Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope you all had a lovely summer.

I would like to say thank you for the gifts, flowers, treats and cards received at the end of term.

Welcome back to the new academic year. A special welcome to our new families. I know you will make them feel very welcome as they get to know our school/nursery.

Congratulations to our new primary one children who have settled so well into school. The children are enjoying their classroom experience and outdoor playtimes in our lovely grounds. They have also participated in their first Head Teacher assembly, confidently contributing and asking questions.

 Well done to staff who work extremely hard to plan such effective and supportive transitions to ensure the move from nursery to P1 and P7 to S1 was a happy and successful one for all of our children.

The children are all so smart in their uniform. Thank you. They are a credit to their family and school.

School Upgrades

The children were very excited to return to school to find the upper school toilets completely refurbished. Comments included, “wow, I just opened the door and what a surprise. Big wow!” and “The new toilets are so nice. I love that they are bright and smell so clean”.

This work now completes the toilet upgrades in all areas of the school/nursery.

We have also had a new changing room created in school. This gives staff a properly resourced space with a height adjustable changing bed to change children in privacy when required. It also means our nursery can move from a 20/20 nursery class to a 24/24 nursery class.

The main school hall has been stripped and re sealed over the summer break to reduce dust coming up from the sub floor area.

Drainage issues outside have also been rectified by Scottish Water.

Thank you to Mr Bendermacher for overseeing the summer works and to the cleaners for preparing the school for our return.

Staffing

After two years as Lead Head teacher for the Permanent Supply Pool of teachers it has now been agreed that to share the workload this role will be rotated around the Learning Community Head Teachers on a yearly basis. This year Fintry is the base school.

Our staffing allocation has been reduced this year and there is now no flexibility in school. Mr Viola who was a full time permanent member of staff left in June and we were not allowed to fill this vacancy with another full time member of staff. Instead we were allocated a probationer. This is effectively a part time allocation in terms of staffing as a probationer requires to be covered from existing staffing for 1 and a half days per week out of class.

A few reminders.

Labels

Almost all parents have labelled their children’s belongings but there are a few who have not done so yet. *Please* make sure everything is labelled as soon as possible.

Lost Property

All items that are left behind in classrooms/corridors go straight into the LOST PROPERTY box in the medical room. You can ask to search in here for lost items and once a month the boxes will be put out into the front entrance area to be cleared. Please check for personal belongings.



Weather for Ducks

Our children go out in all weathers and as you know we can have four seasons in one day! Please ensure your child has a waterproof jacket with them every day.

Toys /Valuables

Children are discouraged from bringing ‘expensive or valuable’ toys, gadgets or jewellery to school. Should they do so please be aware that it is at their own risk as the school does not pay to repair or replace lost or broken items.

Lunches

****I have been asked to highlight that a school meal option is exactly what is printed on the menu for the day. The canteen is serving the whole school, nursery children and other schools from the kitchen and cannot give alternatives or meet individual requests to have food items removed or added. They also do not provide parts of school lunches to complement a home packed lunch. Children either bring their own lunch or select a meal option as it is on the menu. Thank you in anticipation of your support with this.

Children who have ‘**medically prescribed diets’** have access to special menus e.g. nut free, dairy free. If your child is in this category you will receive paperwork to complete. A meeting between parents HT and Catering Supervisor is then arranged to discuss things further if required.

Nut Free

A wee reminder that all Stirling Schools are NUT FREE. Please be aware when making packed lunches and providing snacks. If in doubt, leave it out!

Water

Children have ‘access to water’ during the school day during lessons. Thank you to all parents/carers who provide a filled water bottle every day for use in class. Children may have juice at break times and lunchtime if you wish, but juice is not permitted during class times.

Absence Reporting

Please call before 9.30am to report your child’s absence. This saves Mrs Barrett from phoning to find out why your child is not in school. Please be aware if you do not call and cannot be reached we will call your emergency contact. If they cannot inform us of your child’s whereabouts and reason for absence we are duty bound to call the police

Please advise the class teacher in writing if your child has a planned appointment requiring them to be absent or taken out of school early.

All requests for absence due to holidays / family events must be put in writing to the Head teacher. You will receive an official Stirling Council letter, which is standard procedure, once your request has been considered.

Correspondence

To assist Mrs Barrett and reduce the frequency and number of drop offs to the office please send any correspondence e.g. letters, forms, and returns etc. in via your child’s school bag/homework wallet. Teachers will then forward everything directly to the school office.

Administration of Medicines.

Support staff volunteer to administer medicines on your behalf during the school day. This may be medicine that is taken every day or medicine prescribed for a short term illness. ALL medication must be brought in to the school office by an adult who will be asked to complete consent forms. If your child has a medical condition your Doctor should provide a Care Plan for the school. Parents/Carers are responsible for ensuring medication is ‘in date’ and replaced timeously.

Staff are trained in epi pen administration and we endeavour to hold awareness raising sessions for all medical conditions we support if trainers are available.

Meetings

Consultations to discuss your child’s progress are held in November and May each year. Parents/Carers of children who have additional support needs attend a further two meetings during the year.

If you have anything you would like to discuss with staff at any other time they will be happy to meet with you after school. Please call the office to arrange an appointment.

Please keep the school informed of any circumstances that may be affecting your child e.g. break up, family illness, bereavement, working away etc.

Diary Dates

As usual staff will be meeting to agree our plans for this academic year. A list of dates and information will be issued as soon as possible and you can save the list as a reminder of what is happening in school. We will issue dates termly. Dates will also be available on the school website so check it regularly. In the meantime here are two dates to remember.



**Parent Council**

**The Parent Council do a fantastic job of supporting our school. Please come along to the AGM on Thursday 7th September at 7pm in the ICT suite and hear about all their great work. We hope to welcome some of our new parents to the AGM as well.**

**Meet the Teacher**

**You are invited to visit the school on 21st September between 6 and 7 pm to informally meet class teachers. This is not a parent consultation, but a chance to say hello and put a name to a face. Children are welcome to attend.**

Communication

You will recall that the school trialled Twitter for a couple of months last session with a plan to review this at the end of term. Staff have reviewed the use and effectiveness of Twitter and it has been decided that since so few had engaged with it we will no longer use this means of communication.

ALL information for the school will be via e-mail and everything will be posted on our school website. Teachers will regularly update class pages also so please go on and sign up for alerts.

Text messages cost the school to send out so these will only be used for urgent information/reminders.



ARDROY RESIDENTIAL TRIP

There will be a parent information evening on 3rd October at 7 pm in Killearn Primary School. Parents/carers and P6 children who are signed up to go on the Ardroy trip are welcome to attend.

Parental Involvement

As a school we encourage parents and carers to be involved with our school community and our children’s learning. We believe that positive partnership is vital and makes a huge difference to the children’s experience. Over the course of the year you will be invited to a range of events. Please come along as often as you can to support the work of the school and celebrate the children’s achievements. If you have any skills you would like to share, or have a particular interest in a class topic that is being done in class please get in touch so that we can arrange a visit. Our children love having visitors in school!