

Language of Learning

As a school we are creating a shared language of learning to support us on our journey as a school. Recently, pupils were introduced to perseverance at assembly. We have uploaded the inspirational video we watched onto our website for parents to have a look at. It really made us all think about never giving up and being able to keep on going.

Pupils explored the term perseverance in mixed learning teams from classes across the school and created mascots to link with these. A winner was selected and will now be the learning mascot for perseverance. We will share this with you shortly after our winning mascot has been recreated for copying!

Weekly updates on our learning assemblies will be available on our website and we hope to share in written form what we are learning after each week, as soon as is possible.

Last week in school our focus was on being resourceful. Information is available on our website. This week our focus is on exploring!

Parent Council AGM

Our Parent Council AGM took place on Friday 23rd September. It was great to see some new faces. Please note that all parents and carers can become members of the parent council. Please go to their facebook page for more information.

The Parent Council are working hard to organise our Halloween Parties. More information will follow shortly from the Parent Council.

Parent Volunteers

As a school we are keen to have our parents in school to support learning in classes. If you would like to volunteer in school, please speak to Lynn in our school office or to either Mrs Walker or Mrs Hadden. We would be delighted for the extra support for our pupils.

Additional Information

Attached is a Midlothian Calendar outlining key dates for this coming school session.

Also enclosed with this newsletter is a copy of our school communication guidance. Please follow this procedure when contacting the school with regards to any matters concerning your child.

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We Believe, We Achieve

Newsletter 1

September 2016

Welcome Back

Our pupils have all settled back in to school life well following our Summer Holidays and all classes are getting to know their new teachers and routines well.

Our pupils look fantastic in their school uniform. Thank you all for your commitment to this. Please can you ensure that all items are labelled as this helps us prevent a lost property build up in school.

All class teachers will be sending out a short newsletter in the coming week to inform you of routines in the class and indeed topics for the coming term. Please feel free to get involved in your child's learning and come in and share your knowledge and skills.

Absence and Late Coming

As we move in to a new school year, we are closely monitoring attendance and late coming as we aim to ensure all of our pupils are engaged fully in the learning of the class. Already a number of pupils are late and are accessing the school via the main entrance. We value your support in ensuring pupils are in the playground for the bell each morning.

Please note that any absences for family holidays will be marked as unauthorised by the school office, in line with Midlothian Council policy. If your holiday is longer than 2 school weeks we will need to notify our colleagues in Midlothian Council of this absence period.

Clothing and Footwear

As we move into the Autumn season, it is essential that pupils have a waterproof coat to wear to school. On days where it is drizzly, with light rain, wherever possible pupils will be outside at break times. Research shows the impact of fresh air on learning and we would like pupils to have time outside of the classroom.

In line with this indoor shoes are essential in wet and wintry weather. Indoor shoes provide our pupils with a pair of dry footwear to wear inside school, on wet and wintry mornings, providing an opportunity for outdoor shoes to dry. It also keeps our school corridors and stairwells safer.

We value your support in ensuring pupils have access to a waterproof coat and indoor shoes. If you require support with this, please contact our school office.

New Parish Priest

Our new Parish Priest is Father Andrew Garden. Father Andrew has just joined the Parish of St Luke and St Anne and St David's, Dalkeith, but has already managed to visit the school to familiarise himself with us.

Father Andrew intends to visit the school once every week/fortnight once he settles into his new Parish and have the pupils down to the Church more regularly to become familiar with both him and the Church itself.

Father Andrew has already sent out a letter to P3 Sacramental pupils outlining his expectations and for families to meet with him directly to support preparations.

Perseverance Scottish Cup Tour

We are delighted to announce that our school has been successful in accessing a visit from Hibernian Football Club with the Scottish Cup. The theme of this visit links in directly with our school focus on Perseverance and how the Club persevered to win the Scottish Cup.

The Cup will be coming to school for a special assembly in early November. More information to follow.

Staffing

We are delighted to announce that Mrs Hadden and her husband are expecting their first child in early January. Mrs Hadden will be with us to the Christmas holidays before she will have a well-earned rest before baby arrives. We are currently working closely with our colleagues centrally to advertise this post.

Ms McCready our P3 teacher left us on Friday 23rd September. We wish her well as she takes up a new post, closer to her young family in Edinburgh. This post is still advertised and we will keep you informed of our progress in securing a teacher. Miss Alexander has started working with the class and it is the intention that she will stay until the post is filled.

We currently have advertisements for a playground supervisor and learning assistant. Both adverts are live at present and interviews are planned. We will keep you informed of our progress in recruiting.

We wish Miss MacDonald a fantastic day on Saturday 1st October as she is getting married. We are sure that you will all join with us in wishing Miss MacDonald and her soon to be husband a fantastic day! Fingers crossed for sunshine!