



Dream it, Live it, Achieve it

School Newsletter



September 2017

Dear Parents

I hope you enjoyed the autumn holiday weekend. Subtle changes in the weather and indeed a change in the colour of the leaves are already noticeable. With this in mind, please ensure your children bring a coat to school in preparation for the unpredictable nature of a Scottish Autumn.

See the Class/ Meet the Teacher / Parental Consultations

Thank you to all those parents who managed to pop in and 'meet their children's teacher'. The classes have made a very positive start to this school year which I am sure was evident for those who managed to come along. There will be a further opportunity to speak with teachers during the parental consultations on the 10th & 12th Oct. Children are invited to participate with the parental consultation. Children are encouraged to be partners in their learning whilst at school so being involved in this three way dialogue encourages children to reflect on their progress and to consider their next steps. Please remember that teachers are happy to discuss matters throughout the course of the academic session related to your children if and when necessary.

The World's Biggest Coffee Morning

We celebrate our successes and achievements each Friday morning at our praise assemblies. Every other month we will try to include a coffee morning as part of our assembly. Our first coffee morning of this session will be held on Fri 29th September between 11.45 & 12.35. Please come along and share a cuppa and a slice of something nice as we participate in the 'World's Biggest Coffee Morning' to support Macmillan cancer care.

Dirleton School Partnership – DSP

The next meeting for the DSP has been arranged for 7pm on Wednesday 4th October and is to be held in school. All welcome.

Outdoor Learning Day

We had wonderful weather for our day of outdoor learning and this was a wonderful way to end our whole school 'Woodlands' theme before the September weekend. Thank you to Mr Harris for working with Dave Wild to organise this day and a big thank you also to Dr Baird who gave freely of her time, sharing her knowledge and expertise with the children; and to all those parent volunteers who walked our children down to Yellowcraigs and shared the day with us, many thanks.

First Minister's Reading Challenge

We have worked hard over the last three years to provide a school library that is inviting, engaging and exciting. We work with our pupils to identify books that interest them and in partnership with our parents and wider community we continue to add new books to our excellent library. We wish for all our children to establish a reading habit that will stay with them for life and provide opportunities in school to encourage and develop reading for enjoyment. This year we are actively encouraging all our readers to make best use of our school library and to read, read, read! The First Minister recently launched her reading challenge for 2017/18 and is encouraging all children to get involved. www.scottishbooktrust.com/readingchallenge

**To engage with the first Minister's Challenge
we challenge our pupils
to see who can read the most books!**

Will it be you?

Children in P4-7 will receive an individual reading passport. Our younger readers P1-3 will contribute to a class passport

House Captains

Since returning to school after the summer break, Mr Ludvigsen and P6/7 have been learning about the UK Parliament and the democratic process of electing representatives. This learning culminated in our P7 children seeking election to the role of House Captain. They confidently put themselves forward to be appointed to the role and ran an election campaign, ably assisted by their P6 campaign manager. The P7 election campaign ended with all children in the school voting for their House Captain. The votes have been counted and verified and we congratulate the newly elected House Captains and their Vice Captains

Ruthven House Captain - Ruby Clark
Vice-Captain - Tom Stirling

De Vaux House Captain - Phoebe Kurys
Vice-Captain - Finlay Rippey

Halyburton House Captain- Lucy Wood
Vice-Captain - Jemma Ireland

We must commend all senior children who participated responsibly and respectfully with this process, they were a credit to themselves. Well done to everyone.

Pupil Responsibilities

We are in the process of selecting children from our senior class to fulfil and lead responsible roles around school. We look forward to working with our responsible P7 children to shape future improvements of our school.

Traffic Around School

One of the first tasks the children who take on the lead role of JRSOs will engage with is to identify and suggest safe parking zones around the school. The volume of traffic around school continues to cause us concern; the speed of cars and the places where cars are being parked at drop off and pick up time is worrying; please be a careful driver if you must drive your car to school. Our JRSOs will have this issue on their radar!

Playground Development – UPDATE

Over the past few months the school and the DSP 'outdoor learning development group' have been planning and working towards developing our playground. You may be aware that before changes can be made planning permissions need to be sought. We have provided East Lothian Council with architect drawings and hope soon to be in a position to move forward with the plans for our playground. Whilst we await approval we would like to appeal to you to begin thinking about how you can

HELP US STOCK OUR INTENDED PLAYPOD.

Old unwanted items lurking in your garage or shed?

As most of you will be aware part of the allocated funds from the £10,000 Tesco Grant that the Outdoor Learning Development Group (OLD) secured is to be used to create and install a Playpod Structure.

This structure will be used to house loose parts for the children to play with. It is a tried and tested concept that has been backed by Play Scotland and is being advocated by the East Lothian Play Association (who recently launched their promotion video which is now on the school blog). This is an exciting project which promotes both recycling, repurposing items but also gives the children an opportunity to develop vital skills within the playground environment such as risk management, balance, co-ordination, creativity, imaginative play and communication and negotiating skills to mention but a few.

Whilst the OLD Group are busy securing the funds and organising the logistics of the storage shed in the playground we wanted to seek your help and contribution in collecting and storing potential items for your child/rens playtime adventures.

The provided list is a guide and not an exhaustive list at this time if you have any queries about whether any items you have would be suitable please email

Sharon@sbpartners.co.uk.

All kinds of things will be considered but the general rule of thumb is that items should be larger than a laptop, sturdy, clean and safe ie: no nails, sharp edges etc.

Play Items Materials Wish List/Rough Guidance

Large wooden blocks
Ropes, netting
Old suitcases
Computer keyboards/office style phones
Plastic canvas, tarpaulin, tubes
Guttering,
Old uniform/ adult size dressing up outfits
Old hoovers, buggies
Overalls, handbags
Steering wheels
Traffic Cones
Astro Turf
Tree stump
Large sturdy plastic plant pots
Crates, plastic boxes
Large pieces of foam
Cardboard tubes – large industrial size
Large spools
Hoola hoops
Buckets/bowls
Fabric - different sizes, colour – lycra, scarves
Dryer hose
PVC pipe
Carpet samples or cut offs

Please note that the school does not currently have storage for any items at this time and if you can help we ask that you please hold onto to any appropriate items for the short term. Once we are in a position to house the items we will let you know.

Thanks in advance of your support with this.

Upcoming dates for your diary

Thurs 28th Sep	Flu inoculations
Thurs 28th Sep	P7 Overnight Camp Out
Fri 29th Sep	Junior Road Safety Officers Launch
Fri 29th Sep	Macmillan Coffee Morning 11.45-12.35
Wed 4th Oct	DSP meeting @7pm in school
Tues 10th Oct	Parental Consultation 5pm-8pm
Thurs 12th Oct	Parental consultation 4pm- 7pm
Friday 13th	October Holidays begin
Monday 23rd	Staff In-Service Day
Tuesday 24th	Pupils return to school
Fri 27th Oct	Apple/Harvest Festival

B. Moody
Head Teacher

