

**Strathblane Primary School and Nursery Class Newsletter**

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome back to the new school year.

I hope that all of our families have had a lovely summer. Thank you for all the lovely gifts and cards received at the end of term.

A warm welcome to all the new children and families who have joined us this year. I know they will be made to feel welcome by our existing families.

Thank you for sending the children so beautifully presented in their school uniform. They have settled back into the school routine and have been enjoying catching up with their friends and staff. Just a polite reminder to label ALL clothing. We already have a big box of ‘lost property’ with no names on the items!

Our new P1 children are enjoying getting to know their teacher and the school and classroom routines. They have settled very well into school life and even attended HT assembly, with the whole school, on their second day. The P1 children all listened attentively and some were happy to contribute to the discussion about our school motto, ‘Be all you can be’ and our school values of honesty, co-operation, respect, responsibility and fairness.

Thank you

I would also like to thank Mr Bendermacher for the painting work he did during the summer holidays to brighten up the school corridors. This is beyond the call of duty and is much appreciated.

Communication

For information about communication and the GDPR (data protection law) please go to the school website and read the letter issued in June 2018.

Communication between school and families is via

* School website-weekly updates (sign up for alerts on the home page)
* E-mail-newsletters, school information, dates for your diary etc.
* Text alerts

In order to ensure staff are informed at all times would parents and carers please remember to

* Let the school office know of any changes to your contact/emergency details
* Inform the school office in advance, if a child has a scheduled appointment and report absence by 9.15am. Please note staff cannot act on information/instructions ‘passed on’ verbally from children.
* Return slips/forms etc. by the due date/deadline.
* Inform the HT in writing about holiday leave during term time

Urgent Office Request

We still have some outstanding annual consent and permission forms. It is essential these are returned to the class teacher by **Tuesday 4th September.**

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**Parent Pay**

It is important to keep school lunches paid up to date. We will issue an email to the address used when setting up the account to inform you when funds are low.

**Flu Immunisation Consent forms**

Please send in any outstanding consent forms by **Tuesday 4th September**.

Open Evening

Staff are hosting an informal open evening on **Thursday 13th September**. This is not a parent consultation evening, it is just a chance to have a look in all the classrooms and meet all the staff. Children are welcome to attend. The evening will run from 6pm to 7 pm.

Parent Council AGM

This has been scheduled to take place immediately after the open evening on **13th September between 7 and 8pm**. Parents/carers are welcome to attend but please note, children do not attend Parent Council meetings.

Please come along and hear about the work of the Parent Council last academic year and maybe even volunteer to help with their activities or fundraising this year!

Your Parent Council Needs You!

**Learning Logs**

A popular approach for sharing learning in schools is to use Learning Logs, as has been the case in Strathblane for a number of years. Over the last couple of years, we have used Open Afternoons as a way of sharing the learning and feedback has been very positive. During focus group discussions with children and HT/DHT almost all children commented that they do not enjoy doing the Learning Logs and find the process boring. Staff also reported that the children are not motivated by this approach. We will continue with our Open Afternoons etc. but also want to look at other ways of sharing learning with parents and carers so in the meantime learning logs will be on hold. If you have any suggestions, for ‘sharing learning’, that you think might be motivating for the children and not time consuming please send a note of your ideas in to school and we will consider them.



**Diary Dates**

Please find attached dates for your diary up to Dec 21st 2018. Any changes or additions will be issued as they happen.

**Health and Safety Compliance inspection**

Our school and Nursery had a four hour Health and Safety Compliance visit last week. The Officer was pleased with the approaches to health and safety in school and sent an e mail the next day stating,

“It was a pleasure meeting with you and your team. I really do appreciate your passion and enthusiasm around the school, the effort and dedication is well evident, and I note the good teamwork with you at the helm. Your approach to Health and Safety is very encouraging.”

I would like to thank the staff team for their good practice in school and nursery. I thank Mr Bendermacher in particular, for his vigilant approach to Health and Safety and his excellent record keeping!

H and S Requirement

One point highlighted was that parents and carers can freely access the school from the nursery as there is no secure entry system. This will be addressed in due course but in the meantime, please follow the guidance already on display in the nursery corridor and do not access the school unless you have asked a member of staff to escort you. If staff are busy and cannot do so, please go out via the nursery exit and buzz the main doors for entry to school. A member of staff can then assist you. Thank you in anticipation of your help with this Health and Safety requirement.

**School Improvement Plan and Standards and Quality Report**

These will available on the school website by the end of September, once Senior Managers at SC. have signed them off. Please take the time to read both of these documents as they highlight the work done last year to achieve our agreed outcomes and highlight the work planned for school improvement this year.

Staff look forward to your continued support this year. If there is anything, you would like to do to contribute to the children’s learning experience e.g. contribution to topic work, class talks, helping with school shows and events, school trips after school clubs or activities etc. please get in touch. Our children love visitors in school!