



# Wemyss Bay Primary School and Nursery Class

## Head Teacher's Newsletter

### September 2018

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>

#### **\*IMPORTANT\* Nut Free Zone**

Our school is a nut free zone as we have pupils who have severe allergies to nuts and it is vital that we protect their health. No items containing nuts should ever be sent to school either as snacks, in packed lunches or as donations for events. Please check carefully as items like chocolate spread or chocolate bars, for example, can contain nuts too. Thank you for your cooperation.

#### **Letter Wallets**

Please make sure that these are returned to school once you have removed the mail as they are our main way of sending paper information home. However please note that email is now our preferred method of communication where appropriate.

#### **ParentPay**

We would encourage all families to sign up to Parent Pay if they have not already done so as this will help as we try to reduce cash handling in school to a minimum. Further information can be obtained from the school office.

#### **Annual Calendar of Events**

This was included in the letter wallets last month– please keep it in a safe place to refer to throughout the year. Please note that while we will do our best not to make any changes to these dates sometimes things happen that are outwith our control. If that is the case we will give you as much notice of any changes as possible. This calendar will also be published on the school website if you need to download a replacement. Updated diary dates will also be included with each monthly newsletter.

#### **Class Curriculum Events**

Throughout the session each class will invite their parents/carers to attend a curriculum event where the adults can join the children in a piece of learning led by the class teacher. This session the focus will be on writing. To make this manageable no more than two adults should attend per child. The dates of these events are published on the annual calendar of events and on the school website.

Primary 1 held the first class curriculum event on Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> August when their parents/carers were invited into class for part of the morning to experience their learning – this event was enjoyed by adults and children alike!

The next class curriculum event will be for P2 parent/carers on Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> September from 9.30-10.30am

### **Class Assemblies/Fairtrade Coffee Mornings**

This session each class will take responsibility for an assembly based on the employability skills we are promoting throughout the school. The dates for each class are included on the annual calendar of events and are published on the school website.

Following each class assembly the school Fairtrade Group plan to hold a Fairtrade coffee morning for the parents/carers attending. This will run from 10.00-10.30am. For a small donation you can have Fairtrade tea or coffee and a biscuit. The pupils of the class responsible for the assembly will also attend for juice and biscuits. There will be a stall selling Fairtrade products – both foodstuffs and other merchandise suitable for both adults and children - from which the parents/carers and/or pupils can make a purchase. All profits will go towards supporting Fairtrade initiatives and to helping our partner school in Malawi.

The next class assembly will be led by P6 on Wednesday 3rd October at 9.30am and families are welcome to attend.

### **Extra Curricular Clubs**

We now have a programme of after school/lunchtime clubs run by Active Schools. The activities vary throughout the year, providing pupils in all year groups the opportunity to participate in a club. Additional clubs run by teachers will provide further opportunities throughout the session – information will follow in due course.

### **Cross Country**

The Inverclyde Primary Schools Cross Country Challenge which is sponsored by Texas Instruments continues on Saturday 8th September and Saturday 6th October. Both events will take place at Tower Hill Park, Gourock with St Columba's HS, Fletcher Ave, Gourock, as the venue for declarations and changing. Declarations can be made from 9:15am-9:45am. The first race will start at approximately 10:00am. At each event, there will be 3 races for primary school pupils with the first 3 in each group receiving a medal. P5 winners will also receive a medal. Each school's top three runners count as a team. There is no entry fee for this event. The surfaces at all venues are a mixture of grass/paths and are suitable for spikes.

At the first meet held on Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> August Wemyss Bay Primary did very well with Millie Paton, Kate Seggie and Madison Marner winning the P7 girls team medal race and Nuala Ward, Lois Herdman and Ella Fleet winning the P5&6 team medal. Millie Paton was also the overall P7 girl's race winner. Well done to all who participated, pupils can find out their individual placings by asking Mrs Arthur at school.

### **P7 Visit to Inverclyde Academy**

On Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> September our P7 pupils and their class teacher will visit Inverclyde Academy for their first experience of a typical secondary school day. All pupils attend this visit regardless of which secondary school they plan to attend as it lets them see a secondary school day in action as part of the transition process.

### **Parents Curriculum Evening – Mental maths**

There will be an opportunity for parents/carers of pupils in P1-P7 to come to school with their child/children on the evening of Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> October from 6.00-7.30pm. There will be Curriculum for Excellence Level workshops for parents and children giving examples of how mental maths skills are taught throughout Wemyss Bay Primary School – separate letter to follow.

