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A Community of Justice, Hope and Love

School Newsletter 2017-2018 - No. 3

29th November 2017

Dear Parent / Carer,

We are well underway with the run up to the Christmas season, which will kick off in earnest with P5F's Advent Assembly on Friday, so here are some snippets of news and details of upcoming events for you.

Lots of hard work and successful learning have been going on in all of our classes this term. All classes have been focussed very much on improving basic skills in reading, writing and numeracy, and teachers have been learning, too, about how to help children to improve in these areas. We have used Pupil Equity Funding money to buy lots of new resources to support this learning. For example, we now have material called Numicon which helps children to develop and extend their understanding and use of numbers. Those of you who managed along to our Numeracy Open Afternoon last term may have seen this, and other learning activities which are helping our children's numeracy to improve. We are also extending our range of books for children, including reading rings books and class novels, and have just purchased new resources for developing reading comprehension (understanding what we are reading).

Big Writing

All of our teachers spent last Friday learning more about helping children's writing to develop. A big, big part of this is developing the number of words they know and can use, through talking activities. You can really help with this, by helping your children to explore and 'play around' with new words. Ask your child about 'wow!' words!

Christmas Nativity Show

P1-3's spectacular (a Wow! Word) called 'Little Angel Gets Her Wings' is on stage on 13th December, at 2pm and then again at 6.30pm. We need to issue tickets for fire safety; these include a programme on the day and are now available from the School Office for the bargain of £2 each. First come, first served! 😊

Interim Reports

The Teachers are busy putting together these reports to update you on your child's progress since last term's parent meetings. These will be sent home in schoolbags on 8th December.

Playgrounds

We've noted an increase in aggressive behaviour (verbal and physical) amongst some of our children in the playground in recent times. This has also become an after school issue for a small number. We're working hard to deal with these, using everyone's right to Safety and to Respect as our key values and promoting Cool responses to issues. This approach encourages children to stick up for themselves and for each other and to find solutions, helped by adults without resorting to violence or aggression. This will be a big priority for us in the next wee while, working with Camperdown PS.

Also on the playgrounds, Camperdown's Parent Council wishes to work with us to try to source some funds to make improvements to the playground. A replacement surface for the dreaded 'bark' area around the play equipment (which wasn't our choice, I hasten to add ☺), which causes endless problems with muddy clothes, is one suggestion.

Family Learning

Mrs Dammer is now acting as our Parental Engagement Coordinator and has joined Leigh at the Friday Drop in Group. We are 'recruiting' just now for an input next term on helping parents/carers to extend their parenting skills. Our Attainment Coordinators, Mrs Fleming and Miss Forbes, are also working with Mrs Dammer to plan events to work with you on ways in which you can help your children to learn at home - watch this space (and get in touch if you have any ideas for this).

Pupil Equity Funding

We had hoped to appoint some additional support staff using PEF money, but that hasn't been possible so far. We have, however, decided to use some of this money to support more visits out of school to support learning in the second half of the school year. This will also mean that we have to ask you for less money for these visits - a popular decision, I hope? ☺. Teachers are making plans just now - more soon. New computer equipment (mini laptops) to support class-based learning has arrived and is being set up just now.

P1 Enrolment

Enrolment for P1 for next session, starting school in August 2018, begins **next Friday, 1st December**. If your child is due to start then, please pop in to school with the relevant documents at some time in December or January. Please spread the word to family and friends, too.

Lost Clothing

I'm still astonished by the amount of unclaimed and unlabelled clothing, including lovely, warm coats, which builds up over a short period of time. Please, please, please make sure that everything is labelled with your child's name - this makes such a difference.

Parent Council

I'm going to meet with Stacey Wallace, our Council Chair, very soon to look at a 'reboot' for the Council for the new year. It's been a struggle to get people willing to get involved in recent years. Please have a good think about whether you could offer anything to this group - it's not a lot of work. You contact the Parent Council on st-clements@dundeparentcouncil.org.

Car Park

The Car Park has become more and more of an issue in recent months, with concerns about safety of pupils and others due to the volume of traffic. Please do not use the Car Park for picking up/ dropping off as there are lots of suitable areas around the school site. With colleagues at Camperdown and at the Social Work Office, I am currently discussing possible solutions to these issues. All ideas welcome.

Cycling to School

It's great to see so many children cycling - please remind them that all bikes should be parked in the main rack at the Main Entrance, which is within the scope of the CCTV cameras. The metal hoops outside the lower floor classroom and Pupil Entrance doors are not for bicycles or scooters - this causes a fire escape obstruction. Remember, the schools **cannot take responsibility for the security of bicycles/scooters brought to the Campus**. Also, for the safety of all, **bicycles or scooters must not be cycled/scooted (☺) within the school playground** - cyclists must dismount at the gates and walk their bike to the racks at the Main Entrance to the school.

Support for Pupils and Families

Please let us know of anything which might be causing your child to be 'under the weather' in anyway. We are very good at confidentiality and at support for children and for families. Don't bottle up worries - we're here to help. Leigh, our School Family Development Worker, is really happy to help with anything and provides great support to many families already.

Key Dates for December

1 st	9.30am	Assembly led by P5F (all welcome)
4 th	pm	Choir Carol Singing @ Charleston Community Centre
5 th	9.30am	P6 Class Mass @ St Clement's Church
7 th	9.30am	P5T Tour of St Clement's Church
8 th	9.30am	Christmas Fair (all welcome)
8 th	3.15pm	Issue of Interim Reports
11 th	9.30am	P5F and P6 visit to Cineworld to see 'Wonder'
12 th	am	'Flu Vaccinations
13 th	2pm	Nativity Play (P1-3) (all welcome)
13 th	6.30pm	Nativity Play (P1-3) (all welcome)
18 th	11am	Choir Carol Singing @ South Road Tesco
18 th	pm	Class Christmas Parties
19 th	am	P1-7 to Gardyne Road Pantomime
20 th	9.30am	Carol Service led by P7 (all welcome)
20 th	2pm	Aspire Music Showcase (P1-6) (all welcome)
22 nd	am	P1-7 Church visit to see Christmas Crib
22 nd	12 Noon	End of Term
8 th January	9am	New Term Starts

'The Usual' Reminders from the School Office:

1. Please call if your child is to be off for any reason. This helps us to be sure that he/she is safe.
2. Please mark **all** clothing with your child's name. It's scary how much lost property goes to Charity Shops from this campus because it can't be identified and is unclaimed.
3. Please return all forms requested as soon as possible.
4. Please keep your contact details up to date. If you change phone number, let us know straight away.
5. P4-7: please pay dinner money on time, using ParentPay. Get in touch if you have issues.
6. Latecomers need to come to the School Office to be registered.
7. All children in P1-3 are entitled to a free school meal. **Parents of children in P4-7 who are entitled to a free meal need to apply - see the Council website for details of entitlements and how to apply - of you need help, contact us.**

As always, please don't hesitate to call if there is anything you wish to suggest, discuss, or have explained. Working together helps to avoid problems and to sort quickly any issues which do arise.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "A. Macgregor". The signature is written in black ink and has a fluid, connected style.

A. Macgregor
Head Teacher