



Wemyss Bay Primary School and Nursery Class Head Teacher's Newsletter September/October 2019

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 ParentPay including those in P1-4 (who currently do not pay for lunches) if they have not already done so as all primary schools in Inverclyde are now cashless and payment for school trips, show tickets etc. will require to be made through ParentPay. Further information can be obtained from the school office.

Annual Calendar of Events

This was included in the letter wallets at the start of the session– 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 newsletter.

School Photographs

Tempest photographers will be in school on the morning of Wednesday 25th September. All pupils will have individual photographs and where appropriate family groups taken. Class photographs of Primary 1 and Primary 7 will also be taken. Order forms showing the proof photographs will then be sent home to allow families to order prints if they would like to but there is absolutely no obligation to purchase any photographs at all. Nursery pupils who do not attend on a Wednesday morning are welcome to come along at 10.30am to have their picture taken if they would like to do so.

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 health and wellbeing. 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 28th August when their parents/carers were invited into class for part of the morning to experience their learning. Then it was the turn of the P2 parents to visit the classroom on Wednesday 18th September – these events were enjoyed by adults and children alike!

The next class curriculum event will be for P3 parent/carers on Wednesday 30th October from 9.30-10.30am

Class Assemblies/Fairtrade Coffee Mornings

This session each class will take responsibility for an assembly based on the learner dispositions (characteristics that make a good learner) we are promoting throughout the school. The dates for each class are included on the annual calendar of events and will be 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 further Fairtrade initiatives.

The next class assembly will be led by P6 on Wednesday 2nd October at 9.30am and families are welcome to attend.

Cross Country

The Inverclyde Primary Schools Cross Country Challenge continues on Saturday 28th September 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 are 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 two meets held on Saturday 31st August and Saturday 14th September Wemyss Bay Primary did very well with Grace Barry winning the P5 girls gold medal, Anthony Ward the P5 boys gold medal and Lois Herdman the P7 girls bronze medal at the first meet. Our P7 girls, Lois Herdman, Ella Fleet and Nuala Ward also won the P7 girls team silver medal. At the second meet Grace Barry won the P5 girls gold medal again and Eilidh Timmons won the P5/6 girls silver medal. At this meet Grace Barry, Eilidh Timmons and Jenna McGhee won the P5/6 girls gold team medal. Well done to all who participated and good luck to those participating again this weekend! Pupils can find out their individual placings by asking Mrs Arthur at school.

P7 Visit to Inverclyde Academy

On Thursday 12th September our P7 pupils and their class teacher visited Inverclyde Academy for their first experience of a typical secondary school day. All pupils attended 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.

Beach Clean-Up

On Friday 20th September, P5, 6 & 7 pupils, staff and parents took part in a beach clean-up supported by the Marine Conservation Agency. Thank you to all who took part the children were encouraged to find the beach cleaner than on their last visit.

Samples of Work

On Friday 4th 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 7th 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 and their photograph 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 suggested donation) 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 11th 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.

October Holiday

The school will close on Friday 11th October at 3.15pm and reopen for pupils on Wednesday 23rd October at 9.00am.

Monday 21st October and Tuesday 22nd October are In-Service Days for staff.

Hallowe'en

The PTA discos will take place on Friday, 25th October providing an opportunity for pupils to dress up and show off their costumes. On Thursday 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.

Parent Partnership

The Parent Council will hold their AGM on Tuesday 26th November at 7.00pm in the school. Any parents who would like to join or just to find out more will be made very welcome.

Parent Partnership Fundraising Group (PPFG) – formerly known as the PTA

Our PPFG 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 next meeting of the PPFG will also take place on Tuesday 26th November at 6.00pm and new members are very welcome to come along.

I hope you all have an enjoyable October break when it comes.

Yours sincerely,



Mrs Elaine Montgomery
Head Teacher

Dates for your diary

Date	Event	Times	Notes
October			
Wednesday 2 nd	P6 Class Assembly	9.30-10.00am	Parents/Family of P6 pupils welcome to attend
	Fairtrade Coffee Morning	10.00-10.30am	
Friday 4 th	Pupil work samples home	3.15pm	To be returned Monday 7 th
Friday 11 th	Come As You Please Day	All day	£1 for school funds
	School closes	3.15pm	Enjoy the break!
14 th – 18 th	School closed	All week	Staff and pupil holiday week
Monday 21 st	In Service Staff Training Day	All day	Holiday for pupils
Tuesday 22 nd	In Service Staff Training Day	All day	Holiday for pupils
Wednesday 23 rd	Pupils return to school	9.00am	
Wednesday 30 th	P3 Curriculum Event	9.30-10.30am	P3 Parent event
Thursday 31 st	Hallowe'en Activity Day	All day	Details to follow