



Dream it, Live it, Achieve it



School Newsletter

January 2018

Dear Parents

*A slightly belated
Happy New Year to all.
Lang May yer Lum reek!*

On behalf of the staff, I would like to thank you for the lovely cards and gifts that were presented to us before the Christmas break, they are all very much appreciated.

Scots

As part of the Scottish Curriculum for Excellence, we study Scottish heritage, culture and language. To coincide with the celebration of Robert Burns, we focus our learning on Scots themes at the beginning of each year. The Scots themes for learning through January and February this year are;

- P1/2 – Now and Then
Life and times of our grandparents
- P3/4 - Edinburgh – The Capital
- P5/6 - Scottish Inventors & Inventions
- P6/7 - WW2 & Conflicts
(Local Impact)

Scots Assembly

To celebrate Burn's night, our assembly on Friday 26th Jan will focus on some of his works; the children have been learning about Burns in class and each class will select someone to perform a piece of Burns. Our Scots learning theme will culminate with a Scot's assembly/coffee morning on Friday 23rd February @11.30am when we will celebrate Scots poems, songs and dance.

Our Scots assembly in February will showcase the many talents of our learners and we look forward to sharing this with you; Tea, coffee, shortbread and traditional Scots entertainment, what more could you wish for on a Friday morning?

Punctuality

I am sure that there are many New Year resolutions in place as we begin the New Year. If you know it is necessary, please make a determined effort to ensure good timekeeping is a resolution that you strive to keep. Punctual timekeeping is an important life lesson that we pass on to our children so we encourage all children and families to make the greatest effort to be here for **school beginning at 8.55am.**

When a child is late for school it impacts on the start to their day and that of others. By being punctual we ensure each child begins their day in a structured manner.

Thank you for your co-operation with this.

After School Clubs

A couple of after school clubs will begin this week. A multi sports active school club has been offered to all children through active schools. Two sessions have been organised, with the first session for P1-P3 beginning at 3.30pm on a Monday. The lunch hall will be available if parents wish to use it whilst supervising their children from 3pm until 3.30pm.

Mr Mourits will also begin his after school club for P5-7 on Tuesday. This club will run from 3.30-4.30pm

Football Tasters

P3/4 will receive 4 hours of football taster sessions this term and will attend a Football festival on Wed 7th March.

Reduce, Reuse, Recycle

We continue to look at ways to improve how we can reduce, reuse and recycle in school. **I would like to appeal to all parents to CHECK the lost property box – it is overflowing! If the clothes and coats from this box are not claimed before the February break they will be recycled thereafter.**

Playground Development – Recycle old goods!

We have been working for some time towards creating a playpod to encourage imaginative play in our playground. We are now very close to gathering materials to resource the playpod and will shortly ask you to help us to do this.

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

PE Kit - MONDAYS & TUESDAYS! & Fit in 15

Most children have taken on the responsibility of coming to school dressed for PE really well; however, it was noticeable that a few children were not coming dressed appropriately for PE prior to Christmas and **I must reiterate that coming to school dressed for PE does not mean that these two school days are dress down days.** We still expect all children to dress with an appropriate uniform for school on Mon & Tues; **with all children wearing the school sweater** and appropriate training pants (black/grey jogging pants if possible) with an appropriate PE kit underneath and wearing sensible outdoor gym shoes and bringing indoor shoes during bad weather.

Thank you for your continued support with this.

The Daily Mile - Fit in 15

All children will now take part in a daily aerobic workout that we are calling **fit in 15 – Children do not need to wear PE kit for this input and should come to school dressed in their normal school uniform Wed, Thurs, Fri.** We do not view this daily input as PE, cross-country or sport. We see it more as a way to improve the physical, emotional and social aspect of our children's wellbeing as well as contributing to positive mental health and wellbeing.

Research has shown that this daily input has numerous benefits for children:

- ✓ Within 4 weeks, children become much fitter
- ✓ It is very helpful in reducing childhood inactivity and obesity
- ✓ Children bring the benefits home, often eating and sleeping better and encouraging their families to be active together
- ✓ It improves their perception of exercise, and promotes the idea of self-care
- ✓ The 15 minute break from lessons is invigorating and leaves children more focused and ready to learn
- ✓ The time spent outside, in almost all weathers, helps children become better engaged with the outdoors and aware of nature and the seasons
- ✓ Is non-competitive, fully inclusive, and the children have fun!
- ✓ Builds self-esteem and confidence
- ✓ Is also a social occasion, and can facilitate communication with other children and teachers
- ✓ Helps build relationships, with children often helping and encouraging their peers

Dirleton School Partnership – DSP

A reminder that the next DSP meeting will be on Tuesday 27th February from 7pm in school. The DSP are currently organising various fundraising events and would be welcoming and grateful of any new members to assist with this. There is a quiz night planned for Friday 2nd March in Dirleton Kirk hall – details to follow. All welcome.

North Berwick Girls Football - U9s, U11s and U13s

Training is on Thursday Evenings from 6:30 – 7:30 on the 3g pitches at Recreational Park, Dunbar Road, North Berwick, with regular games during the weekend. The club has qualified coaches and first aiders. The aim is to ensure development of girls into the game from an early age (P2 up) with enjoyment being the key factor!

Football is a great way of introducing them to team work, developing skills and making friends. Many of the current U13s have been with the club since it started.

If your daughter plays currently or would like to try out football for this first time, pop along to any of our training sessions and give it a go. If you would like more info drop Stuart an email; stuartmcln@gmail.com

School Meals

Is your child eligible for free school meals, and if so, have you registered?

Schools receive additional funding of £1,200 from the Scottish Government for every pupil in P1 to S3 who is registered for free school meals. This is called Pupil Equity Funding, and schools use this additional money to help fund a wide range of initiatives to support achievement and provide the best possible opportunities for children's learning.

How do I know if my child is eligible for free school meals?

Please visit our website www.eastlothian.gov.uk to check your eligibility and download an application form.

Even if your child does not wish to take up the option of having a free school meal every day, we would encourage you to register so that your child's school will receive the Pupil Equity Funding allowance to support their learning.

Dates for your Diary

- **Fri 26th Jan – Rabbie Burns Assembly @ 11.45**
- **Thurs 7th Feb – P3/4 Football Taster 1.30-2.30 also 21st Feb, 28th Feb & 14th March**
- **Friday 9th Feb – February holiday**
- **Monday 19th Feb – Staff In Service Day**
- **Tuesday 20th Feb – Pupils Resume**
- **Fri 23rd Feb – Scots Coffee Morning @ 11.30**
- **Monday 26th Feb – P6/7 Risk Factory**
- **Tuesday 27th Feb – P7 Rotary Quiz**
- **Tues 27th Feb – DSP Meeting in school @ 7.00pm**
- **Monday 5th March – P5/6/7 Orienteering**
- **Wednesday 7th March – East Lothian Youth Summit**
- **Wednesday 7th March – P3/4 Football Festival**
- **Wednesday 21st March – P6 Tag Rugby Festival**
- **Thursday 29th March – Break for Easter holidays.**
- **Friday 30th March – Good Friday - Holiday**
- **Monday 16th April – All resume**

B. Moody
Head Teacher