### **Samples of Work**

On Friday 5<sup>th</sup> October the children will bring home samples of their classwork to let parents/carers see how they are doing. It is really important that any jotters/work folders are returned to school on Monday 8<sup>th</sup> October as they will be needed in class.

### **Awards**

We hold monthly Awards Assemblies. Staff can nominate one or two pupils per class for awards within the four capacities of Curriculum for Excellence: Successful Learners, Effective Contributors, Confident Individuals or Responsible Citizens. These pupils will be presented with a certificate to take home. They will also have a second certificate, their photograph and evidence of why they received their award displayed in school for everyone to see.

Head Teacher Awards will be awarded for outstanding achievements and/or notable contributions to the wider life of the school. Pupils receiving a Head Teachers' award will get an enamel badge, certificate and their name added to a roll of honour displayed in school. Parents will also be informed of this achievement by letter.

### **Come as You Please Days**

These will take place twice in the year for school funds (£1) and occasionally for a charity donation such as an item for the Inverclyde Foodbank. On these days pupils may come to school in casual dress. Please note that clothing must be suitable and appropriate for school activities. Football strips are not allowed. Our first 'Come as You Please' day will be held on Friday 12<sup>th</sup> October.

### **Reading Books**

We are missing some reading books from our reading schemes and it may be that children have misplaced these at home. As you can imagine these books are very expensive to replace and funds are limited. We would really appreciate it if families could have a good look at home and return any that they find to school – no consequences, we would just like them back!

To try to prevent these losses children will not be issued with a new reading book until the previous one has been returned. We do understand that from time to time books do get lost or damaged and if this is the case please let us know so that the book can be replaced. Thank you in anticipation of your support.

### **Parent Council**

The Parent Council will hold their AGM on Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> September at 7.15pm in the school. Any parents who would like to join or just to find out more will be made very welcome.

### **PTA**

Our PTA operate as a sub- group of our Parent Council with a primary focus on fundraising. They do a fantastic job in supporting the school in this way and are always in need additional volunteers either to join the group or to support specific events. The first meeting of the PTA will also take place on Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> September at 6.00pm and new members are very welcome to come along.

### **October Holiday**

The school will close on Friday 12<sup>th</sup> October at 3.15pm and reopen for pupils on Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> October at 9.00am.

Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> October is an In-Service Day for staff.

I hope you all have an enjoyable break.

Yours sincerely,



Mrs Elaine Montgomery  
Head Teacher

Dates for your diary

<b>September</b>			
Monday 3 <sup>rd</sup>	Holiday	All day	School closed
Tuesday 4 <sup>th</sup>	In Service Staff Training Day	All day	Holiday for pupils
Wednesday 5 <sup>th</sup>	P7 Class Assembly	9.30-10.00am	Parents/Carers/Family of P7 pupils welcome to attend
	Fairtrade Coffee Morning	10.00-10.30am	
Thursday 13 <sup>th</sup>	P7 Visit to Inverclyde Academy	All day	All P7 pupils
Wednesday 19 <sup>th</sup>	P2 Curriculum Event	9.30-10.30am	P2 Parent/Carers event
<b>October</b>			
Tuesday 2 <sup>nd</sup>	Parents' Curriculum Evening	6.00-7.30pm	Details to follow
Wednesday 3 <sup>rd</sup>	P6 Class Assembly	9.30-10.00am	Parents/Carers/Family of P6 pupils welcome to attend
	Fairtrade Coffee Morning	10.00-10.30am	
Friday 5 <sup>th</sup>	Pupil work samples home	3.15pm	To be returned Monday 8 <sup>th</sup>
Friday 12 <sup>th</sup>	Come As You Please Day	All day	£1 for school funds
	School closes	3.15pm	Enjoy the break!
15 <sup>th</sup> – 19 <sup>th</sup>	School closed	All week	Staff and pupil holiday week
Monday 22 <sup>nd</sup>	In Service Staff Training Day	All day	Holiday for pupils
Tuesday 23 <sup>rd</sup>	Pupils return to school	9.00am	
Wednesday 24 <sup>th</sup>	P3 Curriculum Event	9.30-10.30am	P3 Parent/Carers event
Wednesday 31 <sup>st</sup>	Hallowe'en Activity Day	All day	Details to follow