



Wemyss Bay Primary School and Nursery Class Head Teacher's Newsletter October 2016

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>

School Photos

All of the children had individual and family photographs taken last week 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 13th October. The class pictures will be available for you to view shortly.

Parent/Carers' Curriculum Evening

We were delighted to welcome representatives from sixteen of our families along to this evening based around the teaching of number and numeracy skills. Those who came gave very positive feedback. In particular families liked: learning how number skills develop, experiencing how number is taught and seeing the resources their children use. Suggestions for future workshops included: making more time available for families to experience resources with the children, homework activities to reflect the active approaches demonstrated and a more flexible approach to workshop selection and we will consider this feedback when planning our next event. Thank you to all who attended, to staff members who worked so hard to make this evening such a success and to our young pupil helpers who confidently demonstrated their learning for their families.

Class Assemblies/Fairtrade Coffee Mornings

P7 and, by the time you read this, P6 will have led their class assemblies based on our school values. P7 and their families also attended our first Fairtrade coffee morning of this session. The feedback from parents was very positive and we are looking forward to welcoming the families of other classes throughout the session.

Work Experience

During September and October we have been delighted to be welcome pupils from Clydeview Academy and St Columba's High School for week long work experience placements. We also have two sixth year pupils from Inverclyde Academy who are volunteering on a regular basis and we appreciate their help around the school.

Rugby Tournament

Our P6 & P7 pupils have recently enjoyed taking part in inter- school rugby festivals at Greenock Wanderers Rugby Club - well done to all who took part!

Netball

This after school club has restarted on a Wednesday from 3.15-4.15pm – girls from P4 – P7 are very welcome to join. We are, once again, very grateful to Mrs Anne Clark, an experienced international netball coach, for supporting the school by running this club for us.

Coats

After the holiday all children should have a coat at school every day – 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), Cumbræ (yellow) and Iona (green) and families all belong to the same group. Throughout the session the houses take part in two inter-house challenges per term – eight in total. 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 which has recently been updated. 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 outside the lunch hall. 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 already had a significant impact in supporting the embedding our school values – Respect, Equality, Achievement, Commitment and Honesty – REACH!

Values Focus Day

We recently held a ‘Values’ day where the children focused their learning around our school values. The day began with an assembly to launch the values that were developed last session through our work with the whole school community. The children then spent the day learning about what these values mean in terms of day to day living and each class created a ‘Values’ display involving all pupils in committing to those values. We are all striving to REACH for the stars in Wemyss Bay Primary and Nursery Class. Our values are also the focus of our class assemblies this session to support the sharing our values with our families.

Come as You Please Day

Friday 14th October is our first CAYP day for school funds – for £1 the children may come in casual clothes instead of school uniform. This will also be the date of our next inter-house challenge which is a potted sports event so please make sure that clothing is appropriate for this event (no house colours necessary as the children wear coloured bibs) and the school environment, and remember that they will be outside and so require suitable footwear.

Parent Council

The Parent Council (PC) held their AGM on Tuesday 13th September and the following office bearers were appointed: Chairperson – Mrs Jane McNeill, Vice- Chairperson – Mr Mick Barry, Secretary – Mrs Claire Leslie and Treasurer- Mrs Lyn Brennan. Other members of the PC are: Mrs Emma Allan, Mrs Lesley Banks, Mr Gordon Leitch, Mr Gerry Robertson, Mrs Wendy Wilson and Mrs Donna Gairns (co-opted member). Thanks to all of these parents for giving their time and talents in support of our school. The first meeting of the session was held on Tuesday 4th October and the minutes of this are available on the school website and on the PC notice board in the school. 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 29th November 2016.

PTA

Our hardworking team of PTA members have also had their first couple of meetings and have already made plans for a series of events and fundraising opportunities throughout the session. Our pupils benefit greatly from the funds and support provided by the PTA and we are very grateful for their support. If anyone would like to join the PTA or could help with some of the events please complete and return the attached slip to the school office or speak to Mrs Ailsa Robertson who is compiling a list of volunteers.

