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**School Newsletter**

January 2018

Dear Parents

**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.

**We start the year with an appeal**

**Change of footwear for PE**

**&**

**other things**

We would like all children & families to support a change to help us keep our gym hall clean, tidy and fit for purpose.

We now learn outdoors much more than in the past and it is much more noticeable that our children’s footwear can be much dirtier. As a result of this we now feel it necessary to remind you and insist that children are provided with a pair of indoor gym shoes for Mondays and Tuesdays. Currently, we have noticed that most children are wearing outdoor gym shoes to school on Mondays and Tuesdays but not bringing a change of footwear for indoor PE. Both our PE teacher and janitor have expressed their concern over the mud being brought in from outside and the damage this is causing to our PE hall floor; **It is therefore very important that children bring a change of footwear on Mondays and Tuesdays.** We thank you in advance of your support of this change.

**PE Kit - MONDAYS & TUESDAYS! & Fit in 15**

Most children have taken on the responsibility of coming to school dressed for PE really well; however, **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 whilst bringing indoor gym shoes for when a change is necessary.**

***Team Thursday Groups***

**It is really, really important that if your child is in Mr Harris’ Thursday group that they bring a sturdy pair of shoes/ wellies to participate with this activity. We aim for Mr Harris’ group to be out and about in all weathers so wet, muddy ground will be encountered. As someone once said there is no bad weather in Scotland only a poor choice of clothing!**

A reminder that the following dress code is encouraged whilst attending school.

**Red sweatshirt/jumper, white polo shirt/white shirt & tie, black or grey trousers/shorts or skirt/pinafore/ red check dress and black school shoes.**

We have asked that children come dressed for PE on both Mon & Tues and you know that we have an aerobic input daily with our Fit in 15. Possibly due to this, it has been noticeable that more children have been wearing training/running shoes to school each day; however, a simple flat black shoe would still allow the children to participate with fit in 15. If you choose to invest in a running type of shoe for school we ask that you consider its appearance so that it looks appropriate with our school uniform. It may be a sign of the times but loud, colourful running shoes do not really complement our school dress code. We would appreciate your support with this request.

***Please ensure each item of clothing your child wears to school has their name on it; it is amazing the volume of lost property that is generated from garments with no names on them***

**Thank you for your continued support with all these matters ☺**

**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 – Maisie Goes to Morningside

P3/4 - Tales of East Lothian

P5/6 - The Jacobites/The Battle of Prestonpans

P7 - Scottish Farming

**Burns’ Assembly**

To celebrate our national Bard’s birthday, we will be hosting a coffee morning in honour of Robert Burns on Friday 25th Jan. The children will be exploring Burns poetry in class and each class will select someone to perform a Burns recital; tea, coffee, shortbread and Burns what more could you wish for on a Friday morning?

**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](http://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 we will receive the Pupil Equity Funding allowance to support their learning. All children who are eligible for free meals, including those in P1- P3, need to be registered.

**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.**

**School Information / correspondence**

We are keen to promote our school blog as an area for obtaining information about what’s going on at school as we continue to try and reduce our paper waste.

Each class has a blog page where you will find information and pictures about what your children have been learning on a weekly basis.

The school improvement plan, standards & quality reports, school newsletters, school handbook, internet safety matters, term dates, curriculum information and parent zone can all be accessed through our school website at <https://www.edubuzz.org/dirleton/>

And, if you sign up by subscribing with your email on the website you will receive a notification when something new has been added to the site…

**If you haven’t checked it out recently please do so and sign up.**

Mrs Campbell is in the process of updating the email contact addresses for our own school correspondence and has asked that all those families who are yet to sign up for email correspondence directly from school be reminded to do so if possible. Mrs Campbell will contact you directly in the next wee while to obtain a contact address.

**Dirleton School Partnership – DSP**

A reminder that the next DSP meeting will be on Thursday 17th January from 7pm in the Castle Inn.

**Dates for your Diary**

* **Thurs 17th Jan – DSP meeting 7pm@Castle Inn**
* **Fri 25th Jan – Rabbie Burns Assembly @ 11.45**
* **Fri 1st Feb – P3/4 Class Assembly**
* **Tues 5th Feb - Teacher/Parent/Child meetings**
* **Thurs 7th Feb -Teacher/Parent/Child meetings**
* **Friday 8th Feb – February holiday**
* **Monday 18th Feb – Staff In Service Day**
* **Tuesday 19th Feb – Pupils Resume**
* **Tuesday 26th Feb – P1 and P7 Dental Check**
* **Friday 15th March – Red Nose Day**
* **Wednesday 20th March – P6 Tag Rugby Festival**
* **Friday 5th April – Break for Easter holidays.**
* **Friday 19th April – Good Friday - Holiday**
* **Tuesday 23rd April – All resume**

**B. Moody**

**Head Teacher**