who are helping to keep everyone safe by pushing their bikes and scooters and not riding them within the school grounds. Please help make the grounds even safer by reminding others to do the same, this includes adults!



## School library

We hope that as many of you as possible managed to visit our new and improved Library. In Partnership with our Parent Partnership, we have been able to bring our design winners ideas to life. A huge thank you to everyone who has contributed to fundraising and made donations to the Library development. The photographs show our competition winners alongside our Primary 7 Librarians.



## Eco- Schools

The Eco committee have completed their new action plan as we continue our journey of re-applying for our 'Green Flag'. This year we continue to work on the following areas:

- Climate Action
- Biodiversity
- Global Citizenship



## PE Kit

We do ask that children attend school on a PE day in their kit. However, please keep this as close to school uniform colours as possible. School t-shirt and sweatshirt, joggers or leggings and trainers. Children may choose to wear their house colours. Thank you.

## **RRSA Gold Reaccreditation**

We have been continuing our Journey to the re-accreditation of Gold Award within our UNCRC Rights Respecting School Work. We are excited to announce that our assessment date will be Monday 20th November 2023. Mr McMurtrie will be visiting our school on this date to speak with our children, our staff and some of our parents and carers so we can share all of our great work and positive achievements in this area.



## **Water and Milk Reminder**

Please remember that as per school policy, children should only have water or milk for their snack and their water bottles should only contain water for use during the day. The only exception to this would be a child who has a Health Care Plan in place. Juice, as part of a packed lunch should be provided separately.



## **School Attendance - Friday**

Analysis of attendance data last session evidenced that our average % attendance had increased and was closer to pre pandemic levels. However, there was a concerning pattern emerging on Fridays where the attendance of children at school was significantly lower than on Monday to Thursdays.

A Friday morning is carefully planned in the same way as any other morning in school. It consists of:

- Focussed learning and teaching in Literacy and Numeracy.
- Learning across the curriculum within a topic or theme.
- Opportunities to reflect on their learning for the week and look ahead to the new week.
- Children have the opportunity to participate, on a three week rolling programme, in Assemblies where there are specific areas of learning and teaching with tasks and activities which are followed up in their classes.
- FUN31 - There is an opportunity on a Friday morning where the children work in their own class and across classes in a variety of engaging activities. This links with Article 31 of The UN 'The Rights of the Child'. *'Every child has the right to relax, play and take part in a wide range of cultural and artistic activities'*.

This session we will track patterns in non -attendance on a Friday and may contact individual parent/carers if there is a concern. Please remember that school staff are available to support children.

## Outdoor Learning

We are very excited to be offering Outdoor Learning opportunities for some classes this session. Learning outdoors is proven to offer a wide range of benefits to learners; mental health and wellbeing improves, relationships with nature improves, education is more inclusive and curriculum learning is enhanced.



Across the year, blocks of learning will be offered to P2, P3 and P4 classes. Interspersed with this will also be further experiences for some of our other year groups. Primary 5 and 7 have the opportunity to attend camps this session.

More information will be sent home nearer the time to those involved.

## Bikeability for P5-7

Letters have already gone out to P5, P6 and P7 classes encouraging everyone eligible to sign up for Level 1 this term. This is mainly for P5 classes but any P6 or P7s who have missed out taking part in Level 1 are very welcome too.



Sessions will be on Friday mornings for those who have signed up and will start once Bike Checks have been completed. The focus of the programme is on Road Safety. **We require that everyone taking part in this programme should be able to ride a bike already.**

Later in the year, Primary 6 and 7 will have the opportunity to take part in Level 2. More information for this will follow.

## Primary 6 Skiing

We are very excited to be returning to Midlothian Snowsports Centre with a large group of 72 from Primary 6. Sessions run on a Wednesday afternoon.

## Animal and Plant Care After School

Miss Gilmour and Mr Borthwick have started a weekly after school group for Primary 6 and 7. Children can build on their existing knowledge and spend some quality time caring for the guinea pigs and tropical fish as well as tending to our indoor plants.



We hope you all enjoy a lovely September weekend. We look forward to seeing the children again on Tuesday 19th September 2023.