

Kilmaurs Primary School

Newsletter



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kilmaursprimary.btck.co.uk

September/October 2015

A Note from the Head Teacher



Hello everyone and welcome to our September newsletter. I am delighted to say that the newsletter has been posted on the school's new website kilmaursprimary.btck.co.uk. We will be using the website to inform and update as much as we can throughout the session.

Children and staff are now settled into their new classes and already five children have achieved their first Head Teacher award as part of our new behaviour policy. They have earned this special award by following the new Kilmaurs Code - ***Be Safe; Be Proud; Be Respectful; Be Your Best*** so well that they have reached the top of the class behaviour chart five times. Well done to the first group and I am sure there will be many more in the weeks and months to come.

As well as the usual information in this newsletter I have included a summary of our school improvement plan. As you will see we have a challenging plan to take forward school improvement priorities this session and we look forward once again to the great support of our parents to help achieve our aims.

I look forward to working with everyone in our learning community to achieve further success for the school in this exciting new session.

Mrs. Rona Lindsay
Head Teacher

Kilmaurs Primary School Improvement Plan Priorities 2015-16

How do we decide on our priorities?

We need to take account of:

- National and local priorities for education and the school's current progress in taking these forward.
- The school's priorities for its development in the local community and the Stewarton learning community.
- Views of our pupils; staff; parents and community partners.



How do we take our priorities forward?

We create a school improvement plan and work together to take forward and then evaluate the targets.

The school's recent improvement journey has been focused on the action plan from the HMIe inspections in 2013 and 2014. There has been a major focus on developing the curriculum and our success in this area was recognised in the Education Scotland HMIe follow-through report published in January 2015.



In our new session the school will be building on this success by focussing on three main priorities as our next steps to improve the school. Every action is aimed at developing the four capacities of Curriculum for Excellence, successful learners, responsible citizens, confident individuals and effective contributors, raising attainment for all our children in Kilmaurs Primary School. Since August significant changes have already started to take place as a result of planning and consultation during last session.

Health and Wellbeing

Our actions will be:

1. Implementing and evaluating a new behaviour policy based on national and local policies including nurture principles; *Respect Me* and East Ayrshire's *Respectful Relationships Policy*. A parent information leaflet about East Ayrshire's policy has been sent out with this newsletter. All parents should have received the school's own information leaflet on our new behaviour policy. I am delighted to say that in the first few weeks of term almost all aspects of our new policy have been introduced from the Head Teacher Awards to a new Class Points system and award. The one remaining aspect is the *Electives* afternoon and this will start after the September holiday weekend. In addition to these changes we are working with the East Ayrshire support Team to introduce a peer massage programme.
2. Introducing a new age and stage appropriate programme using *East Ayrshire Relationships: Sexual Health and Parenthood Support* materials.
3. Developing the playground. We know this is very important for the health and wellbeing of our children and that they place high importance on it. Already this session, after consultation with pupils



and staff, we have rezoned the playground and we will be working in partnership with East Ayrshire Council for further development. Class points rewarding positive behaviour in the playground and a weekly class award for the winning class have been introduced this term.



Literacy

Our actions will be:

1. There will be a focus on reading this year including developing the school library.
2. Develop Kilmaurs Primary as a Dyslexia Friendly School (DFS) and achieve Bronze Status. A DFS steering group will be formed to lead this work.

Assessment

This area of learning remains high on the improvement agenda for every school. There are many components to assessing children's progress ranging from the ongoing daily assessment to periodic check-ups and other assessment tools that help teachers form their judgements.



Our actions will be:

1. Developing approaches to children's personal learning planning and profiling of their personal and wider achievements. We will take account of national and local requirements as we develop our approaches to enable children to become more successful learners. We will build on the target-setting approach in recent years and aim to create with children and parents more meaningful planning and profiles (at P7) showing each learner's learning journey.
2. Focusing assessment across a level on the Significant Aspects of Learning as described on the Education Scotland website, look under Curriculum and Assessment. These aspects of learning were published last year and we have already included them in our curriculum development. Teachers use the Significant Aspects of Learning as they plan and assess children's progress.
3. Develop our assessment approaches across the Stewarton Learning Community. Kilmaurs Primary is proud to be part of a high attaining learning community and this year we aim to continue to raise attainment of all pupils further by increasing our partnership working with other schools.



In addition to our main priorities the school continues to work and build on its success with developments in the curriculum including STEM (Science; Technologies; Engineering and Mathematics); 1+2 Languages and the use of the Health and Wellbeing programme *Bounce Back*. The school will continue to develop its community partnerships by working with the Kilmaurs Community Association to create a Junior Kilmaurs Community Association this session.

Health and Safety



Recently the school buildings have been vandalised to such an extent that it was necessary to report the damage to the police. Most of the vandalism has taken place at weekends and several young people from the village have been identified on the CCTV coverage. Please note that the CCTV cameras are on 24 hours 7 days a week. Obviously we are concerned about damage both from Health and Safety point of view but also as this has a negative impact on the playground environment.

A real concern is that children and young people are in the property when the gates are locked and any actions they take are at their own risk. We ask that parents reinforce this message, thank you. Please note too that this session we will be looking at ways of developing our playground.

Park Safe Reminder - Once again we need to remind parents about parking safely and legally around the school particularly at pick up and drop off times.

