

Elderbank Primary, Early Years and Supported Learning

May 2016 Newsletter



Staffing Update

Despite the challenges of staff absence and the shortage of teachers we are pleased that we have managed to ensure minimal disruption for our pupils.

We are delighted that Mr Gareth Caldwell, our new Principal Teacher, will be joining our staff on Monday 6th June 2016.

Big Pedal

Well done to everyone who participated in the Big Pedal initiative which resulted in



27.9% of our children cycling or using their scooter to travel to school. Primary 4A excelled and had the most children in any class travelling by scooter or bicycle.

Pupil Council Update

The Pupil Council have been meeting regularly to discuss many issues across the school and they have ensured the Pupil Voice is active at Elderbank. The Pupil Council have also played a key part in raising funds and they are looking forward to spending the money on equipment which will benefit all children.

Parent Council Update

The Parent Council met on Tuesday 3rd May. The support of the Parent Council is very important, ensuring we have an active Parent Voice at Elderbank. The Parent Council have very kindly agreed to donate £1000 to the end of term Fun Day for all pupils from the Early Years to Primary 7. In addition they will be providing a gift for the Primary 7 Leavers and a School Tie for the Early Years pupils moving into Primary 1.

The next planned event is a Prize Bingo on Tuesday 7th June 2016.

Elderbank End of Term Fun Day

We have consulted with the pupils and the Parent Council and it was agreed that there would be a Fun Day similar to last year. Mrs Macfarlane is overseeing the organisation this year and she has arranged an additional inflatable and face painter. The school will be contributing £1000 and for the full day activities we are asking for a £1 donation from each pupil.

There will be a Fun Lunch and order forms will be issued nearer the time. We have requested parent helpers and Heather Wilson, Parent Council Chairperson has agreed to co-ordinate the volunteers.

Sport's Day

Thank you to the parents who expressed an interest in being involved in the Sport's Day consultation and thank you to the one parent who came to the meeting on Monday 25th April.

Mr Telfer, one of our PE specialists was tasked with liaising with Greenwood Academy. He had a visit and spoke with members of the Management Team at Greenwood. There were some issues relating to access to toilets, but he learned that parents would not be permitted to attend as there would be Greenwood pupils in the vicinity. This was discussed at the meeting with the parent and the pupils were also consulted. It was therefore agreed that there would be a whole day of sport and health activities held in Elderbank similar to last year on Thursday 2nd June.

Mr Telfer and Mrs Mackenzie, our other PE Specialist, have now embarked on the mammoth task of co-ordinating activities for 480 pupils from Primary 1 to 7 across the school. This will be a pupil only event.



Early Years Sport's Day

The Early Years Sport's day is on Wednesday 15th June. Due to the much smaller numbers we are delighted that we can invite parents and carers to attend.

Pupil Progress Reports

Pupil Progress Reports for all children from Primary 1-7 will be issued to parents and carers on the 31st May. (Please check your child's bag) If parents require an additional copy for the other parent who is not living in the household please contact the school office by Monday 23rd May.

Letters/Communication

To clarify, letters are issued to the eldest child in the family, if it is appropriate for only one letter per household. Letters such as the uniform order forms were issued to every child in Primary 1-6. Therefore, it is much appreciated that if you don't receive a letter, it is because your child has not brought it home or rescued it from their bag. Our website is being updated regularly and the letters can be found on www.elderbankprimaryandearlyyears.btck.co.uk The website also includes pictures and updates from classes and wider school events.

New Classes and Primary 1 Induction

Your child's teacher for next session will be issued on Friday 17th June. Your child will meet their new teacher on Monday 20th June.

New Primary 1 children and their parents are invited to induction events on Monday 16th May at 1:30p.m. and Tuesday 7th June at 10:45a.m. Uniform Order forms will be available on the 16th May for the new Primary 1 pupils.

School Uniform

The cut off for school uniform orders for the current Primary 1 - 6 is Friday 6th May. We will accept orders on Monday 9th May. If your child has not brought home the form they were issued with, please collect a form and envelope from the School Office.

Primary 7 Transition

Our pupils making the transition to Grange Academy will join their new friends on Friday 13th May and Wednesday 8th and Thursday 9th June.

Our pupils making the transition to Greenwood Academy will join their new friends on Wednesday 25th May and Thursday 26th May. On these days pupils require to be at Elderbank for 8:30am. so that they can walk to Greenwood with staff in time for a prompt start. Any child arriving after 8:30a.m. will have to make their own way to Greenwood Academy.

Primary 7 Leavers' Assembly

As previously intimated this will take place on Friday 24th June at 9:30a.m. Tea and Coffee will be served after the Assembly. It is anticipated this will last approximately 1 hour in total.

We hope Primary 7 parents, carers and family are able to come along.

Early Years Move-Up Day

The Move-Up day for the Early Years Pupils will take place on Monday 20th June at 10:45a.m. for the morning session and 2:15p.m. for the afternoon session.

School Closure Dates

The school and Early Years are closed on Friday 27th May for staff In-Service and on Monday 31st May as this is a holiday.

Elderbank will be closed for pupils on Thursday 23rd June as the school is used as a Polling Station for the E.U. Referendum.

The school closes on Wednesday 29th June at 1p.m. for the summer break. Staff return on Tuesday 16th August and pupils return on Wednesday 17th August. The Early Years re-opens for children returning for their Pre-School year on Thursday 18th August.

BBC Learning Lab Experience

Please check out the link <http://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/p00kl3tf> for interviews and book reviews from our pupils and a short film about deaf awareness created by our deaf pupils called 'Sign in to Elderbank'.

We were delighted to be working with the BBC learning lab staff who taught our pupils lots about filming and animation.

Arran Visit – Primary 7 Residential

We are pleased that all of our pupils who ventured to Arran all had a great time and arrived safely home. The weather was kind and the children and staff enjoyed lots of different activities. Thank you to Mrs McRae, Mrs Montgomery, Mr Hobson, Miss Fish, Miss McNamara and Robbie who gave up their time to accompany our pupils. This is a huge commitment and without this good will these exciting opportunities are more difficult to provide.

Thank you to all the current Primary 6 pupils who have returned their slip indicating whether they would be interested in a residential visit next session. We hope we will be able to provide more information next week as we are currently awaiting confirmation from the Outdoor Centre.

Photographs of the 2016 visit can be viewed on the school website in the Arran Blog tab.

Animals in the Playground

Please do not bring any animal into the school grounds. This includes animals being carried. Thank you for your support with this matter.

Smoking and E-cigarettes

This is polite reminder that smoking and e- cigarettes are not permitted to be smoked within the school grounds.

School Grounds

It would be much appreciated if parents and carers will encourage their children not to cut across the grass areas around the paths within the school grounds or to climb on the planters.

Congratulations – Green Fingered Gang

Well done to Mrs Kaye and the Green Fingered Gang who are a winner in the Keep Scotland Beautiful Design a One Planet Picnic Pocket Garden Competition. This is an excellent achievement and Mrs Kaye and a few children will be travelling to Edinburgh on the 1st June to set up the garden at the National Gardening and Outdoor Living Show and Scotland's Gardening Festival, which takes place from Friday 3 to Sunday 5 June at the Royal Highland Centre in Edinburgh.



We are looking forward to seeing their Pocket Garden spring into life.

Breakfast Club Reminder

Breakfast Club does not start until 8:15a.m and pupils should not be dropped off before this time.