



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

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!

DHT Secondment

Mrs Gillespie will begin her secondment to CELCIS this week. Mrs Kaur will be acting DHT on Thursdays and Fridays each week and Mrs Vass will be teaching P7 on those days.

Parking

Our school neighbours have let the Parent Council know that they are increasingly frustrated by their driveways being blocked by families at school drop off and pick up times preventing them from leaving or entering their homes. Please ensure that you park considerately at all times and be mindful of those who live around the school grounds. Thank you for your co-operation.

Parent/Carers' Curriculum Evening

Just before the holiday we were delighted to welcome a range of our families along to this evening based around the teaching of number with a focus on mental maths. Those who came gave very positive feedback. In particular families liked: learning how mental maths skills develop, experiencing how mental maths is taught and seeing the resources their children use. 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

A selection of our very successful Cross Country pupils – Millie Paton was top P7 girl for the series and our P5-6 girls team and P7 girls and boys teams all won single event gold medals – will participate in the Cross Country Championships on Wednesday 7th November at Parklea Playing Fields, Port Glasgow – further information to follow. We wish the team and Mrs Arthur who is training them, the best of luck!

Hallowe'en

The PTA discos will take place this Friday, 26th October providing an opportunity for pupils to dress up and show off their costumes. On Wednesday 31st October we will have a Hallowe'en Activity day in school when the children will learn through the context of Hallowe'en, take part in traditional activities such as 'dooking' for apples and participate in a mask making competition where there will be a prize for the best effort in every class. The children do not dress up on this day as some children find this difficult to cope with, costumes can be uncomfortable to wear all day and accessories can be lost or broken before guising in the evening.

School Photos

As you know all of the children had individual and family photographs taken and P1 and P7 also had class pictures taken. The P7 picture did not meet the high standard expected and so will be retaken.

Parent/carers will have the opportunity to order either the original or the new version – orders already submitted have been held to allow families the choice.

P4 Curriculum Morning

Parents/carers of P4 are invited to visit the P4 classroom on Wednesday 14th November from 9.30-10.30am to learn alongside their children. Following our recent number/mental maths curriculum evening the focus of this event will also be on the teaching of number/mental maths.

P5 Class Assembly/Fairtrade Coffee Morning

Parents/carers of pupils in P5 are welcome to attend the P5 class assembly on Wednesday 7th November at 9.30am and the Fairtrade coffee morning held afterwards from 10.00-10.30am.

Parent/Carer Pupil Update Evenings

These will take place on Tuesday 20th November, 5.30-8.30pm and Wednesday 21st 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 Friday, 26th October. A separate letter has been issued to those involved. We wish the team, and Miss Maxfield who is training them, the best of luck!

Parent Council

Our Parent Council is struggling for members and the last three attempts at holding the AGM have been thwarted by lack of attendees. 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 27th November 2017 at 7.15pm – your school needs you!

PTA

The next PTA meeting is also due to be held on Tuesday 27th November at 6.00pm. Although this fundraising group is currently well supported it exists as a sub-group of the Parent Council and as such cannot continue without it. If anyone would like to join the PTA they would also be made most welcome.

