



Head Teacher: Lisa Marle

Toward Primary School

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15th August 2019

To Parents / Carers

If phoning or calling please ask for Mrs Marle.

Welcome to the start of the new academic year. I hope you all had a good summer break.

Staffing

We are delighted to welcome three new members of staff to our team. Ruth Lambert (Miss Lambert) will be teaching the P1 – P3 class on a Thursday and Friday. Elspeth Cunningham (Mrs Cunningham) will be teaching in P4 – P7. Gill Judd (Mrs Judd) is kindly helping us out now in the position of janitor. This position will be advertised.

We would like to congratulate both Elspeth and Lauri Radford who both had weddings during the summer break. Lauri Radford has now changed her surname to Trumble (Mrs Trumble).

Rights Respecting School and Zones of Regulation

For this coming year we are introducing two new whole-school initiatives which we are very excited about – Rights Respecting Schools and Zones of Regulation. There will be an information session at Toward Primary School on Wednesday 4th September at 7.30pm. All parents/carers are invited to attend to learn more about these two programmes. Rights Respecting Schools is run by UNICEF and focuses on the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child. Zones of Regulation is designed to help understand our emotions and how we control them.

P.E.

P.E. this year, with Mrs McLean, will be on a Monday morning, starting on Monday 19th August. The pupils are able to come to school in their PE kit on Mondays and should bring their school uniform to change into afterwards. There will be an additional PE lesson, taught by the class teachers, on a Thursday afternoon. Pupils will come to school in their uniform on a Thursday and get changed in school for P.E.

Outdoor Learning

Outdoor learning will begin on Wednesday 28th August. Mark Wakefield, a trained Forest School Leader, will be joining us each Wednesday, whilst we are doing Forest School lessons, to lead the sessions. Kat Sims and Jemma Williams will also be leading the sessions. We are very fortunate to have three fully-qualified Forest School Leaders, all having up-to-date outdoor first aid certificates, for these sessions. P4 – P7 will have a morning session and the P1 – P3 class will go out in the afternoon.

The children will be out in all weathers so please ensure that they have appropriate clothing. It is the responsibility of the parent/carer to ensure their child is dressed appropriately for Forest School; please think carefully about what is best for your child to wear to keep them warm and dry as they are going to be outside for at least 2 hours at a time in all weathers. Clothes should be warm and waterproof – jeans are not suitable for outdoor learning. Wellies can also be very cold for the children. Layers are better for warmth. If the children are not appropriately dressed they will get cold and it will become very uncomfortable for them, especially in the cold, wet weather.



We have a supply of waterproofs at school that can be used if children do not have their own sets but it can make the experience more personal and easier if your child has their own.

Please note that the nature of activities mean the likelihood of clothes getting dirty is high. Please ensure your child is wearing clothes you do not mind getting wet/muddy. It is also advised that the P4 – P7 pupils have spare, clean dry clothes with them on Forest School days as they will be out in the morning and will need to change into dry clothes for the afternoon.

For both sessions (morning and afternoon), it is recommended that all pupils bring in a substantial snack to keep their energy levels up.

Forest School sessions can take place in sun, rain, showers, snow or breeze, however in the event of severe weather or strong winds, the session may be cancelled. The decision whether or not a session will take place will be made by the Forest School Leaders, in accordance with the Forest School guidelines, and this may not be known until the last minute.

After outdoor learning we would always advise that you check your child for ticks. More information on this can be found at www.lymediseaseaction.org.uk.

Lunches

P1 – P3 are entitled to a free school meal. Pupils in P4 – P7 are required to pay £2.20 for each school meal. Any pupils wishing to have milk will need to pay 10p. Schools are available in schools if you think that you may be entitled to free school meals. Please contact the school office if you require any further information.

Parental Support Group

Each month we will be holding an open meeting for all parents to attend. This will be an opportunity for parents to meet and chat to each other and look at ways of supporting each other with the day-to-day challenges that we all face.

This will also provide an opportunity to discuss additional support needs and to share ideas for supporting the children. The group consists of parents and staff and will be very informal. Tea, coffee and biscuits will be available. The meetings will be held on the last Thursday of each month from 2.00pm at Innellan Primary School. The first meeting will be on Thursday 29th August. We look forward to seeing you then.

Dates:

Wednesday 28 th August	Outdoor Learning starts
Thursday 29 th August	Parental Support Group – for all parents. 2.00pm – 3.00pm at Innellan Primary School
Friday 30 th August	Cowal Games Sports – for P6 and P7
Wednesday 4 th September	Benmore Visit – whole school
Wednesday 4 th September	Parent Information Meeting – 7.30pm – 8.30pm at Toward Primary School (Zones of Regulation and Rights Respecting School)
Friday 4 th October	Last day of term

Please remember that you can contact us at any time if you require any further information or need a chat.