

**NEWSLETTER MARCH 2016**

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope you are now enjoying the lighter evenings and the recent sunnier days. The children are loving being outdoors even more so at the moment.



As you know we encourage our classes to take part in regular walks in the school grounds in addition to outdoor learning activities, PE and extra-curricular clubs. Most classes have been doing this on a daily basis and the children and staff are reporting the positive feeling it gives them.

Miss Alexander has set the school a new target for their daily walk. This involves walking over a period of time the distance it would take to reach Rio. The event called RUN TO RIO started last week. Each class has a daily record chart on the wall in the main corridor where they record the number of laps they do each day. The children are enjoying this challenge and all classes are participating.

**CELEBRATING ACHIEVEMENT**

Congratulations to Paddy Baume Kennedy who has been selected to train for Partick Thistle football club this year.

Congratulations also to the children who recently took part in the Euro Quiz with other schools. Our team came third, missing second place by one point. Thank you to Mrs McCormick for taking the children to this event.

The team were Anna Baxter, Niamh Haggerty, Merle McGee and Rosie Lennox, Catriona Britton and Aaron Wallace.

A great big ‘well done’ to the team of children who entered the athletics competition this month. Strathblane Primary swept the board, coming in on FIRST place. The children were very excited about this achievement.

**UPGRADES**

**SKIP**

No doubt you will have noticed another (third) bulging skip located in the staff car park. We are happily in the final stages of our resource organisation. Dated resources have been cleared out and re organised and functional working spaces created to enhance opportunities for staff/children to have more varied working areas. A big thank you to staff and Mr Bendermacher for their hard work and support as together we strive to enhance our school environment.

**BOILER ROOM**

The new boiler room is currently being built to the rear of the school building. There is a delay of one week due to severe weather issues earlier on during the works but this is having very little impact on the school.

The builders have been very helpful and friendly and Mr Bendermacher and I have held regular update meetings with the lead builder, senior staff from Stirling Council and Health and Safety representative.

**STAFFING**

Miss Allen remains on long term absence, with no indicated date of return. Mrs Lepper is working well with the P1 children and will remain with the class until Miss Allen returns. I am in regular contact with Miss Allen and will keep you updated.

**JANIITOR**

Mr Bendermacher has requested to combine his working hours so that he can work from 7.45a.m. until 1.30p.m. rather than 7.45-9.30a.m. /12.00-4.30p.m. which involves driving backwards and forwards to work. I have agreed this with him and he has started his new hours as of this week for a three-month trial period.

**FUNDRAISER**

Well done to all for raising an amazing £1076.50 at the sponsored event run by Mr McCooey and some Balfron High students. This money will now go towards the new playground markings the children have asked for. The work will be carried out on Saturday 27th March.

**PLAYGROUND TOYS**

The school has purchased some new balls after the Pupil Council made a request to the HT after a recent consultation with pupils.

The children have now asked for some upgrade to the playground toys and we have asked the Parent Council fundraisers if they can help with this. They will be holding two ‘Dress Down’ days over the coming months and the money raised from these will be spent on skipping ropes, hoops, chalks etc. for outdoors.

The first dress ‘Down Day’ is scheduled for Friday 1st April. The Parent Council fundraisers will send out further information about this.

**BIKE SHELTER**

The new bike shelter will be installed week beginning 21st March. We would like to thank the Parent Council for their donation, the Coop Local Fund and Sustrans who met half of the cost. The remainder was raised from the Christmas Hampers. We would also like to thank Miss Alexander for all her hard work in arranging this.

**NEW REPORT FORMAT**

Last year, feedback from parents about the report format issued by schools was collected across all schools by Stirling Council. As a result of this feedback a working party of staff and parents was set up to review the report format and design a new, shorter and simplified format. This report format has now been finalised and has just been issued to all schools in Stirling and Clackmannanshire. All schools will be using this new report format from now on. Staff are now starting their report writing in preparation for the issue of reports next term.

**PARENT COUNCIL MEETING 22ND MARCH 7.15**

As part of my HT Update at the next Parent Council meeting I will be reporting on proposed class structures for next academic session, August 2016. This information will also come out in writing in due course, however, if you would like to hear how classes are structured please come along to the meeting. Please note I will not be confirming staff allocation to classes at this time.

 Parent Council meetings are public meetings and all parents are welcome to attend at any time.

**LINING UP**

During work on the new boiler house the children have not had access to the rear playground to play or line up. Interestingly we have had some very positive comments from parents about how good it is to see all the children lined up together in the morning and what a good example the older children are showing the younger children. We have also noted that all classes coming in through the same main entrance saves a great deal of congestion in the corridors.

At my weekly meeting with support staff and Miss Spencer we discussed the possibility of continuing this once the building work is completed and agreed to do it as a trial with the children lining up in their houses. House points can then be given to reward the best lines. We will trial this for a couple of months and if it goes as well as it already appears to be going, we will continue with it.

So far the feedback from the children has been positive and they are enjoying further opportunities to gain house points.

Mr Bendermacher has asked if all parents and children could use the main entrance to the school and not to come through the staff car park.

**HOUSES**

The children have been having their photographs taken for the Houses wall in the main corridor in school. Please have a look out for this display when you are next in school.

**QUIZ**

Good luck to our two P7 Teams who will be competing at the Rotary Quiz at Balfron High School on Wednesday 16th March at 6.30-9.00. The children will be accompanied by Mrs Bairner.

**SPORTING EVENTS**

Strathblane Primary Lacrosse Team will be battling it out to win the local tournament at Balfron High School on Thursday 17th March. The event runs all day.

P3 will be taking part in a Rugby Festival at Strathendrick Rugby club on the morning of Thursday 24th March.

P5 will be taking part in a Golf Festival at Buchanan Golf Club on the morning of Tuesday 29th March.

We wish them good luck and hopefully, success. Fingers crossed please!

**EASTER**

Today the Easter decorations went up in school and the children are preparing for the Easter Service which is on Thursday of next week at 1.45p.m. in the Church.

The children’s art work for the Easter card competition will be on display in the Church so please come along, enjoy the short service and have a look at their contributions.

The results of the Easter competition were

Winner Olivia Corrigan P6/7

Runner up Ava Arnot P3/4

Congratulations to both girls. Their achievements were celebrated at HT assembly last week.

**THANK YOU**

A big thank you to all parents for sending the children with a filled water bottle every day.

Thank you also for helping us to ensure our school is a safe place for children with nut allergies by avoiding sending foods with nuts.

Your support is appreciated.

**HOLIDAYS**

The children finish for Easter weekend on Thursday 24th March at 3.15p.m. and return on Tuesday 29th at 9am.

They then finish on Friday 1st April at 3.15p.m. for the Easter holiday, returning on Monday 18th April at 9am.

**SCHOOL DINNER MENU**

Please note that before the Easter holiday we will issue the new menu. The new revised menu offers some new dishes and some old favourites.

It is important that all outstanding dinner money is paid up to date before the Easter holidays. Thank you.

May I take this opportunity on behalf of all at Strathblane Primary School and Nursery Class to wish you all a very Happy Easter.

