



Onthank Primary School Newsletter - January 2018

Message from Mrs Wright

January has been a very quick month and I would like to thank the staff, parents and children for their warm welcome. The Children's enthusiasm and lovely manners has made a very good first impression! I have been in the playground introducing myself to many parents and registration week was also an excellent opportunity for Mrs Findlay and I to meet new parents face to face. However in a large school it will take time to get to know everyone and Mrs Findlay has been a great support in helping with all the new names. In my first letter (on our school website [file:///localhost/\(http://onthankprimary.btck.co.uk:MessagefromHeadteacher\)](file:///localhost/(http://onthankprimary.btck.co.uk:MessagefromHeadteacher))) I informed you of my intention of setting up some informal drop-ins and sending home a questionnaire to establish shared values for our school. As a start, a Wednesday morning drop in café will begin next Wednesday 7 February from 9.00 am—10.00 am. This informal drop in will also give you the opportunity to meet Laura Gallagher our Home Link Worker. The Pupil Council is working with me to give all families the opportunity to contribute to our values. Please complete our online form which is on our website <http://onthankprimary.btck.co.uk/OnlineForm> and Facebook page. We also intend to email this to you and a paper copy is available from the school office.

Christmas Events

Welcome back and Happy New Year! We are pleased with all our Christmas events - we had an excellent turnout at the Christmas Fayre. All stalls were cleared of their crafts and pupils and visitors raised the fantastic amount of £3234. Thanks to all who donated towards this event. P5/7 Panto this year was 'Aladdin Trouble'. The show was performed to the school and then to guests, parents and friends. Everyone left with very positive comments, appreciating the amount of hard work and effort put in by staff and pupils. Thanks to all who were involved. P3 Carol Concert was very well attended by parents and friends. This was also performed to the school and made everyone feel very Christmassy. Parents and guests enjoyed the singing and again gave very positive comments about the lovely singing and the hard work of the staff involved. Thanks to all who helped with this concert. The fantastic amount of £372.53 was collected from programme donations and carol singing donations. £142.21 was sent to the charity Beautiful Inside and Out and £230.37 was sent to Crossgates Care Home. The children in the Gaelic classes performed their Christmas Concert to a festive audience. Thanks to staff and children who made this possible. Again we were complimented on our talented children. P2s Prickly Hay was a brilliant show—everyone left the performance feeling uplifted. Thank you to staff and pupils for making us feel Christmassy. Thanks to Heather Robertson and all staff/parents who helped during our busy Festive period. We were very lucky to have a visit from Santa before Christmas. He came to our P1-P3 Christmas party. All boys and girls received a small gift from Santa. Thank you Santa! Thank you to the Kilmarnock Standard for publishing our Christmas events. The choir went to Tesco, Morrisons and Crossgates Care Home to sing—very positive feedback. Thank you to everyone for working hard in the run up to Christmas.

Enrolment

We are delighted to report we have enrolled 86 pupils for Onthank Primary next session for P1 main school and 3 for Gaelic Classes. We have arranged dates for our new P1 pupils to visit: Wednesday 2 Wednesday 9 and Wednesday 16 May from 9.30 am—10.30 am. We look forward to meeting our new pupils.



Medication

If your child requires medication during the school day, please call into the office to complete the necessary permission slip and hand in the medication. We ask that you do not give your child medication to take unsupervised by themselves.

Headlice

We have recently had a few cases of Head Lice in school. Head Lice are caught from close head to head contact with an infected person. Young children are particularly vulnerable because head to head contact is more common in this age group. Momentary, close contact is enough. Prevention - look out for symptoms of head lice. Perform weekly checks to look for nits and head lice in your family's hair. Keep long hair tied back. Avoid sharing combs and brushes with other people. Avoid wearing other people's hair accessories (hairbands, scrunchies), caps or hats. It would be appreciated by the school if you could let us know of any outbreak - all information will be treated in confidence.