P7 Responsibilities 2015-16

Head Boy: Christopher Lennon



Head Girl: Emily Smith



Deputes: Ollie Galloway

Amber McLaughlin

House Captains:

Red: Conor McGowan

Lucy Malcolm

Vice Captains: Lewis Hamilton

Emma Nimmo/Codie Oliver

HOUSE CAPTAIN

Green: Cameron McBryde

Leonie Minor

Vice Captains: Finlay Harris

Michelle Murtagh

HOUSE CAPTAIN

Blue: Finlay Houston

Ellie Woods

Vice Captains: Jake Forsyth

May McLaughlin

HOUSE CAPTAIN

Kilmaurs Junior Community Association Reps: Jacob Dalley Jamie Mitchell Craig Sullivan

Junior Librarians: Ruby Capon Kathleen McCormick Aaron Miller Ebony Murphy Stuart Yao

Dyslexia Friendly School Reps: Danny Andrews Aiden Mitchell Jayda-Lee Mullan
Amy Whiteside Milly Connor

Parent Consultation Evenings - Oct 21st and 22nd

These will be held at the start of next term over two nights from 3.30-6.30pm. Appointment request slips will be sent out next week and we hope to see many of you in school on those dates. Please note that your child may attend the appointment with you however, if you wish to speak to the teacher without your child present that is absolutely fine too.

Farewell to Mrs. Ingram

Pupils and staff gathered together last week to say a fond farewell to Mrs. Ingram who has now taken up her post as Senior Janitor at Stewarton Academy. Gifts were presented from pupils and staff and a fun-filled assembly (onesies and all!) was enjoyed by everyone.

Sportshall Athletics

Congratulations to P7 who came first in the East Ayrshire event earlier in the month!



Sponsored Walk

Many thanks to everyone who took part in the sponsored walk on 28th August as part of the Annick Valley Outdoor Festival. So far we have raised £981 for school funds. If you have not already returned your sponsor money or form please can you do so as soon as possible. Huge thanks to our many parent helpers on the day.

Celebrating the Year of Scottish Food and Drink

Earlier in the month the children enjoyed another visit from Chris Walker, East Ayrshire Council's catering chief. Chris gave two excellent assemblies promoting healthy and delicious eating with a Scottish theme. As well as learning about some of the fruit and vegetables grown in Scotland the children had the opportunity to sample haggis, oatcakes; Scottish cheese and the Scottish dessert *cranachan* that was made in front of the children. Chris has sent us his recipe for all to enjoy! Thanks Chris for the recipe and all your input!

[Yummy Cranachan recipe .](#)

Ingredients (makes 4 portions)

1 carton crème fraiche

1 carton whipping cream

1 punnet raspberries

Raspberry sauce or low sugar raspberry jam.

½ cup porridge oats.

Now let's make the dessert,

Firstly get a frying pan and place the porridge oats in and toast these over a high heat till golden brown(no oil needed) place these to the side.

In a large bowl whisk the cream until thick add in the carton of crème fraiche and mix together.

Add in the toasted oats and raspberries and fold together lightly.

If adding raspberry jam (place 2 tablespoons of jam and a little water in a microwavable bowl and heat for 15 seconds and take out and allow to cool (you can do this at the start if you want)

(Or if using raspberry sauce use straight from bottle)

Pour the sauce over the mixture and mix lightly.

Get 4 glass dishes and place the mixture into each dish.

Eat and enjoy.

Top tip you can use any type of fruit i.e. strawberries; grapes; melon; or pineapple if you don't like raspberries.

PS this is a secret recipe only for Kilmaurs Primary pupils!

CHEF CHRIS -----BON APPETITE.....

JRSOs 2015-16



Our Junior Road Safety Officers this year are from P6: Alister Burns and Zoe Maider

Kilmaurs Primary Parent Council



Please note that the next meeting of the Parent Council will be on Monday 5th October at 7pm in the school.

The annual school calendar produced by the Parent Council will be sent out next week, one per family. If you wish to keep the calendar please donate £1 and if you don't please return it to the school.

Parent Council Fundraiser

The Parent Council have organised a Christmas card designing fundraiser where children will create their design and then have these professionally printed. The children's cards will be available for sale in Term 2.

There will also be a Christmas card design competition to support a local charity, Send A Message. Competition entries will be sent out for the children to complete at home. Winners will receive prizes and have their designs used by the charity.

Both these Christmas card activities have to be completed soon as time needs to be given for printing of the cards etc.

Credit Union



The Credit Union will be starting up again soon and we hope to have several new members. It is open to all pupils and we aim to ensure they will develop lifelong learning skills from this financial education. Further information will be sent out.



Volunteers

As well as the Electives on a Friday afternoon, please see today's letter, we will be looking for parent volunteers to help with a number of projects in the school e.g. football team. Another letter with information and return slip will be sent out shortly.

Dates for Diaries



- 18+21.9.15 September holidays
- 1.10.15 School Photographs - *slips in bags next week*
- 6.10.15 P5 Harvest assembly@ 2pm - P5 parents welcome
There is no ticket charge for this event however, we would gratefully receive any donations for the East Ayrshire Foodbank on this day.
- 8.10.15 Harvest Service at the Maxwell Church 11am - collection will be donated to the Save the Children Refugee Fund.
- 9.10.15 **School Closes @ 3pm** for October holiday. Wear As You Please Day - donate a £1
- 20.10.15 Pupils return at 8.55am
- 21+22.10.15 Parent Consultation Appointments
- 28.10.15 Hallowe'en Discos 6-7pm P1-3 7.30-8.30pm P4-7 Tickets will be on sale on the mornings of 26 and 27th Oct in the dinner hall 8.45am.

West FM - School of the Week

Please note we have been selected as school of the week for the week beginning 19/10/15. Please listen out for some of our children's voices on the radio that week!

Extra-Curricular Clubs and Activities

These will be starting next term with the exception of the lunchtime knitting club. More information soon.