Parents/Playground

Some of our younger children are becoming overwhelmed by the number of adults surrounding the lines in the morning. The children should make their way into line when the bell rings and parents should withdraw to a distance as soon as possible. We request that adults do not move through the lines as they enter school but wait until the children have all passed by. Thank you for your support in this matter as we want all of our youngsters to have a stress free start to the school day.

P2 Curriculum Morning

Parents/carers of P2 are invited to visit the P2 classroom on Wednesday 26th October from 9.30-10.30am to learn alongside their children. Following our recent numeracy curriculum evening the focus of this event will also be on the teaching of numeracy.

Holiday

The school will be closed from 3.15pm on Friday 14th October until 9.00am on Tuesday 25th October for the school holiday week. Monday 24th October is an in-service training day for staff only.

Yours sincerely,



Mrs Elaine Montgomery
Head Teacher

Dates for your Diary			
October 2016			
Wednesday 5 th	P6 Class Assembly	9.30-10.00am	Parents/Carers/Family of P6 pupils welcome to attend
Thursday 6 th	St Columba's High School Open Evening	6.45-8.30pm	P7 pupils and parents very welcome
Friday 7 th	Pupil work samples home	3.15pm	To be returned Monday 10 th
Tuesday 11 th	St Columba's High School Induction Day	All day	P7 pupils who wish to attend
Friday 14 th	Come As You Please Day	All day	£1 for school funds
	School closes	3.15pm	Enjoy the break!
17 th – 21 st	School closed	All week	Staff and pupil holiday week
Monday 24 th	In Service Staff Training Day	All day	Holiday for pupils
Tuesday 25 th	Pupils return to school	9.00am	
Wednesday 26 th	P2 Curriculum Event	9.30-10.30am	P2 Parent/Carers event
Monday 31 st	Hallowe'en Activity Day	All day	Details to follow

Aug 2016 Award Winners		
Class Awards		
Noah McKenzie	Nursery	Confident Individual for contributing to discussions with increasing confidence
Poppy Winsor	Nursery	Responsible Citizen for having good manners and being helpful and friendly
Grace Barry	P2	Effective Contributor for taking part in all activities willingly and sharing ideas with others
Olivia Campbell	P3	Successful Learner for successfully completing all her numeracy work
Noah Robertson	P3	Responsible Citizen for always showing respect and offering to help others
Faith Mulholland	P4	Successful Learner for making excellent progress with her mental maths
Grant Leitch	P5	Successful Learner for his enthusiastic approach to learning and encouragement of others
Jaimi Glover	P6	Effective Contributor for supporting her peers and being an enthusiastic helper
Jack McLaughlin	P7	Successful Learner for remaining on task and doing his best to complete his work

September Head Teacher Award Winners		
Matthew Wagstaff	P6	For taking on voluntary responsibilities within the school and carrying them out so well
September 2016 Award Winners		
Class Awards		
Blair Campbell	Nursery	Confident Individual for coming in to Nursery confidently and making new friends
Eilidh Gibson	Nursery	Effective Contributor for asking questions and sharing her knowledge with others
Ellit Marner	P1	Successful Learner for blending sounds to make new words and for helping others
Lucy Nicol	P1	Successful Learner for excellent letter and number formation and good listening
Aaron Monkhouse	P2	Successful Learner for trying so hard with all his work, especially his writing
Finnlay Wilson	P2	Successful Learner for trying so hard with all his work, especially his writing
Euan Allan	P3	Successful Learner for trying hard and challenging himself to do better
Isla Cheesewright	P4	Responsible Citizen for being kind and helpful towards the other children in her class
Eden Hegarty	P5	Confident Individual for challenging herself with ambitious fraction work
Bethany Rasmussen	P6	Successful Learner for showing an increasing understanding of negative numbers
Heather Neilson	P7	Successful Learner for always trying her very best in every task

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!

Wemyss Bay Primary School and Nursery Class PTA

Please complete and return to the school office if you would like to become involved in our PTA

Name	
Telephone number/mobile number	
Email address	

Please tick all that apply below:

I would like to join the PTA	<input type="checkbox"/>
I am unable to join the committee but can help at events	<input type="checkbox"/>
I am happy to be added to a list of possible helpers at events	<input type="checkbox"/>

I understand that the details provided on this form will be shared with PTA members and consent to this.

Signed _____ Date _____