



Wemyss Bay Primary School and Nursery Class Head Teacher's Newsletter November 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>

October Holiday

I hope you all enjoyed the October break. Staff and pupils have returned refreshed and are looking forward to the very busy term ahead as the Christmas season beckons!

Parent/Carers' Curriculum Evening

Just before the holiday we were delighted to welcome representatives from sixteen of our families along to this evening based around the teaching of writing. Those who came gave very positive feedback. In particular families liked: learning how writing skills develop, experiencing how writing is taught and seeing the resources their children use. The main suggestion for improvement was a request for there to be more opportunities for parents to experience learning in this way and we will consider this feedback when planning future events. Thank you to all who attended, to staff members who worked so hard to make this evening such a success and to our pupils who confidently demonstrated their learning for their families.

Schools Cross Country

Millie Paton (P6) and Nuala Ward (P5) represented Wemyss Bay Primary in the P5-6 Girls section of this event. Nuala ran really well and finished strongly and Millie was placed first out of around sixty competitors for the second year running. We are very proud of both girls!

Hallowe'en Discos

The PTA ran two well attended discos on Friday evening which were great fun for the children – thank you to all committee members and helpers! Some super costumes were in evidence!

The children enjoyed our Hallowe'en activities in school too and the mask making competitions were won by: Charlie Higgins – P1, Olivia Lyne – P2, Kenzie McIntyre – P3, Lucy Robertson – P4, Nuala Ward – P5, Madison Marner – P6 and Katie Rodgers –P7 – well done to them all!

School Photos

As you know all of the children had individual and family photographs taken and P1 and P7 also had class pictures taken. There is no obligation to buy but if you would like to please send in your order/payment by Thursday 2nd November.

P5 Class Assembly/Fairtrade Coffee Morning

Parents/carers of pupils in P5 are welcome to attend the P5 class assembly on Wednesday 8th November at 9.30am and the Fairtrade coffee morning held afterwards from 10.00-10.30am.

P3 Curriculum Morning

Parents/carers of P3 are invited to visit the P3 classroom on Wednesday 15th November from 9.30-10.30am to learn alongside their children. Following our recent writing curriculum evening the focus of this event will also be on the teaching of writing.

Parent/Carer Pupil Update Evenings

These will take place on Tuesday 21st November, 5.30-8.30pm and Wednesday 22nd November, 3.30-6.30pm and will provide an opportunity for you to discuss your child's learning with their class teacher/key worker. Please use the return slip in your child's letter wallet to indicate your preferred night for attending. An individual appointment will then be issued for each child

Sportshall Athletics

Our athletics team will be taking part in the first round of this inter-schools competition on Tuesday, 24th November. A separate letter will be issued to those involved. We wish the team and Miss Maxfield who is training them, the best of luck!

Parent Council

Anyone wishing to join the PC should contact any of the council members, the school office or come along to the next meeting which will be held on Tuesday 28th November 2017 at 7.15pm.

PTA

The next PTA meeting is also on Tuesday 28th November at 6.00pm.
If anyone would like to join the PTA they would be made most welcome.

Christmas Cracker

This popular event will take place on Friday 1st December 2017 and families are very welcome to attend. If parents/carers would like to attend at the same time as their child/children the class attendance times at the stalls and the tearoom will be as follows:

Morning	
9.30-10.00am	Primary 7
10.00-10.30am	Primary 6
10.30-11.00am	Primary 5
11.00-11.30am	Primary 4
Afternoon	
1.30-2.00pm	Primary 3
2.00-2.30pm	Primary 2
2.30-3.00pm	Primary 1

As last year each class in the school is running its own mini enterprise to make Christmas related products to sell – they are all working to a budget and are hoping to return healthy profits! Alongside the class stalls in the main hall there will be the very popular stall where pupils can buy a small gift for a parent or carer and have it wrapped and labelled, our school Fairtrade stall and a home-baking stall. There will also be a tearoom in the lunch hall - entry £1 for adults (children free) to include tea, coffee or juice and shortbread or a mince pie and featuring a raffle– tickets available on the day. Donations for the home- baking stall, parent gift stall (we need gifts for both ladies and gentlemen please – a great way to recycle your unwanted gifts in support of the school!) and raffle would be gratefully received! All donations should be delivered to the school office (home- baking on the day please).

Nativity

Our Nursery, P1 & P2 pupils will perform a Nativity play for families at 9.30am Tuesday 5th December and at 2.00pm of Thursday 7th December – more details to follow!

Coats

All children should have a coat at school every day now that we are into the winter months – they need fresh air and a chance to run about and so will be outside every day even for a short time unless it is really very wet.