Burns / Scottish Assembly

As we celebrated the life of Robert Burns on the 25 January, we are asking pupils to learn a Scottish / Burns poem. We will be having the finalists of the poetry competition perform in front of the school at our Burns' Competition on Thursday 8 February. I'm sure you will be making it tough for the teachers to choose the finalists by practising with your child at home. Perhaps we should be having a competition for parents!



Eco News

Thank you to everyone who sent in Christmas cards to school to be recycled. Mrs Merrick and her P6 class collected the cards, bagged and weighed them. The weight collected was 56 kg. We are taking part in Switch Off Fortnight. We are encouraging our pupils, staff and parents to switch off lights and equipment when not in use.



Absence

If your child is going to be absent from school please contact the office by 9.15 am on 525477. If we haven't heard from you by 9.15 am you will receive a text message in the first instance and if you are unavailable we will contact the emergency contact. All Data Forms have been updated with new contact details, if this changes at any time throughout the session, please let us know.



Winter Wear

With the ever changing weather could we ask that your child wears a coat outside. We are continually seeing children outside in only their t-shirts. Please label all items of clothing.



Facebook

If you are taking photographs at a school event, we ask that you only take your own child/children. We would appreciate that you do not post photographs of other children or members of staff on Facebook.

Nut Allergies

We are committed to a whole school approach to the Health and Safety of all pupils. We have two pupils in school who have severe nut allergies. We ask that pupils do not bring nuts/or nut related products to school. Please note Nutella is a nut related product.



RRS Article 13

Your right to have information.



Rights Respecting School

We are working hard to achieve our Gold award for being Rights Respecting School. All pupils are excited to learn about and contribute to the 17 Global Goals adopted by the United Nations. The aim is to end extreme poverty and build a better world by 2030. We have a 'Global Goals' Hunt around the school. Pupils and teachers are trying to find all 17 posters.



Road Safety / Parking

We are continually striving to improve safety and security for our children. For safety reasons, can we remind you please to use the pathways of the school when leaving the car park. We have had a few phone calls from local residents with concerns re parking before 9.00 am and after 3.00 pm. We ask that you please show consideration at these times as some cars have been parking over driveways blocking people in/out.

Clubs

Tuesdays 4.00 pm—5.00 pm

Onthank Community Club for P1 & P2

Thursday 8.30 am—9.00 am

Morning Energiser Club for P1-P7



Friday 12.45 pm—1.15 pm

Badminton Club for P3

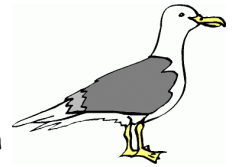


Friday 3.00 pm—4.00 pm

Basketball Club for P4 & P5

RSPB Schoolswatch

P3E Mrs Easter's class took part in the RSPB Schoolswatch in and around the school grounds. They found 7 different species of birds while they were out. They spotted gulls, jackdaws, carrion crows, pied wagtails, starlings, blackbirds and magpies. Some of the children even brought in binoculars from home.



Safer Internet Day 2018

Safer Internet Day 2018 will be celebrated globally on Tuesday 6 February with the slogan "Create, Connect and Share Respect! A better internet starts with you". All classes will explore this theme during Health and Wellbeing sessions.



Safer Internet Day 2018
Tuesday 6 February

Arnold Clark Competition

We took part in Arnold Clark 'Design a Christmas Jumper' Competition. Our overall winner was Luke McCall P5D/I who won a teddy wearing his own design of Christmas Jumper. This was presented by Gary Dicker from Kilmarnock Football Club and Arnold Clark Representatives.

STEM Fortnight 2018

Our STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) Fortnight is returning this year from Monday 12 March to Friday 23 March. We have some exciting activities planned for the children but we also need your help! If you have any STEM expertise and would be willing to come into school please contact the school office.



Attendance

We have identified attendance as an area that we need to improve upon. We have a number of children who have less than 90% attendance. For those children we will be contacting you by telephone or letter. We are hoping to work with you to improve this throughout the school. East Ayrshire Council guidelines can be seen on the councils website under Standard Circulars—SC769 (a) Attendance Leaflet—copy attached.

Birthday Cakes

We are more than happy for you to send a birthday cake into school for your child's birthday, but we ask that the cakes are bought from a shop and are in a sealed box/packet.

