

Innellan Primary School Newsletter

September 2018

We are now well into the new term and the summer break is a distant memory. We have had a great start to the term and we are looking forward to the year ahead.

I would like to welcome our new P1 pupils – Ada, Ewan, Fearne, James, Miley and Willow. They have all settled well into school life at Innellan and are enjoying learning, exploring and working together. Jacqueline Shell is our new P1/P2 teacher. We are very fortunate to have her here at Innellan Primary School. She is a very experienced teacher with a good knowledge and vast experience of working with the younger pupils. Jacqueline is with us full-time until November when Lauri Radford returns and then they will job-share for the rest of the year. I know you will all welcome our new pupils, parents and staff and help them to feel at home.

As always, if you have any concerns about anything, please get in touch.

Lisa Marle
Head Teacher

Interactive Smartboards

We have been able to purchase a new interactive smartboard for the P1/2 classroom. It was installed at the beginning of the new term. Over the summer we were delighted to hear that we were successful in our bid for the ACHA School Award Scheme. Our bid was for a contribution towards a second interactive board. With additional money and some fundraising we should soon have another new smartboard in the P3 – P7 class.

P.E.

Every Thursday morning both classes have a PE lesson with Mrs McLean. The P3 – P7 class will have another PE lesson on a Wednesday afternoon (this will change when Outdoor Learning restarts. You will be informed when this change happens).

The P1 – P2 class will have another PE lesson on a Tuesday.

We ask that all pupils come in to school in their school uniform. They will change into their PE kit in school. The children can leave their PE kit at school. Please remind them to take it home for a wash when required. All school PE kit should be named. Pupils with long hair need to have it tied back for PE for health and safety reasons.

Lunches

Menus are handed out a week in advance and we would appreciate it if you could complete and return them to the school, with payment in advance or on the day. Meals for P4 – P7 are £2.20 per day. Milk is 10p per carton for every child (even for those who receive free school meals).

Equipment/toys

We would appreciate it if you could ensure that your child did not bring expensive items into school. It is very difficult for us to ensure that they do not lose or damage items and we are not insured for the loss or damage of personal items. If they do bring things into school staff cannot ensure that they are kept safe nor do they have the luxury of time to search for items that children misplace.

Pick up / drop off

We are very conscious of your child's safety and it is important that you inform us if someone different is going to be collecting your child from school or if they are going home with someone else. We also ask that you do not bring your car into the car park during pick up and drop off times, as the car park is for staff only. Due to the increase in number of pupils and staff within the school this is to ensure the child's safety.

Photographs

If you are taking any photos of your child within the school grounds and during school time, please do not take pictures of other pupils or members of staff unless you have full permission to do so from them. This also applies for posting photos on social media/internet.

Outdoor Learning

Outdoor Learning and the Daily Mile will resume in a few weeks. More information will be sent out nearer the time.

Attendance

Please can all parents/carers inform the School Office by 9.30am (either by telephone/email) on the first day of their child's absence. If no telephone/email contact has been made the school will contact the parents to obtain a reason for the absence.

After School Clubs

Gardening Club is held every Tuesday and costs £1.00 per session or £5 in advance for a half term. We are looking for volunteers to run after school clubs. You may have a skill that you could share with the children or, alternatively Active Schools are willing to train adults to run a sports club if anyone is interested. Any volunteers would need to be PVG checked which we can arrange.

Accelerated Reading

We have just purchased Accelerated Reading for the school for the next 3 years. It is a 'powerful tool for monitoring and managing independent **reading** practice while promoting **reading** for pleasure'. It is aimed at P3 upwards although we will be including P2 in this if appropriate. We are aiming to get it up and running by January 2019. We will be holding a parent session to provide you with more information on this in the coming months.

Parental Surveys

Thank you to everyone who took the time to complete the online surveys. We had 17 responses and are currently analysing the results. The responses allow us to gather your views and feed this into our school improvement.

Homework

Always a controversial area, the homework question on the parental survey was interesting. 41% of parents are happy with homework and felt their child received enough homework. However, 41% of parents do not want their children to receive homework. 18% would like more homework. We discussed these findings and the best way of pleasing everyone at a staff meeting. It was also discussed at the Parent Council meeting. We have decided to trial the following:

Homework will be sent home as usual. Parents can decide whether or not they would like their child to do the homework. If you decide that you do not want your child to do homework, or, as some parents said, some weeks they may and some weeks they may not, this will be up to you. There is no expectation that homework will be completed. The only homework that we would expect to be carried out is reading, which could be your child reading individually, with someone else or someone reading to them.

For those families that would like extra homework we will be putting a page on our website with a list of suggested activities. These activities will include short homework activities as well as longer project ideas. Children can bring in their projects to share with others throughout the year. Once the homework ideas are on our website we will let you know and provide more information on how your child can share their work at school.

Open Afternoon

Thank you to all parents who returned the slips asking whether you would prefer an Open Afternoon or an appointment. The Open Afternoon will be held on Monday 1st October 2pm – 3pm. This is a pop-in session where your child can share their work with you and you can see what they have been learning in class. For those of you who wanted an appointment, the class teacher will be in touch with you this term to arrange a mutually convenient time.

School Photographs

We have booked Tempest Photography to come in to school to take individual and family photographs on the morning of Monday 5th November. Families are welcome to bring siblings in for a family photograph at 9.00am.

Curriculum Bulletins

The curriculum bulletin for your child will be sent home in the next few days. This will inform you of the learning for the term which will be assessed at the end. It also includes suggestions for learning at home.

Dates for the Diary

Every Tuesday 3pm – 4pm Gardening Club

Monday 1st October – P6 and P7 attending Smoke Free Me at Dunoon Grammar School

Monday 1st October – 2pm - Open Afternoon

Tuesday 2nd October – Swimming start for P3, P4, P5, P6 and P7 (6 sessions)

Friday 5th October at 3pm - School closes for October Break

Monday 22nd October - School Re-opens

Monday 22nd October – Remote School Astronomy visiting

Thursday 25th October – Flu Immunisations

Monday 5th November – School Photographs

Tuesday 20th November – Last swimming session for P3, P4, P5, P6 and P7

Monday 26th November – School closed – INSET

Monday 17th December – Christmas party

Thursday 20th December – Christmas Nativity at 6.00pm

Friday 21st December – School closes at 2.30pm