Inter House Challenges/ House Points

As you will know all of our staff and pupils are members of one of our house groups – Arran (red), Bute (blue), Cumbrae (yellow) and Iona (green) and families all belong to the same group. Throughout the session the houses take part in six inter-house challenges. All of the staff and children in a house group, regardless of age, work together as a team led by staff House Masters and P7 House Captains and Vice-Captains to complete a variety of challenges such as creating a house display, taking part in potted sports, creating a Christmas entertainment etc. and a winner of each challenge is chosen. The house group which wins the most challenges throughout the session wins the House Cup at the end of the year. Alongside this we run a house points system. All members of a house can earn house points for actions which reflect any of our school values. Points are awarded by any of the adults belonging to our school community or by visitors to the school who observe or experience kindness, good manners, helpfulness, effort, achievement etc. Children can also nominate peers for points by giving any adult the reason for their nomination and the adult will then give the point(s). Points are given in the form of coloured counters which the children post into their house ‘bank’ located in their classroom. Points are normally awarded singly but two or a maximum of three can be given if a child has done something exceptional. Points are counted weekly by the P7 House Captains and the winning house each week is rewarded by an extra pitch time on a Friday. A running total of points gained by each house is kept as when a house reaches a certain milestone a larger reward such as a house party, film show or casual clothes day is given. At the end of the session the house group with the most points will win the House Shield. The children are very enthusiastic about the points system and it has a significant impact in supporting the embedding our school values – Respect, Equality, Achievement, Commitment and Honesty – REACH!

Yours sincerely,



Mrs Elaine Montgomery
Head Teacher

Class Awards November 2017		
Laurie McNeill	Nursery	Effective Contributor for taking part in conversations and sharing her experiences in small group situations.
Aodan Finnie	Nursery	Successful Learner for always being helpful in the nursery and showing respect for others.
Christian Sim	P1	Successful Learner for writing his letters and numbers the correct size and for forming them really well.
Juwariyah Naeem	P2-1	Confident Individual for sharing wonderful stories about how she has been taking care of her new baby brother.
Elliot Marner	P2-1	Successful Learner for working really hard to up-level his writing using adjectives and connectives.
Aaron Monkhouse	P3	Successful Learner for creating excellent pieces of writing independently and having the confidence to share these with his peers.
Sophie Miller	P4	Successful Learner for making good use of descriptive language, including similes, in her writing.
Lucy Robertson	P4	Successful Learner for making good use of descriptive language, including similes, in her writing.
Daniel Miller	P5	Successful Learner for always working hard in literacy to complete his tasks and the extension work too!
Hannah Zielke	P5	Effective Contributor for always contributing in group/class discussions. She always tries to help others.
Millie Paton	P6	Successful Learner for her hard work and effort during writing. She has been working on her vocabulary and adding description to her writing
Jai Stocks	P7	Successful Learner for successfully working on his writing targets to produce a super piece of writing.

Please remember that every class has an achievement wall where children’s successes outside of school are celebrated – please send in those awards, certificates, medals and/or photographs!

Dates for your diary			
November 2017			
Wednesday 8 th	P5 Class Assembly	9.30-10.00am	Parents/Carers/Family of P5 pupils welcome to attend
	Fairtrade Coffee Morning	10.00-10.30am	
Wednesday 15 th	P3 Curriculum Event	9.30-10.30am	P3 Parent/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	
December 2017			
Friday 1 st	Christmas Cracker	All day	Details to follow
Tuesday 5 th	Nursery - P2 Nativity Pattern 1 & 3 nursery pupils	9.30-10.30am	Ticket proceeds to nursery/school funds
Wednesday 6 th	Christmas lunch	12.15-1.15pm	Open to all P1-P7 pupils
Thursday 7 th	Nursery - P2 Nativity Pattern 2 & 4 nursery pupils	2.00-3.00pm	Ticket proceeds to nursery/school funds
Tuesday 12 th	P1- P2 Christmas Party	Afternoon	Pupils may: come to school in party clothes, bring clothes to change at lunchtime or go home at lunchtime to change
Wednesday 13 th	Nursery (Patterns 1 & 3) Party	Morning	
	Nursery (Patterns 2 & 4) Party	Afternoon	
Thursday 14 th	P3- P4 Christmas Party	Afternoon	
Friday 15 th	Christmas Jumper Day	All Day	Donation for Foodbank
Monday 18 th	P5-P7 Christmas Party	Afternoon	As above
Tuesday 19 th	Christmas Assembly (afternoon)	2.00-3.00pm	Parents/Carers welcome at either - details to follow
	Christmas Assembly (evening)	6.00-7.00pm	
Wednesday 20 th	School closes	3.15pm	Happy holidays!