December Star Pupils

Primary 1: Macie Hopes, Aidynn Davidson, Lucas McAvoy, Finlay Mayes, Harris MacLachlan, Andrew Paton, Mia Dorrans, Hannah Johnson, Harris Johnston, Christopher Johnston, Charlotte Stirrat, Lola James, Nicole Hamrol, Logan Steele,
Primary 2: Leigham Williamson, Jack McGee, Chloe Ronald, John Reed, Kieron MacIsaac, Lily Roy, Layla Smith, Jorgie Chisholm, Willow Townshend, Iona Patrick, Blair Bolton, Zak McReynolds, Amy Higgins, Nathan Nicol.
Primary 3: Mason McLean, Greg Salisbury, Peyton Smith, Emma McTaggart, Kye Peploe, Cody Wilson, Isla Brown, Lucas Baird, Keira Bennett.
Primary 4: Leah Henderson, Amie-Leigh Tait, Jade Graham, Ava Richmond, Fraser Ritchie, Sophie Ritchie, Sarah Robertson, Joshua McCurry, Alex Dunlop, Emma Gillies, Reuben Devlin, Kaleb McLean, Rhonwen Morson.
Primary 5: Lucas Bryden, Charlie James, Erin Williams, all of P5D/I, Evie Daly, Marcus Hettrick, Finley Fraser, all of P5E, Morgan Clark.
Primary 6: Alex Lindsay, Taylor Cree, Derek Drummond, Eban Wilson, Lee Milne, Cara Blaney, Ethan Hamilton-Booth, Ruby James, Saul Duffy.
Primary 7: Logan McInally, Lincoln Ramsay, Sarah Kirk, Emily Black, Courtney MacIsaac, all of P7.
Mrs Findlay's Star Award: Kyle Duff P5D/I, Matthew Wallace P6K, Jody Fleming P3E.

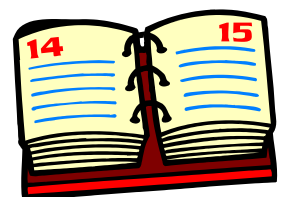
January Star Pupils

Primary 1: Keira Morton, Mylie Boyd, Lucy Hunter, Jessica Aitken, Piper Stewart, Cameron Lindsay, David Hilland, Leo Dalley, Josh Wilson, Sonny Robertson, Brandon Grant, Robert Campbell.
Primary 2: Luca Borrelli, James Logue, Lexi McCloskey, Macie Campbell, Rachel Paterson, Henry Lindley, Leo Daly, Kieron MacIsaac, Taylor Clannachan, Evan Popplewell, Kaycee Ritchie.
Primary 3: Robbie Sim, Callum Wallace, Adam Sarwar, Calin Wyper, Emily Brodie, Cameron McMurray, Calum Cairns, Gemma Greig, Callum Walton.
Primary 4: Kayla McDonald, Liam Rogerson, Aimee Smith, Kyle Campbell, Callum Milligan, Millie Gower, Callum Walker, Aran Cowan, Jennifer Angus, Melody Longmuir.
Primary 5: Lotte I'Anson, Campbell Neal, all of P5M, Katie McIntyre, Eilidh McGee, Zara Lochhead, Theo Mathieson, Adam Ferrell.
Primary 6: Roddy Hewitt, Robeccan Forrest, Ava McConnell, Amie-Leigh McIlvanney, Kenzie McGonigale, Brooke Dewhurst, Daisy Milloy, Ethan Martin, Leighah Campbell.
Primary 7: All of P7, Finlay Smith, Murrin Cairns, Charli Fulton, Molly Sneddon, Erin Sharkey, Rachel Davies, Rachel Davies, Ruby Newlands, Maisie Hinks.
Mrs Findlay's Star Award: all of P6M, Emily MacDonald P5D/I, Jessica Harris P7C/M, Bryce McGregor P7B.

