



Wemyss Bay Primary School and Nursery Class

Head Teacher's Newsletter

January 2017

Dear Parent/Carer,

The purpose of this newsletter is to give you information, update you on recent events in school and to inform you about things which will be happening in the near future. This newsletter is also published on our school website. Address – <http://wemyssbay.inverclyde.sch.uk>

Happy New Year to all of our families and friends!

After a very busy Christmas period where the children were treated to a pantomime performance of 'Jack and the Beanstalk', learned about running a business in preparation for our Christmas Cracker event, took part in or watched our Nativity performance 'Hey Ewe!', enjoyed the PTA Christmas discos and school Christmas parties, participated in our Christmas services, collected items for the Inverclyde Foodbank during Christmas jumper day and entertained the whole school as each House group put on a piece of Christmas entertainment we are now looking forward to the start of a new term in school full of interesting learning experiences for our pupils. We were delighted that so many of our families and friends could join us at the various events we held during the Christmas period.

School improvement

As we go into this new year we continue to strive to improve our pupils' experiences in both their learning and in school life. All schools are constantly evolving in pursuit of improved outcomes for their pupils and inevitably this means changes occur. We endeavour to share the reasons for changes with those affected as far as is possible but if, at any time, parents/carers have any questions or suggestions please do not hesitate to contact us via the school office.

Performance Equipment

If you were able to attend our Nativity or Christmas services then you may have noticed that we have new staging which allows for varied performance levels, a new backdrop curtain and new skirting for the front of the stage. The purchase of this new equipment was funded by the ticket sales from our school shows last session and by a very generous donation from Miss Fleming our Former DHT for which we are very grateful. We hope that you agree that these additions enhanced the children's Christmas performances.

Charities Group

Our Charities group are delighted to report that through their collections at both the Christmas services and on Christmas jumper day our school community was able to donate two car loads of groceries to the Inverclyde Foodbank. Thank you to all families who supported this initiative.

Communication

This term we will begin using a communication system called 'Groupcall' which will allow us to text and email information to our parent/carers including documents such as newsletters and for parent/carers to respond by the same method. This should help to make information more accessible for families and also reduce our paper and copying costs. To implement this system we need to ensure that we have up to date mobile phone numbers and email addresses so please complete the attached return and send back to school as soon as possible. In the very near future an app will be available for download to smartphones/tablet computers – more information to follow.

Enrolment for P1 for the session 2017/2018

This takes place today **Wednesday 11th** (surnames beginning A-L) and tomorrow **Thursday 12th January** (surnames beginning M-Z) from 1.30- 3.00pm at the school office. Parents must bring their child's birth certificate, their Council Tax demand notice for the current year (must be in parent's name) and a utility bill (i.e. gas, electricity, landline telephone or broadband) in parent's name and dated within the last six months. Please pass this information to anyone for whom you think it may be relevant.

Nursery applications

Applications for a nursery place for children who will be three before 1st March 2018 should be completed and returned to parents' first choice establishment by **31st January 2017**. Forms are available from the school office. Please pass this information to anyone for whom you think it may be relevant.

Class Assembly/Fairtrade Coffee Morning

P4 have their class assembly on **Wednesday 18th January** from 9.30-10.00am and their families are invited to join us at both this and at the Fairtrade Coffee Morning afterwards from 10.00-10.30am.

P5 Curriculum Event

Parents/carers of pupils in P5 are invited to join the class from 9.30-10.30am on Wednesday 25th January to experience classroom learning alongside the children. The focus this session is on numeracy and maths.

Sportshall Athletics

The third and final round of this inter-schools competition will take place on the afternoon of **Friday 17th January** with the final taking place on **Friday 3rd February** should we qualify. We wish the team, the very best of luck! A separate letter will be issued to those involved.

Inverclyde Music Festival

All of our classes will be taking part in this event in the Greenock Town Hall. Families are very welcome to attend to support the children. Please see the attached timetable of when each class will be performing.

PTA/Parent Council Meetings

The next PTA and Parent Council meetings will take place on Tuesday 31st January.

PTA – 6.00-7.00pm – School staffroom

Parent Council – 7.15-8.30pm – School ICT room

New members for either group are very welcome to come along.

Holiday Weekend

Monday 6th February and **Tuesday 7th February** are holidays for staff and pupils and **Wednesday 8th February** is an In-service Day for staff – pupils do not attend. Pupils return to school on Thursday 9th February at 9.00am.

Yours sincerely,



Mrs Elaine Montgomery
Head Teacher

Inverclyde Music Festival Timetable

School Class	Date	Time	Festival Class
Nursery	Friday 20 th January	9.45am	94. Singing Games – Nursery & Pre- school
P1	Thursday 19 th January	9.45am	95. Singing Games – Primary 1
P2	Thursday 19 th January	1.15pm	96. Singing Games – Primary 2
P3	Thursday 19 th January	11.15am	98. Singing Games – Primary 2 & 3
P4	Tuesday 24 th January	9.45am	99. Action Songs – P4 & 5
P5	Wednesday 1 st February	9.45am	465. Group Verse – Open - Primary
P6 & P7	Wednesday 1 st February	10.45am	466. Group Verse – Open - 14 yrs & under

Term 3 – Dates for your Diary

Date	Event	Times	Notes
January			
Thursday 5 th	Pupils return to school	9.00am	
Wednesday 18 th	P4 Class Assembly	9.30-10.00am	Parents/Carers/Family of P4 pupils welcome to attend
	Fairtrade Coffee Morning	10.00 -10.30am	
Wednesday 25 th	P5 Curriculum Event	9.30-10.30am	P5 Parent/Carers event
February			
Monday 6 th	Holiday	All day	School closed
Tuesday 7 th	Holiday	All day	School closed
Wednesday 8 th	In Service Staff Training Day	All day	Holiday for pupils
Wednesday 15 th	P3 Class Assembly	9.30-10.00am	Parents/Carers/Family of P3 pupils welcome to attend
	Fairtrade Coffee Morning	10.00-10.30am	
Wednesday 21 st	Parents' Curriculum Evening	6.00-7.30pm	Details to follow
March			
Wednesday 1 st	P6 Curriculum Event	9.30-10.30am	P6 Parents/Carers event
Wednesday 8 th	P2 Class Assembly	9.30-10.00am	Parents/Carers/Family of P2 pupils welcome to attend
	Fairtrade Coffee Morning	10.00-10.30am	
Wednesday 15 th	P7 Curriculum Event	9.30-10.30am	P7 Parents/Carers event
Tuesday 21 st	Parents' Evening	5.30-8.30pm	Individual appointments will be issued nearer the time
Wednesday 22 nd	Parents' Evening	3.30-6.30pm	
Friday 31 st	Easter Assembly	11.00am-12noon	All Parents/Carers welcome
	School closes for Spring Holiday	2.30pm	
April			
3 rd -18 th	School closed for Spring Holiday		
Wednesday 19 th	School re-opens	9.00am	

Groupcall – parent/carer information update

*Please complete and return to the school office by Wednesday 25th January.
(Please note this information will not be shared outside the school)*

Pupil(s) Name(s) _____ Class(es) _____

Parent/Carer Name _____

Mobile phone number

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Email address
(please print)

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Paper copies of the newsletter will continue to be available if required.

Please tick if you would still like to receive a paper copy.

Signed _____ Date _____