Christmas Cracker

This popular event will take place on Friday 30th November 2018 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 will be running its own mini enterprise to make Christmas related products to sell – they will all work to a budget and will be 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, a stall run by Inverclyde Academy 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 4th December and at 2.00pm of Thursday 6th 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 August 2018		
Noah McKenzie	P2	Responsible Citizen for settling in well to Primary 2 by making a huge effort to follow instructions and show good listening skills.
Madison MacPhee	P2	Successful Learner for including lots of interesting detail and information in her first piece of writing in Primary 2.
Alfie Paton	P3	Responsible Citizen for settling into Primary 3 well and setting a great example to others.
Aaron Monkhouse	P4	Confident Individual for settling wonderfully into Primary 4. He has shown a really mature attitude in his approach to his work and has developed real confidence in his own ability.
Erin Sim	P5	Effective Contributor for her excellent contribution to whole class discussions across the curriculum and in the creation of our class charter.
Eilidh Banks	P6	Effective Contributor for showing enthusiasm and interest in all curriculum areas and sharing her thoughts and ideas readily in class.
Faith Mulholland	P6	Responsible Citizen for making a super effort to be a positive role model and showing a more mature attitude in class.
Sam Rafferty	P7	Successful Learner for making a conscious effort to ensure tasks are completed to a high standard.
Class Awards September 2018		
Penny Bryce	Nursery	Successful Learner for sharing and developing her knowledge of dinosaurs.
Matteo Walker	Nursery	Confident Individual for creating wonderful pieces of art.
Milly Coyle	P1	Effective Contributor for being such a sensible member of our class by helping others in learning and practically, inside and outside the classroom.
George Wallace	P1	Effective Contributor for outstanding effort and contributions to all that we do in Primary One!
Milly Boyle	P2	Effective Contributor for working SO well as part of a team and offering support whenever she can to those who need it.
Amelia McLennan	P3	Successful Learner for having a great attitude towards her learning and not giving up!
Rosie Aikman	P4	Effective Contributor for demonstrating that she is a valuable member of Primary 4 with her positive contributions during class discussions across the curriculum.
Jack Heal	P5	Successful Learner for his excellent attitude in maths and not giving up while tackling problems involving the four operations.
Ella Fleet	P6	Responsible Citizen for helping others with their learning, giving constructive feedback and next steps.
Quinn Hegarty	P6	Successful Learner for showing perseverance and determination with his learning in maths.
Jayden Harwood	P7	Successful Learner for creating a super piece of imaginative writing.
Class Awards October 2018		
Austin MacPhee	Nursery	Effective Contributor for Sharing his ideas when creating Winnie the Witch
Isla Wilson	P1	Responsible Citizen for supporting others in learning, being a wonderful class member and always doing the right things at school.
Argyll Paton	P2	Responsible Citizen for consistently making good choices and <u>always</u> being respectful and caring towards his peers.
Juwariyah Naeem	P3	Successful Learner for trying hard to improve her writing.
Evie O'Neill	P4	Successful Learner for showing enthusiasm and making a great effort during French and always being keen to speak aloud.
Primary 4 Class		Responsible Citizens for setting a positive example when travelling to and from their swimming lessons and behaving in a sensible manner at the Waterfront.
Lydia Lin	P5	Effective Contributor for demonstrating she is a valuable member of Primary 5 with her positive contributions during class discussions.
Sonny Harwood	P6	Confident Individual for showing excellent commitment and participation during our class assembly.
Lois Herdman	P6	Successful Learner for consistently using writing targets and feedback to help improve her writing.
Sam Rafferty	P7	Successful Learner for ensuring that he is meeting his writing targets in most written pieces.

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 the Dairy

Date	Event	Time	Notes
November 2018			
Wednesday 7 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 14 th	P4 Curriculum Event	9.30-10.30am	P4 Parent/Carers event
Tuesday 20 th	Parents' Evening	5.30-8.30pm	Individual appointments will be issued nearer the time
Wednesday 21 st	Parents' Evening	3.30-6.30pm	
Friday 30 th	Christmas Cracker	All day	Details to follow
December 2018			
Tuesday 4 th	Nursery - P2 Nativity Pattern 1 & 3 nursery pupils	9.30-10.30am	Ticket proceeds to nursery/school funds
Wednesday 5 th	Christmas lunch	12.15-1.15pm	Open to all P1-P7 pupils
Thursday 6 th	Nursery - P2 Nativity Pattern 2 & 4 nursery pupils	2.00-3.00pm	Ticket proceeds to nursery/school funds
Tuesday 11 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 12 th	Nursery (Patterns 1 & 3) Party	Morning	
	Nursery (Patterns 2 & 4) Party	Afternoon	
Thursday 13 th	P3- P4 Christmas Party	Afternoon	
Friday 14 th	Christmas Jumper Day	All Day	Donation for Foodbank
Monday 17 th	P5-P7 Christmas Party	Afternoon	As above
Tuesday 18 th	Christmas Assembly (afternoon)	2.00-3.00pm	Parents/Carers welcome at either - details to follow
	Christmas Assembly (evening)	6.00-7.00pm	
Friday 21 st	School closes	2.30pm	Happy holidays!