Dates for your Diary

February 2018

Tuesday 6 February	Rotary Quiz—Laigh Kirk Church 7.00 pm
Thursday 8 February	Burns Poetry Competition
Friday 9 February	School closes at 3.00 pm
Thursday 15 February	Inservice Day for staff
Friday 16 February	Inservice Day for staff
Monday 19 February	School reopens for pupils
Thursday 22 February	P7 Burns Supper
Friday 23 February	P7s to JHA STEM Day / Athletics Final



March / April 2018

Thursday 1 March	World Book Day
Monday 12—Friday 23 March	STEM Fortnight
Wednesday 14 March	P6s to Amazonia
Thursday 22 March	Parents' Evening from 6.00 pm
Friday 23 March	Shoogalie Road Production of 'Mary Poppins' to whole school / Parents' Evening from 6.00 pm
Tuesday 27 March	Parents' Afternoon from 3.10 pm
Thursday 29 March	School closes 2.30 pm
Monday 16 April	School reopens at 9.00 am

A. Wright / G. Findlay

Welcome back agus bliadhna mhath ùr to everyone. We've welcomed some new friends recently bringing our Sgoil Araich numbers up to ten and then eleven in February. Mrs Farren and Mrs MacLeod are ever so busy! Our new boys and girls have settled in well to the Sgoil Araich and they are having lots of fun exploring and playing.

January has been a busy month for everyone in the Sgoil Araich. The children have picked 'toys' as their new topic and we've received some lovely pictures of their favourite toys. We love to receive pictures of our children's adventures at home and the community, please keep us up to date and we can then put them into their learning journals. Email us on marie.farren@east-ayrshire.gov.uk. As well as our topic, we have been selecting three outcomes a week based on literacy, numeracy and health and well-being. You can keep an eye out for our progress on our 'An t-seachdain seo, tha sinn...' board, ask Mrs MacLeod or Mrs Farren if you need a point in the right direction.

Mrs Farren and Mrs MacLeod also visited our new ECC building this month! They took lots of pictures which are now displayed beside the sign-in sheet. If you have any questions, please ask. We're very excited about our new premises, which has a lovely outdoor play area!

Dates for the diary:

Thursday 8 February- Valentine's Day Stay and Play Session. Come along at 10:30 am and decorate a biscuit, eat a wee jelly and have a pamper session.

February (on going) Mrs MacLeod will be reviewing care plans for children who have been with us for a while so if you have a spare 5 minutes at drop off, let her know.

Monday 12 February—Friday 16 February - Holiday week.

Here are some toy words:

<u>English</u>	<u>Gàidhlig</u>	<u>Phonetics</u>
Toy	dèideag	jay-jack
Teddy	mathan	ma-han
Dolly	dollaig	Doll-ack
Train	treana	tren-a
Game	geama	gem-a
Tractor	tractair	trac-tar
Computer	compuitair	comp-u-tar
Play	cluich	clooee-chhh



PTA Newsletter

Upcoming Fundraising Events

Clairvoyant Night

The PTA has organised a Clairvoyant Night for Wednesday 28 February 2018 with well known local clairvoyant, Sally Buxton. Tickets priced £7 will go on sale as of Thursday 1 February and will be available via ParentPay, and also from the school office, for those who don't have a ParentPay account. Posters will go up around the school with further details about the evening. We expect this to be a popular event so please ensure you purchase your tickets early.



Quiz sheets

All children should have received a quiz sheet last week. The deadline for return of the sheets is 2 February, for the chance to win one of a number of prizes, including cinema vouchers. The cost per entry is £1.00. 3 placed winners will be drawn from all the correct entries in each age group.



Bingo

We are hoping to run another of our very popular bingo nights some time in May. We will give out more information on that nearer the time. However we need lots of prizes for that event so would ask all parents, but particularly those who own a business, to consider whether they might be able to donate a prize, either in the form of goods, tickets or vouchers for a service. All donations will be gratefully received.

Could you help out on the PTA?

Onthank PTA would benefit from a boost to its numbers. The PTA relies on volunteers to make it work. If you are a parent or guardian and are interested in being a part of the fundraising effort at the school please pass your details to the office, or one of the PTA members.

